

BLACK LIVES MATTER History made Social issues through the lens of The Herald

FEATURE BY ALEX CLARK

LIFE EDITOR

The Herald has done its part in covering issues affecting our generation. However, throughout the publication of the newspaper, this was not always the case.

Though The Herald focuses mainly on campus news or news otherwise revolving around A-State students, national issues affect students as well.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT → BLACK LIVES MATTER

The civil rights movement began in 1954 and continued through 1968. During this time, there was a lack of coverage in the State College Herald about the movement.

In 1955, Lt. Col. Frederick C. Turner, Jr., Walter Strong and Larry Williams enrolled as the first three Black students at A-State, or Arkansas State College at the time. In 2009, the Alumni Association featured Turner in "100 Years, 100 Voices." Turner shared how Carl Reng, president of Arkansas State College, registered Turner, Strong and Williams in his office, as opposed to the three participating in the normal mass registration process.

By registering this way, these three Black students would simply begin attending classes without any fuss. Once word spread of Black students were attending classes at A-State, it was no longer newsworthy and the institution avoided angry protests.

In 1969, The Herald ran an article about Turner's return to A-State. It detailed him go-

ing from one of the first Black undergraduate students to the first Black professor. This year, a ceremony hosted Nov. 5 recognized the renaming of A-State's Military Science Building in honor of Turner.

The Black Lives Matter movement was established in 2013 following the death of Trayvon Martin, and began to gain more national attention due to protests after the death of Michael Brown in 2014. The Herald's first coverage of BLM showed up Aug. 25, 2014 on the Opinion page. The column "Ferguson riots expose systematic obstacles" ran, explaining the struggles of Black Americans against systemic racism.

In 2020, BLM picked up traction once more in response to the deaths of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd. The Herald ran two front-page stories back-to-back covered student efforts for the BLM movement. Sept. 16 focused on the efforts of the A-State NAACP and Black Student Association.

The BSA organized a march open to all students on campus to demonstrate in support of BLM, set to happen Sept. 17, while the NAACP helped over the summer to support protests around Jonesboro and sponsor voting efforts for the upcoming election.

The Sept. 23 paper covered the march on campus, with a photo of A-State students wearing black and holding signs in support of the movement. In addition, a feature ran on senior track athlete Jacyd Lewis from Bryant, and her efforts balancing school, sports and activism.

LGBTQ RIGHTS

The AIDS crisis coverage in the 80s was scarce in The Herald. A wire story from AP ran in The Herald about the decline of AIDS cases Jan. 28, 1986.

The Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage across the U.S. June 26, 2015.

An Opinion column ran Feb. 16, 2015, criticizing the argument over same-sex marriage as a debate over rights, not morality. The take was absolutely scathing, criticizing lawmakers for putting their religion over the rights of the LGBTQ community.

Visibility for the LGBTQ community ramped up in The Herald. Throughout various editions of the paper from the 2010s, the local drag scene and the A-State Gender and Sexuality Alliance (formerly known as Gay-Straight Alliance) were highlighted for events they hosted.

The Nov. 28, 2018 Life page featured a full spread on transgender rights. Articles highlighted the struggles of trans people and resources for trans youth, and an interview with 2018-19 GSA President Alfonso Ramirez put a spotlight on the organization.

In 2019, the April 3 Photo page showed a spread of GSA's inaugural Rainbow Prom event. Oct. 16 showcased photos from Jonesboro's inaugural pride festival, NEA Pride.

This is just a portion of issues covered by The Herald throughout the years. As long as A-State students continue to make history, The Herald will continue to report on it.



Introducing: #Life

ALEX CLARK | LIFE EDITOR

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The Life page was not always a part of The Herald. It wasn't introduced until 2012, when #Life appeared Aug. 30 with an article about the opening of P'Ayers Cupcakery Confections, a serialized short story titled "Listen Closely" and an ad for a luxury estate auction in Cherry Valley.

The Life page is a place

for student voices, activism and pop culture. Throughout the years it has highlighted student life through feature stories and Student Speak columns, shared social issues students were involved in or passionate about and run frequent reviews over movies, television shows and music.

Horoscopes started running on the #Life page April

6, 2016. Currently, they are predicted using tarot cards.

The hashtag was dropped from the page title Sept. 6, 2017. This week's edition is stylized to match the first version of the Life page introduced in The Herald and includes other design aspects that used to be used, as opposed to the more minimalist look printed today.

Race to the Oscars Fall movies offer variety

HEADLINE COURTESY OF THE HERALD OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY (SEPT. 12, 2013)

"Race to the Oscars: Fall movies offer variety" highlighted movies which might be nominated for the 86th Annual Academy Awards. One of the movies mentioned in the article, "The Hobbit: Desolation of Smaug," received three nominations but did not win any awards.

