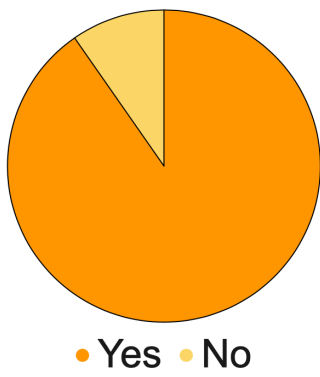


What's Your Opinion?

Are you excited for Thanksgiving break?

Out of 31 responses:
Yes - 28
No - 3



Next Poll:

To be continued
Did you enjoy reading the paper this semester?

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](#).

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

Thanksgiving is the only time white people can cook

Ahtziry Zuniga
STAFF WRITER



Ahtziry Zuniga is a first-year political science and global studies major from Jonesboro.

Yup, you read it here first, folks. And before a lot of people get offended, I'm not encompassing ALL white people when I say this. I can't talk about all of the white population, because that's generalizing. And obviously, I mean no harm by saying any of this. I mean, I love white people. Most of my friends are white. But, likely, if you're offended by the end of this, I AM talking about you, so tread lightly and just have some fun.

Let's start here: Thanksgiving as a holiday is pretty messed up. The first Thanksgiving was not a peaceful picture of Native Americans and colonial Englishfolk holding hands and giving thanks to a European God for blessing them with a great, big meal—a delicious bison, let's say—in full, friendly embrace upon the coming of winter. If that's what you visualize when you think about the origin of Thanksgiving, you're just wrong, and I'm genuinely sorry that's what you choose to believe.

Thanksgiving is, at its core, a celebration of the mass murder of

indigenous Americans by English colonizers, disguised as a holiday about "giving thanks," "loving your family and friends," and "loving and thanking God." Sure, totally, thank you SO much for dying off and leaving us here to take over your land in peace.

Next, I want to establish just a little bit of credibility for grounds to speak on this topic. I'm not Native American, not really. I don't belong to any registered tribe, nor am I closely knit with any native languages or traditions. I'm Mexican. But I do want to say something about Mexican people: Mexican people are the outcome of generations of inbreeding, where white Spanish conquistadors impregnated indigenous women in Latin America for the purpose of enslavement and the production of more subjects to exploit. Ever heard of the encomienda system? Look it up.

Also, the most that the average, uncultured white person knows about Mexican culture is the food and Cinco de Mayo. Like, it's the first thing I get asked about or commented on. "Oh, I bet your mom's cooking is great!" And, you know what? Yes, it is, thank you.

I can't really be bothered if anyone wants to say Mexican food is bad, because it's just not. Where does the average white family look when church lets out every Sunday afternoon? I'll tell you: your favorite local Mexican restaurant.

I will say, white people love to brag about their Thanksgiving meal. Seriously, people rave on and on about it. "Oh sure, the holiday might be boring,

but the food is so good." And that's great to hear, because I sure don't hear it any other time of year. Why on Earth would anyone be raving on and on about some mashed potatoes and green bean casserole? I don't know what they put in that stuff, but it must be magic.

I'm reminded of an encounter my friend had with another white girl, where they were talking about the different seasonings their families used in their food. I kid you not, her response was, "yeah, salt and pepper." I'm not judging, I'm just concerned.

White people's cooking generally isn't really good, and let me teach you some more history. When the Silk Roads came about a super long time ago (around 2nd century BCE), spices from East and South Asia were a coveted staple trade item among the highest classes and the royal European families. Then, like every other high-end item ever to exist, there was mass demand for spices and, over time, the lower classes

got hold of them too.

It was no longer the case that spices were a status symbol in Europe, so the royals stopped using spices in their food. Likewise, all of Europe followed in the footsteps of the high-class and European food was stripped of any trace of flavor it had possessed before.

Spices are still associated with ethnic minority groups, and God forbid white people ever resemble the customs of ethnic minorities. So, centuries later, white people are really the only ones to blame for their food often being so bland.

But that's okay, because once every year on a busy fall afternoon, they lock in, and that's super admirable. It might be for a holiday that commemorates the genocide of indigenous figures, but nonetheless, they lock in. Suddenly, for a one-night special, we get some flavor, we know how to use some seasonings, and we put away that Crockpot and Easy-Bake Oven.



Photo of a Thanksgiving feast.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DREAMSTIME.COM

Why older people should have to retake their driver's test

AMELIA YOUNG
STAFF WRITER



Amelia Young is a junior multimedia journalism major from Glenwood, Arkansas.

More than a few times recently, I have been driving and the person in front of me is either going incredibly slow, swerving all over the lane or heavily riding their brakes. If they are driving slowly, I try to be patient and wait until I can pass them, only for us to reach a passing zone and they speed up, so I can't pass them unless I go at least 15 to 20 miles over the speed limit.

When I am finally able to pass them, usually one of two things becomes clear: the person is either on their phone and not paying attention to the road, or it's

a senior citizen who can't even see over the dashboard.

Go on TikTok or Reddit, and you can find plenty of people complaining about how people shouldn't be allowed to drive past a certain age. As someone with a light amount of road rage, when I'm in the moment on the road and see that the person causing my road rage is elderly, I think to myself, "Oh my gosh, you're so old, you shouldn't even be allowed to drive."

But when I think about it, it's not all old people who can't drive. Most of them, maybe, but not all of them.

In conversations with my parents about this frustration, they have pointed out that they still have to get from place to place and don't always have someone to drive them.

So, I have changed my opinion from 'old people shouldn't be allowed to drive' to 'old people should have to retake their driver's test past a certain age.' Ideally, once a person turns 70, they should have to retake their driver's test.

People usually start learning to drive and get their learner's permits at 15 or 16 years old. That would mean a



Photo of an older woman behind the wheels.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVEFARMER.CO.UK

70-year-old today was learning to drive and got their learner's permit around 1965 or 1966. Driving rules and laws have changed quite a bit since then.

Cars weren't even required to have seatbelts until 1968, and the seatbelts we have in cars today weren't the standard until '73. In Arkansas, it wasn't until '91 that it became mandatory by law to wear your seatbelt. So it's safe to say that things have changed since baby boomers learned to drive.

I'm not saying they need to take both the written and the driving portion, but they do need to at least take the

driving portion. Not only would this keep me and other drivers from getting unnecessary road rage, but it could also keep the road safer.

Swerving all over the road, cutting people off, and driving 10 to 15 miles per hours under the speed limit should not be allowed on the road, especially when there are ways to prevent it.

As someone who loves her grandparents very much but gets incredibly nervous when she rides in the car with her grandmother driving, I feel I am very qualified to talk about these things.

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