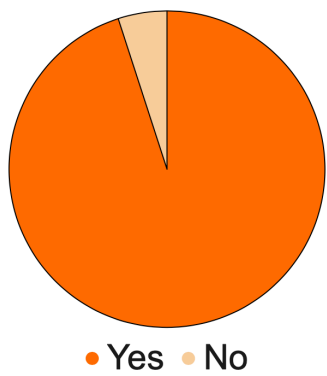


## What's Your Opinion?

Is political violence in the United States becoming a serious concern?

Out of 60 responses:  
 Yes -- 57  
 No -- 3



## Next Poll:

### FASHION

Do you prefer Y2K or Y3K fashion?

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 [astatetheherald.com](#). Have an idea for a poll? Send your ideas to [heraldopinion1921@gmail.com](mailto:heraldopinion1921@gmail.com).

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website.

## For America, political violence is a fact of life

WILL LIVINGSTON  
 SPORTS EDITOR



Will Livingston is a senior creative media production major from Hot Springs, Arkansas.

On Sept. 15, there was an "apparent assassination attempt" on former president Donald Trump. Again. Although this attempt was not that serious, with no actual shots fired, the action has stirred up a national conversation.

It's hard for some to believe that here in America, we have people of this country willing to end the life of a political figure that they don't like. But for anyone who knows anything about America, this is nothing new or even unusual. And it's only going to get worse.

Political violence is defined as violence perpetrated in order to achieve political goals. By that definition, America has seen political violence

practically every year since its founding.

First of all, there is no need to panic about this assassination attempt. Ryan Wesley Routh (the would-be assassin) wasn't even close to Trump. This is not the first time a President or former President has had an attempt on their life.

44th President Barack Obama had several assassination attempts, and before him, George W. Bush had several attempts on his own life. Frankly, it'd be more unusual if a president wasn't a target.

This "new" wave of political violence is not new. The American Revolution was, by definition, political violence. Some of the Founding Fathers even believed political violence to be a necessary evil.

In a letter to William Stephens Smith (the son-in-law to second President John Adams), Thomas Jefferson said, "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants." And Jefferson was considered a moderate patriot compared to Samuel Adams.

Adams founded the Sons of Liberty, a secret group of Bostonian patriots who opposed British taxation. This group would often riot in the streets and tar and feather British officials enforcing taxation. Adams was referred to by some members of Parliament as

"the most dangerous man in Boston" and "the grand incendiary."

Ever since the Revolution, America has been one chapter of political violence after the other. The Civil War was nothing but political violence, with senators beating each other with canes and men shooting each other over the issue of slavery and clashing opinions over it. To count the number of assassination in the 60s' alone, you would need two hands.

In the 60s we saw the assassinations of several major political figures. In 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, and five years later his brother and the presidential frontrunner for the Democratic party Robert Kennedy Sr. was gunned down in a hotel kitchen. Civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr was killed in Memphis less than two months before RFK, and Malcolm X was killed by members of the Nation of Islam. I could mention several more influential figures who were killed in the decades to follow, such as Fred Hampton, Harvey Milk, and John Lennon. Yet we're acting like it's somehow gotten worse in recent years.

If anything, political violence has gone down quite a bit in this country. Before the assassination attempt in Butler, when was the last time a prominent United States political figure was shot at?

There hasn't been an attempt on a President on US soil since 2011 and even that was a crazy man taking wild shots at the White House. What has people worried about political violence now is that we've gotten so used to the relative peacefulness Americans have enjoyed.

We look around the world and wonder how these other countries like Israel, Russia and Ukraine can be so chaotic and full of political violence, when really, we are not much better than them. So don't be surprised when political violence occurs. It's practically an American traditions.



PRINT COURTESY OF JOHN CARTER BROWN  
 Philip Dawe's artistic depiction of the tarring and feathering of John Malcom.

## Vote with your head, not your favorite entertainer

ELIJAH TEMPLETON  
 LIFE EDITOR



Elijah Templeton is a senior English major from Jonesboro.

