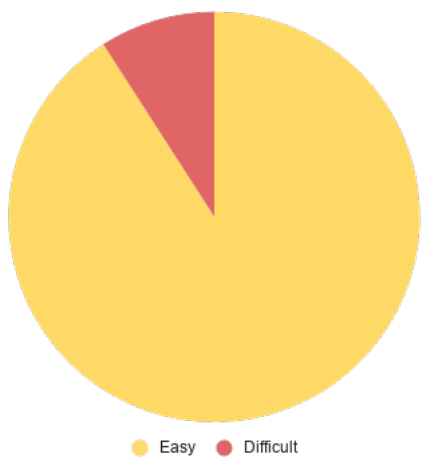


What's Your Opinion?

Last week, we asked students about their voting experience, through the use of an Instagram poll and slider.

Out of 46 responses, here are the results for the poll:
 Voting was easy -- 41
 Voting was hard -- 5

There were 38 responses to the slider, but there was a discrepancy in the voting results, so they have been omitted.



Next Week's Poll:

Skeptical Spring

Will you be returning to campus for the spring semester, or will you be taking classes online?

Students can answer the poll and find previous poll results on The Herald's website, theherald.home.blog, or on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](https://www.instagram.com/astateherald). Website polls are posted on Wednesdays and Instagram polls are posted on Mondays.

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website. All comics and memes can be found in the Comics section.

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR



Lily Cabibi-Wilkin is a junior music composition major from Hot Springs.

The Associated Press declared Joe Biden the president-elect last Saturday. With four states (Alaska, Arizona, Georgia and North Carolina) still tallying up their votes, Biden already has more than the 270 electoral college votes needed to secure the presidency. Many around the country are rejoicing, ecstatic that after four years of Trumpian chaos, we finally have a shot at a country where things are "normal." But things aren't over yet, and to assume that they are is foolish at best and privileged at worst.

Neither Biden nor Harris support defunding the police, and Harris, in particular, has called herself a "top cop." Harris has also opposed proper investigation of police deadly force incidents in California, and has opposed body cameras on police officers, according to an article by BBC.

Harris' opinion on healthcare has shifted over the past few years, while Biden does not back Medicare for All, he instead supports the Affordable Care Act.

Biden's Elected. What's Next?

Harris called a San Francisco ballot measure to decriminalize sex work "completely ridiculous" in 2008. Though she said in 2019 that her views on sex work had relaxed, she had previously taken actions against sex work websites and projects that led to sex workers facing loss of income, street prostitution and a rise in violence against them.

Harris has also argued that "habitual and chronic truancy" in elementary school children is a crime committed by the parents of those children, and has claimed that habitual truancy in elementary school leads to crime later in life.

Biden, meanwhile, has earned a reputation as a "drug warrior" by fighting against the legalization of marijuana and other drugs.

"The people here tonight are completely clueless. We've got so far to go."

- Tori @TSand83

Hopefully, Biden and Harris will listen to public opinion and change their more problematic stances. While they're a huge step up from Trump, they still have their own issues, and now that voting is over we should be more open to discuss them.

Biden's presidential win doesn't mean that the 71 million plus people who voted for Trump magically vanish or change their views. All the hate we've seen over the past four years from MAGA-hat-wearers will not go away just because Biden won. In some

communities, violence from Trump supporters is increasing. We as a country need to continue to fight for the future we want to see, and that means taking a good hard look at how many people in this country still support and reproduce the hate our current president spews. If we do nothing, we change nothing, and clearly things need to be changed.

Speaking of change, Trump still insists he won the election, claiming that it was rigged and stolen from him. His lawyers have filed lawsuits in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Georgia to try to stop the vote or get Trump observers access to the ballot-counting process. When Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was asked if the state department would engage with the Biden transition team, he said, "there will be a smooth transition to a second Trump administration." There is a growing concern that Trump refusing to give up the presidency could undermine national security. It's still unclear what needs to happen to convince Trump to leave the White House.

Amidst this, Black Lives Matter activists are being ignored in favor of Biden's win.

