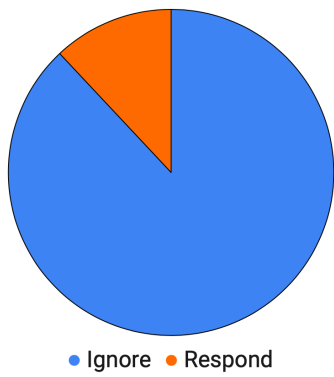


What's Your Opinion?

Do you usually reply to or ignore messages from Howl?

Out of 50 responses:
RESPOND -- 6
IGNORE -- 44



Next Poll:

A-STATE PARKING
Has A-State's parking situation become worse?

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 tariffs are more harmful than helpful

ABIGAIL LEGGETT
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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

President Trump stated in his 2024 presidential campaign that on his first day in office he would "immediately bring prices down, starting on day one." Yet after being in office for almost a month, prices have yet to fall. Instead, he is preparing the nation with his new tariff policy which will further disrupt the state of our economy.

As of last month, inflation has raised the cost of groceries, gasoline and rent; now with an already terrible inflation problem, tariffs are going to raise prices even more.

As if there weren't any other more concerning problems that the United States is facing, like gun violence, our climate crisis, racial tension and

inequality and the already-mentioned issues with high inflation — Trump has clearly thought that our trade policy is of the highest order to focus on.

More specifically, Trump's biggest concern was about enacting reciprocal tariffs, meaning the fees that American companies faced when exporting goods to another country, should also apply for the imported goods from that same country.

Now, this sounds good in concept, but is actually very detrimental to our economy.

The president is expecting other countries to just agree to the tariffs. However, world trade was not built on the idea of country-to-country negotiations, but rather the World Trade Organization (WTO) kept countries' supplies in check. The WTO worked to set proper fair tariffs for specific goods and Trump seemed to argue otherwise.

He described the U.S. as being a "victim of this structure," as he cited trade deficits with China, Mexico and Germany. With his narrative of the U.S. "suffering" under these conditions, he now wants authorities to negotiate trade agreements to his liking — completely disregarding prior trade agreements with others.

And you may ask, well how will these tariffs affect me? It will affect nearly

every part of your everyday life.

As we import a majority of products from other countries, including fruit, technology, oil and lumber, these new tariffs will increase our taxes.

An analysis by the Tax Foundation said Trump's threats of establishing tariffs will cause an average tax increase of more than \$800 per U.S. household in 2025. Not only will tax increase, but the cost of production of everyday items will too. Including some household technology favorites such as Apple products.

Though the tariffs can affect some prices, it might not directly hit the price tag but rather the employees who work for these companies. Affecting the U.S. economy and labor force as a

whole. Businesses will have to consume a bigger cost, leaving them with less money for their employees as well as no money for hire.

These tariffs will leave the average American facing either low employment or lower income with higher costs of living. All of this because one man doesn't want to be told no.

President Trump does not care about his own country's citizens and it shows. He and his inner circle only care about themselves, but this will bite them in the butt when they realize that it will start to affect them too. They are not immune to the damage Trump inflicts on the country.

These tariffs are selfish in nature and will help no one other than Trump.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF DAYBREAK/GETTY IMAGES

Graphic depicts U.S. President Donald Trump amidst the tariff controversy-

America's hyper-individualism is a destructive force

ELIJAH TEMPLETON
LIFE EDITOR



Elijah Templeton is a senior English major from Jonesboro.

A prominent aspect of American life is individualism: the belief that everyone is an individual rather than part of a collective, and should prioritize themselves first and everyone else second. This sort of sentiment of "America First" is destructive for us Americans.

This attitude has labeled Americans as selfish, ignorant of the world around them and unable to empathize with those who have it worse than they do. And these hyper-individualistic ideas have laid dormant for some time, but have now been pushed to the forefront — coming directly from the Oval Office.

"America First" is a key part of the official stance of the new administration

and while this is an effective campaign tool, it does not always foster the best circumstances for a nation to thrive.

The belief that the United States should prioritize American citizens is not an outlandish one, in fact, it is probably one of the more unifying beliefs that those all across the political spectrum could agree on. The real issue is when the official stance becomes "America First" at the expense of the rest of the world.

In the past month, the U.S. has withdrawn from the Paris Climate Agreement once again and for the first time ever, withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO).

Whether or not you agree with the withdrawals is a non-factor, as the precedent that it establishes is of more concern than the withdrawals themselves.

The idea that the U.S. is somehow separate from the rest of the world and unconcerned with maintaining good relationships with allies is a direct result of hyper-individualism, the prevailing sentiment that America functions as a lone entity on the world stage rather than part of a larger collective.

These beliefs stem from a variety of factors, one being the notion that the United States spends far too much money on foreign aid.

A recent poll from the Associated Press found that roughly 7 in 10 U.S. adults say the government is putting too much money toward assistance to other countries.

This is understandable when you learn that, on average, opinion polling shows that Americans believe foreign aid makes up around 25% of the entire federal budget.

The reality however is that foreign aid makes up less than 1% of the federal budget.

This focus on cutting federal funding on the basis that the funds go to other countries does not just affect those countries, but America as well.

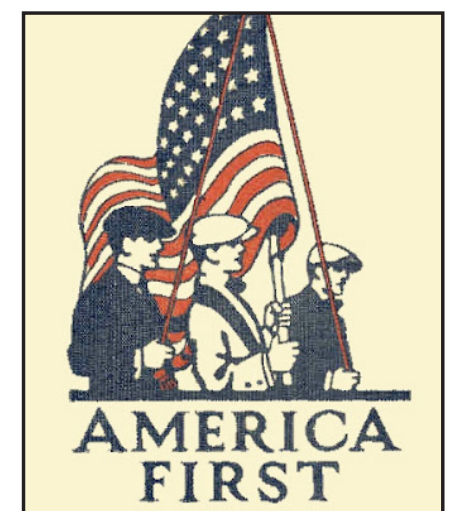
The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and leader Elon Musk have recently revealed plans to cut the staffing of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) from 14,000 employees to fewer than 300.

USAID is an agency that provides humanitarian aid and development assistance in over 100 countries that have been described as the world's single largest humanitarian donor. This spending has been deemed wasteful by key members of the new administration, including Musk, who deflect criticism by claiming to prioritize "America First."

USAID is involved with disease prevention around the globe and as its decimation coincides with our removal from the WHO, America may very well be on its own during a potential pandemic or similar health emergency.

Individualism is a fine belief system when things are going well, but when times are hard, it is necessary to have others to lean on. By isolating ourselves on the world stage, we lay the foundation for future struggle and further isolation in our own communities that will be a net negative for us all.

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



ART COURTESY OF FREEVINTAGEART.COM

Art depicts three people with the American flag.

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.