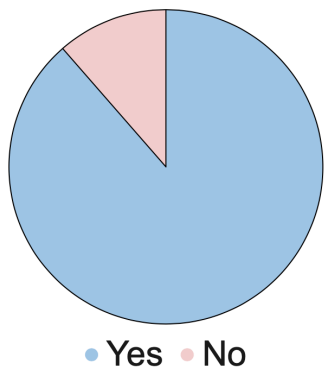


## What's Your Opinion?

Do you believe that misinformation spread by the transvestigation movement is a growing problem in society?

Out of 35 responses:  
 Yes -- 31  
 No -- 4



## Next Poll:

### PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Who do you think "won" the presidential debate?

Students can answer the poll on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](https://www.instagram.com/astateherald). Instagram polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on [astatetheherald.com](https://www.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.

## A note from someone born after 9/11

**BENJAMIN MCDOWELL**  
 STAFF WRITER



**Benjamin McDowell is a sophomore multimedia major from Wynne, Arkansas.**

9/11 has always been a day of importance and historical context, but what does this event mean to someone who was born after 9/11?

As someone who was born in 2005, I have always looked at 9/11 as a day to celebrate those who have fought for our country and remember the ones we lost. And growing up, the only access I had to understanding or learning of the events were through other people's eyes and ears that were there to see it. The memories would trickle down to me through a parent, a teacher or even an older friend.

It also meant that whenever the anniversary would come and go, my

school educators would play a video and reminisce on their own experiences of the event – whether it was in-person, watching a live broadcast or having a relative there in real time. And as someone who lives in a post-9/11 world, I've always considered it to be a day to learn and inform myself. With the increase of technology in the new generation it often makes it easier to find more information about 9/11 and all of those who were affected.

**"And growing up, the only access I had to understanding or learning of the events were through other people's eyes and ears of who were there to remember."**

According to a poll from the American Identity Research Project conducted in 2022, "results found that Gen Z and Millennials were less likely than Americans from older generations to describe the post-9/11 nation as 'patriotic' and 'united.'"

I think that this statistic is true because older generations had a broader understanding of society at the time, there was a fear that an entire generation experienced, one's in which recalling memories or educating the younger generations would never be enough for

us to understand.

Gen Z is often the first generation after 9/11, and many people often had to educate our generation on the events of 9/11. As long as our country continues to honor those lost on 9/11, the holiday will always have significant meaning. With the world constantly changing, some holidays today are not considered as important as they were back then.

9/11 should always be considered important, especially for those who lost their lives that day. The terrorist attacks impacted our country. The Global War on Terror occurred because of the events of the terrorist attacks and through this, my entire existence regarding U.S. foreign affairs and wars have been ongoing and active global conflicts with

the Middle East – my generation's experience with 9/11 is the aftermath of mourning and grief, and existing in a country through wartime across seas.

The aftermath of the event can not be ignored. It was, and is, a day to remember.

Our army can never be ignored for the constant fight and work they put in to keep our country safe and the expressed trauma, tension and emotional rawness experienced by the American people is something that should not be easily disregarded and forgotten.

The patriotism of that day can not be ignored, and the wars that we faced since then we still face today. 9/11 is not just an important day for our military, but an important day for our country.



The World Trade Center before 9/11.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HISTORY.COM

## Tranvestigation is a movement that must be stopped

**LAILA CASIANO**  
 OPINION EDITOR



**Laila Casiano is a senior multimedia journalism major from Paragould.**

Tranvestigation is a movement that must be stopped

The alarming rise of tranvestigation exposes the destructive impact of online hate and misinformation on public figures. So, what can we do?

In recent years, an epidemic of anti-transgender and gender nonconforming rhetoric has surged largely fueled by social media platforms like X, formerly known as Twitter, which have allowed hateful commentary about people's personal lives to be acceptable.

While transphobia on social media is not new, a recent trend involves tranvestigation where individuals aim to demean and target others by questioning their gender identity, or more recently, their accomplishments.

