

What's Your Opinion?

This week, we asked students if they would be traveling for Spring Break.

Out of 43 responses:
20 - Yes
23 - No



Next Poll:

Reluctantly Crouched at the Finish Line

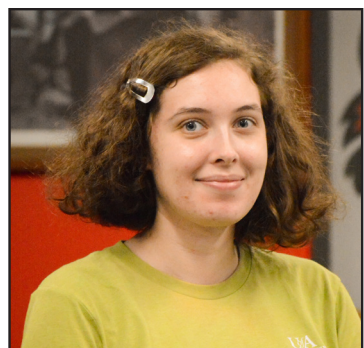
How do you feel about having a little over a month of classes left in the semester? **This poll will be posted on The Herald's Instagram page on March 21.**

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, [@as-tateherald](https://www.instagram.com/as-tateherald). 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.

On the night of March 3, Sarah Everard was walking home from a friend's house when she disappeared. She was wearing brightly colored clothing and walking along a busy street in South London. Her body was found on March 10, 56 miles away from where she was last seen. The man charged with kidnapping and killing her, Wayne Couzens, was a police constable.

In the aftermath, a memorial for Everard was disrupted by police officers, with some women being dragged away from the memorial by cops. Assistant Commissioner Helen Ball later said that officers were trying to disband the gathering due to COVID-19 concerns. More outrage has followed as the Government of the United Kingdom on 10 Downing Street has announced "immediate steps" for improving safety include placing plain-clothes officers in pubs and clubs.

#TextMeWhenYouGetHome: Why Women Feel Unsafe

While some reactions to Everard's death have touched on ongoing conversations about police brutality and the disparity between news coverage of women of color and news coverage of white women, Everard's death has also brought attention back to an age-old discussion: women's safety.

Taken from a viral post from fitness expert Lucy Mountain, an image of a text reading "Text me when you get home" has become synonymous with the long list of behaviors women have learned to stay safe. Mountain's post names some of these behaviors, which include sharing locations, wearing certain shoes, holding keys between fingers, taking fake phone calls, planning escape routes and planning what to do in the event of an assault.

"What's so insidious," the post continues, "is that these things don't even feel like 'special safety tools.' They're literally just engrained behaviors and actions we've had to pick up since we were little girls (sic). Because 'that's just the way it is.'"

The #TextMeWhenYouGetHome hashtag has filled with women sharing their stories on what they do to stay safe. It is also filled with women highlighting the fact that men aren't taught to fear for their lives and thus don't take the same precautions women do.

Twitter user @bookfaery02 says that "my female coworkers and I carry pepper spray or guns. My male coworkers don't carry anything." User @crisisavoided5 says that "when I met my (boyfriend) for our first date, I sent his pic, address, (number) and our plans to two separate

people and said call the police if I'm not back at the end of the night." User @ Calveevoo2614 says she doesn't "wear a seatbelt in ubers, so I can run if I have to."

User @SPolinchock says "when I have to walk home at 12 a.m. after working on a project I call my west coast family so my mom doesn't have to stay up. They have emergency numbers in case something happens to me. I don't wear headphones. I walk quickly. Women shouldn't have to live in fear."

turn down my music and constantly check around me for any followers. At work, the staff advisor to The Herald has always pressed the editors that leave after dark on production nights to walk with a friend or get a ride from a Safety Escort. I even ask my older brother and dad to text me when they get home after they've dropped me off at school.

Point is, women as a whole feel like they need to keep themselves safe from predators and violence, and these fears are

Text me when you get home xx

22:05 ✓

User @RachaelCWoodNZ says that "#TextMeWhenYouGetHome is so ingrained in women that it has become a form of 'goodbye.' You don't go to sleep until you have confirmation messages that your friends are home safe. Are men aware that this is routine for women? We have all planned our defence strategies."

While the usual "Not All Men" response has come up, it has also been largely ignored. Yes, when women say they are scared of men, they do not mean every individual man. We mean men as an entity, as a whole. Any and every man has the potential to harm, even if many do not.

As a woman, I have also been practicing similar behaviors my whole life. When walking, I keep my keys in a reachable place, and when walking at night I will

ART BY THINH VU | CONTENT CREATOR

not unfounded. In 2019, the University of Chicago surveyed 1,182 women and 1,037 men nationally. 81% of those women and 43% of the men reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment and/or assault. The World Health Organization says that globally one in three women experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.