Columnist Stresses U.S. Unity

HEADLINE COURTESY OF THE HERALD OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY (OCT. 3, 1969)

Journalist and author Carl T. Rowan visited A-State's campus as part of the 1969 Lecture-Concert Series and spoke to more than 500 students about poverty, class conflict and racial conflict. "There isn't a white man powerful enough or smart enough to make me leave this country," Rowan said.

No sickness after hours

HEADLINE COURTESY OF THE HERALD OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY (SEPT. 29, 1978)

Something that has stayed consistent through The Herald has been students venting about the woes of college life. In this 1978 Letter to the Editor, students complained about the infirmary being closed on weekends.

THIS WEEK'S POP PICK

"Kissin' Cousins" was advertised by the Skyvue Drive-In in the State College Herald, and "Back to the Future" was advertised by Malco Cinema 6 in The Herald.

The Skyvue used to be on Southwest Drive, but was demolished. The Malco Cinema 6 used to be on E. Highland Drive, but now the Malco locations are the Towne Cinema on Parker Road and the Studio Cinema on Canera Drive.

"Kissin' Cousins" (1964) - dir. Gene Nelson



"Kissin' Cousins" is a musical comedy film starring the King of Rock and Roll himself: Elvis Presley. Elvis plays Josh Morgan and his look-alike cousin Jodie Tatum.

The U.S. government wants to purchase Pappy Tatum's (Arthur O'Connell) land in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee for a missile base. Captain Robert Salbo (Jack Albertson) enlists Morgan's help in acquiring the land, and they head to Tennessee.

After shenanigans ensue, including Morgan choosing his cousin Azalea Tatum (Pamela Austin) as his love interest, Pappy Tatum agrees to sell some land to the government as long as they don't interfere with his moonshining.

An ad for a Christmas season showing of this movie was run by Skyvue in the Dec. 18, 1964 edition of The Herald. This was Elvis' 14th movie, and was meant to bring in revenue by appealing to his fans due to budget issues after the high production cost of "Viva Las Vegas."

"Back to the Future" (1985) - dir. Robert Zemeckis

"Back to the Future" was the number one film during its first three weeks in theaters. "Back to the Future" day is recognized Oct. 15, in reference to the date the characters travel to in the second film. Malco Cinema 6 ran an ad for "Back to the Future" in the Sept. 6, 1985 edition of The Herald.

Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox) ends up in the '50s with Doc Brown's (Christopher Lloyd) after an experiment goes wrong. The pair travel through time in a modified DMC DeLorean. McFly encounters the young versions of his parents, and has to make sure they fall in love so he does not cease to exist.

He successfully ensures his parents end up together, and the movie ends with Doc Brown telling Marty they need to travel forward to 2015 to save his future children.



HOROSCOPES

☀ - IN SEASON

ALEX CLARK

MYSTIC CORRESPONDENT

<p>ARIES ☊</p> <p>(March 22 - April 19)</p> <p>Now is the perfect time to branch out. New experiences will be fulfilling and open up more opportunities for you.</p>	<p>TAURUS ♉</p> <p>(April 20 - May 20)</p> <p>You have a relatively level head right now. Take this chance to catch up and pave a path for yourself.</p>	<p>GEMINI ♊</p> <p>(May 21 - June 20)</p> <p>Test the waters on a new project if you get the chance. Good things are coming.</p>	<p>CANCER ☊</p> <p>(June 21 - July 22)</p> <p>Find healthier coping mechanisms. You cannot drown out your feelings, but you can work through them.</p>
<p>LEO ♌</p> <p>(July 23 - Aug. 22)</p> <p>As long as you work hard, you will go places. Make responsible decisions in the days ahead.</p>	<p>VIRGO ♍</p> <p>(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)</p> <p>You are approaching a breakthrough. Don't self-sabotage, take care of yourself and focus on your goals.</p>	<p>LIBRA ♎</p> <p>(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>Make sure you have your priorities straight. Be open to change and try to find balance during uncertain times.</p>	<p>SCORPIO ♏</p> <p>(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>Don't let apathy consume you. Reconnect with people and things you love, and focus on what makes you happy.</p>
<p>SAGITTARIUS ♐</p> <p>(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</p> <p>Forgiveness can help you find peace, but it isn't always necessary. Put yourself first.</p>	<p>CAPRICORN ♑</p> <p>(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)</p> <p>Don't be scared of feelings you aren't familiar with. Allow yourself to process things instead of shutting down.</p>	<p>AQUARIUS ♒</p> <p>(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>The people around you care about you. It's okay to rely on their support when you need it.</p>	<p>PISCES ♓</p> <p>(Feb. 19 - March 21)</p> <p>Move on. Constantly lingering on the past will not benefit your future.</p>