Fame is as much a part of American culture as monumental military spending or poor healthcare, it's just who we are.

Social media has given platforms to incredibly famous people that allow direct communication with their fans and supporters, creating a parasocial relationship where public figures are treated more like friends than strangers.

This makes celebrity endorsements of political candidates more impactful than ever before as fans can have personal attachments to celebrities and see themselves as politically aligned with them, and therefore more likely to vote in unison with them. This reality, however, can create outrage when the

candidate selected is not who fans want it to be.

Before the internet, an actor or singer could endorse a candidate for public office and if you weren't listening to the radio or reading about it in the paper, you could not even know about it.

Social media algorithms have all but ensured that every issue, political or otherwise, that interests you will be in your feed, almost erasing any chance of missing it.

For better or worse, celebrities play a massive role in American life and are almost unavoidable if you have an internet connection. Therefore, it is a fact that celebrities will use their platforms to speak up about issues that they care about, or at least want you to think they care about, and it is foolish to get angry or feel betrayed when it happens.

Celebrities can be out of touch, they can have no real understanding of policy or its possible outcomes and still be free to endorse any candidate they please, because this is America and despite our many problems, we still pride ourselves on our first amendment rights.

No matter how big of a fan you are, you do not know these people and to take it as a personal affront when you disagree politically or otherwise, is only setting yourself up for disappointment.

If your favorite artist endorses a candidate or likes a post that makes you feel upset, understand that no one is required to agree with you on every issue in order for you to enjoy their art.

You are free to stop supporting anyone at any time for any reason, but to use such instances as opportunities to broadcast your moral superiority over a stranger on the internet is not the answer.

As a general rule of thumb, it is better to keep your expectations for public figures; politicians and celebrities alike, to a minimum because they will inevitably disappoint you.

They are only human and are just as likely to mess up as the rest of us, only their every move is under the microscope and every mistake is amplified.

Be an informed voter and be open to new information. Allow your mind to be changed by new information and work to recognize misinformation so that your vote goes towards what you believe in, and not what someone else does.

Ignore celebrities or don't, but politics will affect you whether you pay it any mind or not.

But of course, that's just one man's opinion.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BILLBOARD.COM  
 Graphic depicting Vice President Kamala Harris with notable female artists.

# THE HERALD

JERRY DON BURTON: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
[jerry.burton@smail.astate.edu](mailto:jerry.burton@smail.astate.edu)

SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE: NEWS EDITOR  
[heraldnews1921@gmail.com](mailto:heraldnews1921@gmail.com)

LAILA CASIANO: OPINION EDITOR  
[heraldopinion1921@gmail.com](mailto:heraldopinion1921@gmail.com)

SHELBY RUSSOM: PHOTO EDITOR  
[heraldphoto1921@gmail.com](mailto:heraldphoto1921@gmail.com)

GRETCHEN HUNT: ADJUNCT ADVISER; ADVERTISEMENT SALES  
[ghunt@astate.edu](mailto:ghunt@astate.edu)

THE HERALD OFFICE IS IN ROOM 224 OF THE COMMUNICATIONS/EDUCATION BUILDING.

NEWSROOM: 870-972-3076

AD OFFICE: 870-972-2961

FAX: 870-972-3339

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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 [jerry.burton@smail.astate.edu](mailto:jerry.burton@smail.astate.edu)

### STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Herald is printed every Wednesday during the semester, except during finals and holidays. Copies of The Herald are free.

### CORRECTIONS GUIDELINES

The Herald wants its news reports to be fair and accurate. We correct all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please contact us.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Opinions expressed in personal columns are those of the writers and may not reflect the opinions of the staff as a whole.

These opinions are not necessarily reflective of the students, faculty or administration at A-State.

Columns, letters to the editor, cartoons and other content on the opinion page are the views of the author. Content does not necessarily represent the opinion of The Herald.