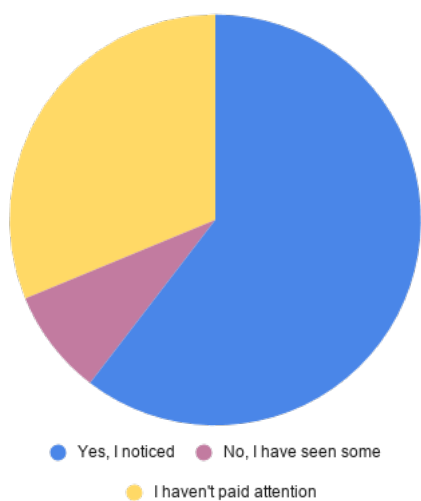


## What's Your Opinion?

This week, we asked students if they have noticed the recent absence of the VeoRide bikes from campus.

Out of 50 responses:  
31 - Yes, I have noticed  
4 - No, I have seen some  
17 - I haven't paid attention



### Next Poll:

#### The Icing on the Cake

What is your favorite type of frosting: buttercream, whipped or cream cheese?

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

## Nothing Has Changed Since Fall 2020, So Why Remove Credit/No Credit?

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR



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

It's been over a year since the Credit/No Credit Option was announced. The CR/NC Option has allowed students to receive credit for a class without it affecting their GPA for both Spring and Fall 2020 semesters. However, in March, Provost Alan Utter sent a short email to students announcing that the CR/NC Option would not be available for Spring 2021. This decision has sparked a chain of posts on the A-State student app about the CR/NC Option, as well as a petition to "Urge A-State To Reverse Its Decision On The CR/NC Policy."

The CR/NC Option allows students to change a grade of A, B, C or D to a CR grade, and an F to a NC. CR/NC is not added into a student's GPA, so if a student knows they will receive a C or D in their class they can choose to convert those grades to CR to keep the low grades

from affecting their GPA.

On paper, this is a good idea, but there are some issues, as pointed out in a document by the Neil Griffin College of Business. Departments can still look behind the CR grades to view actual letter grades, which means that even if you take a CR in a class to avoid a D grade messing up your GPA, you can still fail the class and have to take it again. "The university establishes CR/NC grading but doesn't override certain program requirements of each college," the document states.

In the email which announced the CR/NC option, Dr. Kelly Damphousse, chancellor, mentioned that "Grades of CR/NC will not affect GPA, but may affect things like scholarships, progression in course sequencing and entry into graduate or professional school."

In Provost Utter's email there is no explanation given for why the CR/NC Option was not renewed this semester. In the petition begging for the renewal of this option, petition starter Christan Huggins said he was told that "A-State's decision to not reinstitute the CR/NC policy was based on the fact that no transitions had occurred to solely online (sic)." More information on this decision, Huggins and the petition can be found on page 1A.

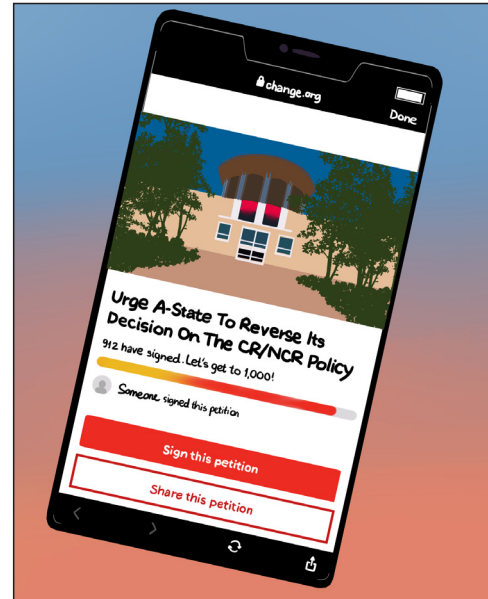
I have never used the CR/NC option, nor do I plan to. I usually only take one gen ed a semester, and the rest of my classes are either automatic A's (a perk of

being a music major) or are required for my degree.