Since complete prevention of violence against women relies on societal change and a perfect law system, many women will continue to take the measures they need to to protect themselves from violence. Many of us hope for a time where we can walk alone at night without feeling afraid.

NFTs Are Art Theft and Environmental Destruction

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR

Recently, artists on Twitter have begun seeing replies to their tweets that say that their tweets have been tokenized and are up for auction. Meanwhile, Twitter co-founder and CEO Jack Dorsey is planning to sell his first tweet as an NFT auction, with the highest bid currently being \$2.5 million. Many are criticizing cryptoart for making money off the work of other artists and generating an unreasonable amount of energy, destroying the environment.

If none of these sentences made any sense to you, let me explain.

Cryptocurrency is a digital currency where transactions and records are maintained by a decentralized system. It uses cryptography, a secure communication technique, to prevent counterfeiting or double-spending. Many use blockchain, a type of database, which is also decentralized. All users have control and all transactions are permanently recorded and viewable to everyone.

In order to keep the system running, many computers are needed to run the technology, which uses a large amount of

energy. For example, a single transaction using the cryptocurrency Ethereum uses enough energy to power the average American household for a little over two days. The carbon footprint is the same as the carbon footprint you would create from watching 4,820 hours of YouTube. (Yes, using the internet creates a carbon footprint.)

Some people use Ethereum to buy cryptoart. Cryptoart is a piece of metadata (for example, a tweeted image and all the information that comes with it) which is attached to a token (which has monetary value) and stored in a blockchain. Individual pieces of cryptoart are called NFTs, or Non-Fungible Tokens. Fungibility is "the ability of a good or asset to be interchanged with other individual goods or assets of the same type", according to Investopedia. "Non-Fungible" means that the tokens are unique. The values of NFTs fluctuate with the price of Ethereum, which is currently worth (as of 9 p.m. March 16) around \$1,778 for one Ethereum.

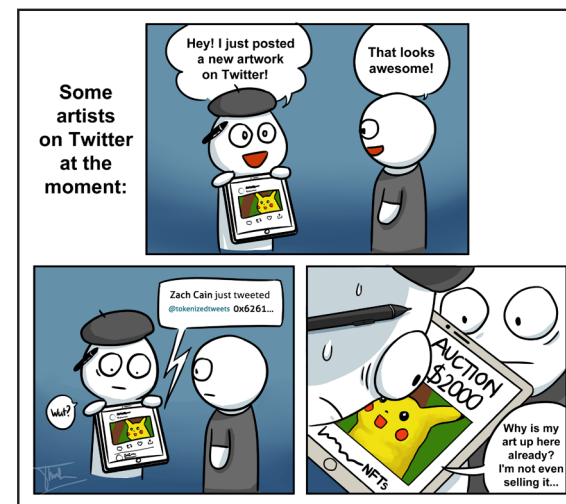
An NFT can be anything digital, including drawings or music. A 50-second video by Grimes sold for \$390,000, while a GIF of a ghost covered in the Gucci logo sold for \$3,600. In the same manner,

a tweet can be sold through something as simple as a Twitter bot. By replying to a tweet with a specific code and a tag to the right account, a tweet can be tokenized and becomes an NFT, which can then be sold. However, the poster of the original tweet does not need to consent for their tweet to be tokenized; any schmuck can make money off your tweet in a heartbeat. Scrolling through the replies the account @tokenizedtweets has posted reveals that any sort of tweet can be tokenized, and some users are tokenizing brand posts or copyrighted material.

Many Twitter artists have resorted to locking their accounts to keep their original work from being tokenized and sold. But locking an account on Twitter means that only the people who follow you can see your tweets, meaning no room for their audiences to grow. Blocking the token bots only solves part of the problem, as anyone can tokenize a tweet. Turning off replies to only followers works as long as none of your followers decide to tokenize

your work. It's a hellish situation.

Some artists have begun tokenizing their own work to prevent someone else from making money off their work, which is a short-term solution. But any use of the system contributes to the energy I mentioned earlier, which contributes to the carbon footprint Ethereum leaves behind. Maybe the only way to win is not to play, but that only works if everyone stops playing. In the meantime, if you see art you like? Commission the artist. Give them the money they deserve in a legitimate way.



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