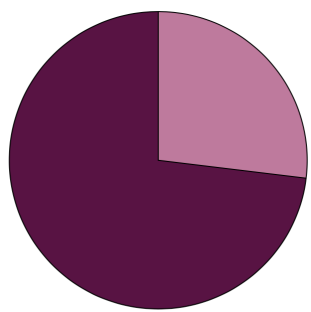


What's Your Opinion?

Overall, do you feel encouraged or discouraged by President Trump's first week in office?

Out of 78 responses:
Encouraged -- 21
Discouraged -- 57



● Encouraged ● Discouraged

Next Poll:

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU?
Overall, how has your 2025 been so far?

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.

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

Trump's executive orders threaten us all

ABIGAIL LEGGETT
STAFF WRITER



Abigail Leggett is a first-year creative media production major from Jonesboro.

After the intense presidential election, a feeling of dread washed over America and the minds of those whose candidate lost. In recent weeks, that feeling has become even stronger with President Trump's inauguration and his fury of new executive orders.

On his very first day of office, Trump enacted over 33 executive orders which threaten the everyday lives of average Americans — particularly environmentalists and migrants.

For the last 20 years, the United States has been second only to China in carbon (CO2) emissions. Since the U.S. became signatories of the Paris Climate Agreement, we have taken measures to lessen our CO2 emissions.

Yet, in Trump's first day back in office, he pulled the U.S. out of the treaty and went after the Biden Administration's federal procurement targets (for clean energy).

He then enacted a National Energy Emergency, which he plans to use to target Alaska and its natural resources, going against the previous administration's protection of the state.

Trump stated he was going to "Drill, baby, drill." This is a disgusting act of negligence and ignorance by Trump, who simply does not understand how he single-handedly can destroy parts of the natural environment, all in the name of profit that oil companies already have in spades.

CO2 emissions will skyrocket, heating up the earth and causing a multitude of problems; ice caps melting, oceans rising, extreme weather events and destroying ecosystems that are vital to the survival of the human race. Eventually, the effects of this drilling will become irreversible and we will lose the small amount of time we have left to save the planet.

Regarding the "migrant issue," Trump declared an emergency at the U.S-Mexico border, deploying National Guard troops to the area and allowing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials to force themselves into homes, workplaces,

schools and churches to apprehend people they suspect are undocumented for deportation.

Trump, in an even bolder move, attempted to end birthright citizenship for those born to undocumented immigrants — an explicit violation of the 14th Amendment.

Not to mention the orders that attack asylum seekers, as he has ordered the "Remain in Mexico" program which forces people seeking safety in the U.S. to remain in dangerous and life-threatening conditions in Mexico until their cases are heard. Or the fact that he has ordered ICE to detain people to the fullest extent (using criminal prosecutions for immigration offenses with the intent to tear families apart and fill Customs and Border Protection

facilities), which have been found to be unconstitutional and cruel by the federal court.

This attack is also affecting farmers all across America and the average American consumer. With "more than two-thirds of the U.S. crop workers being foreign born," many people don't seem to realize that without a workforce, there will be no industry or agriculture. Food shortages will cause soaring prices, which goes against Trump's campaign promise that he would lower the prices of groceries.

The people that Trump is targeting with these orders are those who don't fit into his mold, those who he deems to be unworthy of basic human decency, but they will not be the only ones to suffer.

Read full article on [astatetheherald.com](https://www.astatetheherald.com)



PHOTO COURTESY OF WBHM
U.S. President Donald Trump signs documents as he issues executive orders.

The "American oligarchy" is already here

WILL LIVINGSTON
SPORTS EDITOR



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

In his farewell address, former President Joe Biden cautioned the American people that an oligarchy was taking shape in the nation: "dangerous concentration of power in the hands of a very few ultra-wealthy people." While I agree with his sentiment, there's one key issue with this speech: the oligarchy is already here.

In America, the average worker in 2022 made around \$37,585. The top 1% made an average of \$785,968. This 1% also owns about 43% of all global financial assets, which amounts to billions and billions of dollars. This gap between the rich and the rest increases yearly.

Before you think I'm about to go on an anti-capitalist rant in which I say we should overthrow the government and eat the rich, let me put that thought to rest right now: I am in favor of capitalism and a free market. What I am not in favor of is the wealthy using America as their personal playground.

The "American Oligarchy" has its tentacles in every facet of the American government, and actively uses it to get richer. The rich have been using it for a long time.

President Dwight Eisenhower warned Americans and his successor, John F. Kennedy, regarding the military-industrial complex. Their influence on the government marked the beginning of the so-called "forever wars" that have marked the years since the Kennedy assassination. America found itself bogged down in wars with countries most Americans could not even point out on a map.

The outcome of these wars didn't matter. All that mattered was if military contractors got federal funding — which they did.

Why does the government allow this? Because those in power are getting a piece of the blood-soaked pie.

In the 116th Congress, for the first time, the majority of Congress were

millionaires. The median net worth of a United States congressman is over one million dollars, on a salary of only \$174,000 dollars. How do people who make a hundred thousand a year become multi-millionaires? By trading stocks of course. See, since members of Congress know what stocks will be affected by bills that are about to pass, they can make their trades accordingly and rake in heaps of money.

If you do this sort of thing called "insider trading," it's a felony, but when Congress does it, that's just hustling for the paper.

Please don't think I'm only bashing Democrats in this. Of the top 10 wealthiest in Congress, six are

Republicans. President Donald Trump is the richest president ever, although most of his money comes from his company outside of the office.

Republicans have historically always been bad about letting money influence their decisions. It doesn't bode well for the middle class that billionaire Elon Musk has an office in the White House. It also isn't a great sign that in attendance at the inauguration of Trump, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg were in attendance.

There are two ways to make this government go back to being for the people, not just for the elite.

Read the full article on [astatetheherald.com](https://www.astatetheherald.com)



PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC
Former President Joe Biden delivers his farewell speech from the White

THE HERALD

JERRY DON BURTON: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
jerry.burton@smail.astate.edu

SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE: NEWS EDITOR
heraldnews1921@gmail.com

WILL LIVINGSTON: SPORTS EDITOR
heraldsports1921@gmail.com

LAILA CASIANO: OPINION EDITOR
heraldopinion1921@gmail.com

ELIJAH TEMPLETON: ARTS & E/LIFE EDITOR
heraldlife1921@gmail.com

IBUKI HINOHARA: PHOTO EDITOR
heraldphoto1921@gmail.com

LAILA CASIANO: SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
heraldonline1921@gmail.com

SANDRA L. COMBS: ADVISER; ADVERTISEMENT SALES
scombs@astate.edu
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

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Story ideas or news tips may be emailed to 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.

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.

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.