That said, clearly a lot of students are relying on this option. As of 5 p.m. on Tuesday, 928 people had signed the "Urge A-State" petition. Many left comments explaining their need for the CR/NC option. Some mentioned issues with teachers who struggled to use and adapt to technology like Blackboard and Zoom, while others mentioned the mental strain of living through a pandemic and taking classes online.

"It is extremely mindless to not offer CR/NC this semester," says petition signer Bethany Crum, "as students are still affected by the (COVID-19) pandemic. Most of us are taking a majority of our classes online and have had to endure a huge change concerning our college experience. Although it seems as though online classes are simple, the student body essentially has to teach itself when partaking in virtual learning. This semester has been hell. Consider having some compassion for your students."

Nevertheless, I would like to mention that the pandemic isn't over. The end is in sight, but it's not over. We're still taking our classes online. We're still struggling with mental, physical and financial hardships. Nothing has changed since fall semester, so why should the CR/NC option change? It's like removing your parachute while you're still 2,000 feet



ART BY THINH VU | CONTENT CREATOR

above ground. It's like ending the mask mandate before the disease the masks are protecting you from has been eradicated. Next semester, when things are in person, I can agree with removing the CR/NC option, but ripping it out from under the student body now seems out of touch with our needs, not to mention needlessly cruel.

Have an opinion about the Credit/No Credit Option? Send your thoughts to [heraldopinion1921@gmail.com](mailto:heraldopinion1921@gmail.com).

Responses will be posted on the web version of this article, which can be found at <https://theherald.home.blog/category/opinion/>.

## "You Don't Really Believe the Peeing in Bottles Thing, Do You?"

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR

If you've ever been on a long car ride before, chances are you've had to find a creative way to relieve yourself. I think anyone who's had to deal with that sort of thing can agree that it is an unpleasant experience. Now imagine, if you will, that you are forced to do something like that to avoid being reprimanded at your job.

This is the reality for many Amazon delivery drivers. Due to high fulfillment demands and delivery targets, drivers often do not have the option to find a proper bathroom. According to an article by Vice which includes photos of bottles of urine from Amazon delivery drivers, "delivery workers...often deliver up to 300 packages a day on a 10 hour shift. If they take too long, they can be written up and fired."

One Amazon driver interviewed in the article shared that, "if I drove to find a restroom...I would be bringing back packages every night and that would eventually mean I would get infractions, which would lead to termination."

Another, who uses coffee cups

instead of bottles, said, "the best drivers get overtime so there's incentive to cut corners. The most productive drivers get rewarded the most hours."

A second Vice article focuses solely on cis women drivers, who are forced to hold their waste "for up to 10 hours, squat over trash bags, or purchase 'she-wees,' female urinals."

Factory floor workers don't have it any better. In a video by More Perfect Union, Amazon workers spoke out about the working conditions at Amazon. Poultry worker and union organizer Michael Foster explained that "the restroom could be on the other side of the building...they have to take their walk so far, and they're timing them." Workers who run out of time, he explained, risk losing their jobs.

A survey of Amazon workers in the United Kingdom found that "74% of workers avoid using the toilet for fear of missing their target and receiving a warning point." The survey also reports that workers saw an increase in targets which they were physically unable to keep up with. Journalist James Bloodworth, who went undercover as an Amazon worker, found that some workers were

using bottles instead of going to the restroom, for fear of being written up for "idling."

Despite all this, Amazon shared a rather touchy response when confronted with the issue on Twitter. "You don't really believe the peeing in bottles thing, do you? If that were true, nobody would work for us." Amazon later apologized for these remarks, but maintained that the bathroom issue only affects drivers, not floor workers.

There is undeniable evidence that Amazon's working conditions are physically impossible for a great number of their workers. Bottles of urine aside, there are other physically dangerous factors at play, such as extreme

heat or a fast-paced workflow. Several Amazon workers have died because of the conditions, several sources report. Sources include The Huffington Post, Green America, and Business Insider.

The conditions at Amazon are inhumane, and they have been for awhile. None of this is new. I'd like to say "it's only a matter of time before things improve," but that would be untrue.



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Story ideas or news tips may be emailed to [heraldnews1921@gmail.com](mailto: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@astate.edu](mailto:krishnan.collins@astate.edu).

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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