Tranvestigation is an alt-right wing movement in which transphobes make unfounded and baseless accusations to expose someone, typically female celebrities, as transgender. This rhetoric often carries racist and misogynistic undertones and sentiment, as the victims are scrutinized based on their appearance and body features that deviate from societal standards of what is considered a "female" and "male" body.

Imane Khelif, an Algerian boxer, who won a gold medal during the 2024 Paris Olympics was recently targeted by tranvestigators. Khelif faced intense public criticism and scrutiny from well known Trans-Exclusive Radical Feminists (TERFs), like J.K. Rowling, and high profile users of anti-trans rhetorics, like former United States' President Donald Trump and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni.

This backlash was largely due to her appearance and her medical records from the 2023 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships, where she was disqualified because of reported high levels of testosterone in her system.

The internet was split by those who actively victimized Khelif and those who supported her. On Aug. 11., Khelif filed a formal legal complaint which describes her victimization of online abuse perpetrated, naming J.K. Rowling

and Elon Musk in the lawsuit.

Khelif is not alone. In 2009, tabloid rumors claimed Lady Gaga was a man and in 2017, Alex Jones alleged Michelle Obama was transgender. This movement is a blight on peoples' sanity and mental wellness, particularly affecting those who perpetuate these harmful behaviors.

Creating conspiracies over whether or not someone's gender or sex is what they claim to be is the most irrational thing I have ever encountered, especially when it is an attempt at discrediting or dehumanizing someone.

This movement endangers the lives

and safety of both transgender and cisgender people. We must address this issue before it worsens.

As anti-transgender legislation and policies are proposed and enacted across the nation, it is our moral responsibility as voters to combat this discrimination by advocating for protective trans legislation.

Additionally, we should advocate for national policies to address online harassment and discrimination, hoping for better regulated social media platforms regarding their access and combat to hate speech and misinformation.

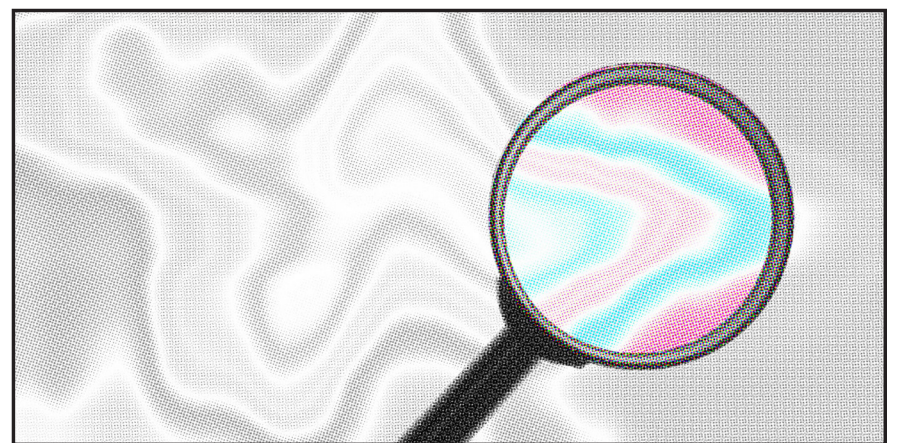


Illustration of a magnifying glass exposing the colors representing the transgender flag.

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THEM

# 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)

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
[heraldsports1921@gmail.com](mailto:heraldsports1921@gmail.com)

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

**ELIJAH TEMPLETON: ARTS & E/LIFE EDITOR**  
[heraldlife1921@gmail.com](mailto:heraldlife1921@gmail.com)

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

**LAILA CASIANO: SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR**  
[heraldonline1921@gmail.com](mailto:heraldonline1921@gmail.com)

**SANDRA L. COMBS: ADVISER; ADVERTISEMENT SALES**  
[scombs@astate.edu](mailto:scombs@astate.edu)  
[heraldonline1921@gmail.com](mailto:heraldonline1921@gmail.com)

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

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

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