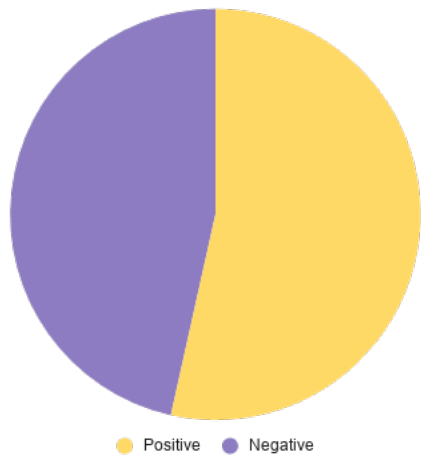


What's Your Opinion?

This week, we asked students how they felt about having a little over a month left of school before the end of the semester.

Out of 43 responses:
20 - Negative
23 - Positive



Next Poll:

Mask Mandate

Will you continue to wear a face mask after the mask mandate ends?

Students can answer the poll and find previous poll results on The Herald's website, [theherald.home.blog](https://www.theherald.com), 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.

Six Asian women were among the eight people killed in a shooting in Atlanta earlier this month. The man who killed them targeted three Asian businesses, yet his actions were blamed on a "sex addiction" or "having a bad day." Meanwhile, a report from Stop AAPI Hate shows that there have been at least 3,795 reported hate incidents since March 19, 2020, with Asian Americans as the targets. (AAPI stands for Asian American and Pacific Islander.)

According to California State University's Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, anti-Asian hate crimes in the United States increased 149% in 2020, particularly in March and April when COVID-19 started to affect the country. The report also shows a spike in Google searches for terms such as "China virus" and "kung flu" in March of 2020.

Both reports showed that the primary

forms of discrimination were verbal harassment, shunning, and physical assault, and that Chinese Americans and Asian women as a whole were the most likely to experience a hate incident.

The AAPI report contains stories of discrimination against Asian Americans. Respondents were confronted by people, some specifically mentioned to be white, who yelled slurs and swear words at them or performed physically violent acts such as pushing or spitting.

On Monday, a 65-year-old Asian woman who was walking to church in Manhattan was kicked to the ground and was stomped on by a man who "made anti-Asian statements toward her." Inside the building where the attack took place, security staff ignored the woman, instead closing the door on her and leaving her in the street. The woman is in stable condition, but her attacker has not yet been identified.

The Atlanta killings have sparked a social justice movement online, with #StopAAPIHate, #StandWithAsians, and #StopAsianHate trending. Korean pop band BTS has come forward with a statement which sends their condolences to the families of the victims in Atlanta and shares their own experiences with discrimination. Even President Biden has announced a series of initiatives which aim to track reports of anti-Asian violence, address xenophobia in regards to COVID-19 and allocate \$50 million for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

At A-State, Chancellor Dr. Kelly

Damphousse sent out an email on March 18 titled "Standing with our Asian Students, Faculty and Staff." The A-State Young Democrats held an event on March 19 titled "Hate Has No Place At A-State," where they created and hung up posters "to support AAPI communities and condemn xenophobia and white supremacy" in the Student Union.

When violence happens that doesn't affect you personally, it is easy to ignore it. When microaggressions are committed in your presence that aren't directed at you, it may seem awkward to speak up. Even in times like this, where there are hashtags to use and organizations to donate to, it is too easy to share a hashtag, partake in performative activism, and then do nothing more. But I beg you not to.

In the case of the woman in Manhattan, there were witnesses to the violence who allowed it to happen. Do not be one of those cases. Do not be someone who sees anti-Asian violence and does nothing.

Don't assume all Asian people are from the same place. Don't assume Asian students have good grades or harsh parents. Don't comment on an Asian person's ability to speak English, or their physical appearance, or their food or their names. If you are

interacting with an Asian person and can't immediately figure out how to pronounce their name, don't suggest they start going by a Western name or purposefully mispronounce their name. Make an effort to get it right.

