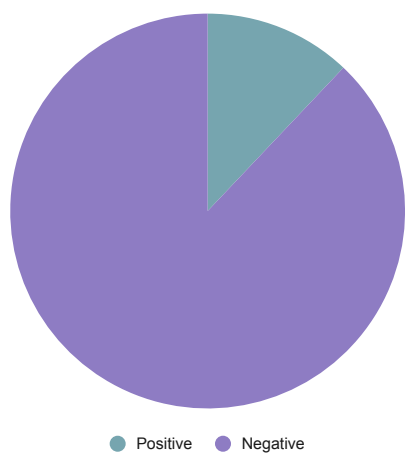


What's Your Opinion?

This week, we asked students how they felt about the Devious Licks TikTok trend, where high school students are stealing things like toilets from their schools.

Out of 58 responses:
I feel positive -- 7
I feel negative -- 11



Next Poll:

Do the Mario

Which Mario brother is your favorite: Mario, or Luigi?

Students can answer the poll on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](#). Instagram polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on [the-herald.home.blog/category/opinion/poll/](#).

Have an idea for a poll? Send your ideas to heraldopinion1921@gmail.com.

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.

Residence Halls Should Expand Animal Policies

CHARLOTTE MOBLEY

STAFF WRITER



Charlotte Mobley is a freshman multimedia journalism major from Southaven, Mississippi.

The policy for animals on campus varies by campus residence. In The Village and The Circle Apartments, you may have 10-gallon fish tanks, Service Animals/Emotional Support Animals (ESA), cats and some dog breeds. These animals are permitted under the conditions of a pet application, along with approval from

housing authorities, documentation and a \$200 deposit. In all other on-campus residences, only 10-gallon fish tanks and Service Animals/ESAs are allowed.

All students who wish to have an ESA or Service Animal with them on campus must be registered with Access and Accommodation Services. A Service Animal is an animal that has been specially trained to react to the needs of certain disabilities (such as allergies or epilepsy). An ESA is an animal whose role is to provide comfort and support to a person with a diagnosed neurodivergency (such as autism, PTSD or anxiety). There is a need for disabled students to have access to animals that will aid them in their needs.

Why are Service Animals and ESAs allowed, but other pets are not allowed in the majority of residences? I believe that all on campus residences should allow pets under the same policies as The Village and The Circle Apartments.

Any damage or disruption caused by

a cat or dog could be equivalent to that caused by an ESA. ESAs are untrained animals. Unlike Service Animals, there is no behavioral coaching required for an animal to be registered as an ESA. The only thing that separates a regular pet from an Emotional Support Animal is the condition of the owner. For the university, no extra risk is incurred from a regular pet. In fact, if all residences adopted the policies of The Village and The Circle Apartments it would also increase revenue (from the \$200 deposit).

Does expanding the animal policies in other residence halls do any more harm than the good it could do?

Of course, a change in animal policy could raise the concern of the residences being overrun with animals in nearly every room. It is not known how many service animals/ESAs there are on

campus - I could personally only count two in University Hall. I do not think that allowing animals would change these numbers dramatically, as the \$200 fee will likely deter most students from trying to have an animal approved on campus.

It is worth noting that sometimes people need comfort and support even if they do not have a diagnosed need. Especially for first-year students, the transition to college life can be incredibly hard. I believe that everyone deserves to have the opportunity to have a pet, a reminder of home and safety, to support them. I do not say this in any way to diminish the role of service animals or ESAs, I only say this to make a point of how I see no harm in expanding the policy. Service animals and ESAs play a vital role in the lives of those who need them - there is no denying that. But, does expanding the animal policies in other residence halls do any more harm than the good it could do?

Mario Movie Casting Reflects "Frustrating Trend"

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR



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

Last Thursday's Nintendo Direct featured many exciting announcements for the gaming community: Bayonetta 3, Brewster's arrival to Animal Crossing: New Horizons, Kirby and the Forgotten Land, an expansion pack for Nintendo Switch Online users which brings Nintendo 64 and Sega Genesis titles to NSO's lineup of NES and SNES games, a racing game from Square Enix called Chocobo GP and many others. Many were expecting an announcement about Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, but the only Smash announcement at the Direct was a teaser for the actual announcement on October 5.

One announcement brought a large but mixed reaction: the cast list for the upcoming Super Mario movie, a collaboration between Shigeru Miyamoto (the creator of Mario) and Illumination Entertainment (the animation studio responsible for the Minions). The English version of the film will feature

Chris Pratt as Mario, Anya Taylor-Joy as Peach, Charlie Day as Luigi, Jack Black as Bowser, Keegan-Michael Key as Toad, Seth Rogen as Donkey Kong, Kevin-Michael Richardson as Kamek, Fred Armisen as Cranky Kong and Sebastian Maniscalco as Foreman Spike.

Perhaps most frustrating is that Charles Martinet, who has voiced Mario in games since 1996, will not get to voice Mario in the movie, but will instead "be appearing in surprise cameos in the movie." How can you make a Mario himself? That's like making a "Hannah Montana" movie and not casting Miley Cyrus.

The casting movie continues a frustrating trend in animated movies -- casting A-list movie stars instead of professional voice actors. It feels like movies these days are marketed with the names of the stars in them as much as they are marketed with the story itself, if not more. I couldn't tell you what "Smallfoot" was about, but I can sure tell you that Zendaya was Meechee. Remember the "Lion King" remake? Or "Cats?" How much of what you remember about those films comes from their actual content, and how much of it comes from the celebrities that were in those films?

It's not like there's a shortage of talented, professional voice actors. From the big names in the anime and video game industry to comedic hobbyists on Twitter, there are a lot of people whose main job/hobby is to do voice acting. They're experienced in it, they're good at

it. Why not cast them? What does this say for people looking to go into the voice acting industry, if so many roles are being taken by preexisting celebrities?

It would be one thing if it was just regular actors wanting to branch out and do animated stuff, and there have been some genuinely good celebrity voice actors. But at some point, it became more profitable to pull in a dart-board selection of celebrities for a film. The reasoning is clear: moviegoers who recognize names like Chris Pratt and Jack Black will go to movies just to see those actors. It's an easy money scheme. But I would argue there's something to be said for casting on talent and ability rather than star power.

To be fair, all of the cast in the Mario movie other than Taylor-Joy have at least one major voice-acting role under their belts. Richardson has primarily been a voice actor for his whole career, starring in things like "Mortal Kombat" and "The Simpsons." Meanwhile, Black and Rogen were in "Kung-Fu Panda," Pratt and Day were in "The Lego Movie," Armisen has been in "The Looney Tunes Show" and "The Smurfs," Key was in the "Hotel Transylvania" series and Maniscalco was in "The Nut Job 2." But (with the exception of Richardson) how many of these roles were cast just based on star power, even if the

results were good?

No offense to Pratt, but Mario is supposed to be an Italian plumber from Brooklyn. I have never heard Pratt do an Italian or Brooklyn accent. I do not want to hear Pratt do an Italian or Brooklyn accent. Are they going to make Pratt do an Italian or Brooklyn accent in the Mario movie, or will Mario just have an inexplicably Minnesotan voice? All possibilities are horrifying.

I don't know what needs to happen to change this trend. Perhaps this is just a passing fad, and we'll see more traditional voice actors in mainstream films ten years from now. Perhaps we will get to a point where your Tuesday night movie options are "Chris Evans Movie 1" or "Chris Evans Movie 2." Either way, I look forward to seeing the Mario movie no matter how it turns out -- whether I'm pleasantly surprised or just make fun of the whole thing.



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