In a video posted to Twitter by Chuck Modi, BLM activist Tori (@TSand83) spoke out against the Biden supporters flocking to the streets to support their win, taking over the BLM plaza and the BLM memorial fence in D.C.

"We have folks out here who are claiming to be out here in the name of Democracy," she said, "but in the same breath are erasing Black Lives Matter from this plaza...The memorial fence that we made, where we put the names and faces of people who have been

murdered by the police, they are putting 'Biden and Harris' signs on it, and 'Dump Trump' signs on it, covering faces and names as they're doing it, with no regard to it.

"I was just over there walking up and down the fence taking down (the signs) that ain't got nothing to do with Black Lives Matter, when a white boy tried to fight me! Because he wanted to sign the poster that I was ripping down that said 'Biden and Harris.' And I had to tell him, 'you can sign it from on the ground, because I'm taking this off the fence, 'cause it don't have anything to do with what this fence is for.'"

"At that point in time he bucked up at me like he was gonna hit me... he saw no irony whatsoever in the fact that here he is, trying to be violent, with a Black woman, on Black Lives Matter plaza, who is protecting a mural that is for Black lives that have been lost at the hands of the police. As a white man, he saw nothing wrong with what he was doing, which is a clear indicator that the people here tonight are completely clueless. We've got so far to go."

Make no mistake -- Police violence did not magically end Saturday morning. Black lives did not stop mattering Saturday morning. Black lives will continue to be endangered by the systematic oppression this country was built on long after Biden takes office if we continue to shunt it to the side. If your activism stops when a Democrat is in office, if your activism is superficial and is limited to posting anti-Trump memes, if your activism silences any voice that says "there are still things wrong with this country," then your activism is useless.

Top Five Snacks to Stress-Eat While Waiting on Election Results

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR

Depending on your political affiliation, television preference or whether you check your school emails regularly, last week probably fell between "yikes" and "dear sweet lord" in terms of stress levels. So, in the interest of having a lighter, sillier opinion post this week, here's my top five snacks to stress-eat while we face whatever the rest of the month holds for us.

5. Ruffles

Ruffles are the potato chip brand I buy most often, because they've got just the right salt content to satisfy my mineral cravings and are thick enough for a good crunch. I like to eat mine with chopsticks, with no dip and in between rounds of Among Us with my brothers.

4. Gummy Bears

The only non-chocolate-or-salt snack on this list, gummy bears are easy to find and easy to eat. Plus they've got a nice chewy texture that keeps you from just

inhaling them, meaning they last longer. They're a nice fruity taste that's a good refresher if you've been indulging in mostly salty or chocolatey snacks.

3. Sunflower Seeds

One time in middle school my mom bought me a huge baseball bucket of bags of roasted sunflower seeds. I finished the whole bucket within the year. Sunflower seeds are the perfect mix of salt and crunch and give your mouth something to work on while you do homework. However, you will need something to keep the shells in (assuming you're eating them shelled, which is the correct way in my humble opinion). Also, sometimes there are bugs in the shells, which is why this is only No. 3 on the list.

2. Kit Kats

Kit Kats have been a favorite candy of mine since I was a little kid, and they're still one of my favorites now. I like to take the mini ones and peel the wrapper open like a banana, and then slurp the candy up like you would if you were drinking

from a straw. It sounds strange, but it's really fun. (Video example can be found on the web version of this article.)

I prefer the mini ones over the giant ones, which don't have the same light crunch as the mini Kit Kats.

1. Snickers

Snickers are my top-tier snack, because they contain peanuts. Peanuts are high in protein and have been linked to a reduced rate of heart disease.

Therefore, this snack is the healthiest one. Snickers also tend to be a bit more filling, so they're great when I feel too tired to leave my room and actually cook food.

With this list, I'm confident I've found the ultimate group of stress-eating snacks for maximum efficiency and minimal mess (aside from candy wrappers). May my metabolism last me through the rest of this election season!



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Story ideas or news tips may be emailed to heraldnews1921@gmail.com. The Herald welcomes comments, criticisms or ideas that its readership may have. We encourage you to send a Letter to the Editor to krishnan.collins@smail.astate.edu.

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