If you see anti-Asian harassment taking place, speak up. Do something. Talk to your friends and family about harmful stereotypes you may have internalized and work to make you and your sphere of influence more tolerant. In your own time, read about hurtful Asian stereotypes and self-reflect on your own prejudices and actions. You don't have to be mean to yourself, but if you realize there's something you've been doing that's been contributing to the anti-Asian culture in America, work to stop that behavior.

Remember: Everyone deserves basic respect.



ART BY THINH VU | CONTENT CREATOR

What to Know About the Ever Given and the Suez Canal

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR

Last week, the cargo ship Ever Given got stuck sideways in the Suez Canal, stopping at least 420 other vessels from passing through. After six days of refloating efforts, the ship was freed, in part thanks to the Worm Supermoon raising tides enough for the ship to escape. If that sounded like gibberish to you, here's an in-depth explanation of what happened.

What is the Suez Canal? What's the Ever Given?

The Suez Canal is a man-made sea-level waterway in Egypt, which connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea and allows for ships to pass between Africa and Asia. Built in 1869, the canal is one of the world's most used shipping lanes, primarily used by container ships and tankers. Basically, it's a shortcut between Europe and Asia, and before it was built ships had to sail all the way around the bottom of Africa. The canal is 120 miles long, 78 feet deep and 672 feet wide.

The Ever Given is a container ship which was built in 2018. It is one of 11 container ships chartered by Taiwanese

shipping company Evergreen Marine which all have names starting with "Ever G--".

It is owned by Japanese company Shoei Kisen Kaisha, registered in Panama, and is managed by German company Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement. (Truly Mr. Worldwide out here.) It is 1,312 feet long (one of the longest ships in service), 192 feet wide at its widest point, 107 feet tall (though only 47-52 feet of the boat goes under the water) and weighed more than 200,000 tons when it got stuck. It was carrying 20,000 shipping containers.

How did the Ever Given get stuck?

On March 23, the Ever Given was passing through the Canal, heading from the Port of Rotterdam in South Holland to the Port of Tanjung Pelepas in Malaysia. As it passed by the village of Manshiyet Rugola, Egypt, the ship was hit by strong winds, causing the boat to hit the bottom of the canal. The front end of the ship (the bow) became wedged in one bank of the canal, and the back end (the stern) touched the other.

Egyptian meteorologists have reported that, on the day of the grounding, high winds of more than 31 miles per hour and a sandstorm affected the area where the Ever Given got stuck. An investigation

into what technical or human error could have caused the ship to run aground is still underway.

Why didn't they just...?

Several memes came out in the week the ship was stuck, describing ways the Ever Given could be removed from the canal. One of them joked that a rope could be attached to each end of the ship, and then those ropes would be pulled by two trucks driving in opposite directions, which would pull the ship free. In reality, it took at least eight tugboats, a Komatsu excavator, and a particular phase of the moon to refloat the Ever Given.

Wait, the moon?

If you looked at the moon on Sunday and Monday of this week, you may have noticed the moon looked bigger than usual. That's because this year's first supermoon, the Worm supermoon, was visible on those days. A supermoon means the moon was slightly closer to the Earth. (It's called the Worm supermoon because Native American tribes in the South U.S. call it that, due to it falling around the time that worm casts start becoming visible.)

Because the moon was closer to the earth, and the moon is what controls

the Earth's tides, the supermoon caused a high tide that was 18 inches above the normal high tide, helping the Ever Given refloat. This, along with the human efforts, freed the boat.

Put it back?

As the Ever Given was freed from the Suez Canal, #putitback started trending on Twitter, with many people joking that the Ever Given should get stuck again, or a new ship should get stuck to take its place. Twitter user @SICKOFWOLVES yelled, "THERE WAS SOMETHING DEEPLY COMFORTING ABOUT THE BOAT BEING STUCK AND I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THEY COULD PUT IT BACK."

Unfortunately, as funny as it would be to restick the ship, it's not economically viable. The Ever Given getting stuck cost Egypt between \$12 million and \$15 million a day, and blocked hundreds of other cargo ships, which backed up the deliveries those ships were meant to make. Now that the Ever Given has been refloated and cleared to continue its journey, other ships, such as the YM Wish, are now free to sail through the canal. Hopefully, none of them will get stuck, though I agree it would be really funny if they did.

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