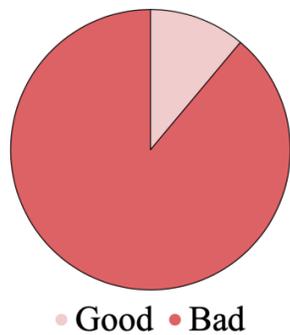


What's Your Opinion?

Will military operations in Iran do more good or bad for the United States?

Out of 36 responses:
Good - 4
Bad - 32



• Good • Bad

Next Poll:

The Forever War?

How long will military operations in Iran last?

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 shayaanseyeed22@gmail.com

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

No babe, Kamala would not have actually been much better

ELIJAH TEMPLETON
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD



Elijah Templeton is a former English major from Jonesboro.

415 days into Donald Trump's second presidential term has brought no shortage of split opinions. The most divisive figure in recent American history has continued to be so, but his approval ratings reflect a growing unfavorability across the nation on key issues from the economy to immigration.

As could be expected, the recent surge in conversation around the president and his leadership have brought back discussion and musings around what could have been. With many declaring that if Kamala Harris had won the 2024 election, all of the problems we face would simply never have happened. While others maintain their position that Trump on his worst day remains a better leader than Harris could ever dream to be.

And some, myself included, believe that even if Harris had won, many of the pressing issues facing the nation today would still be there, if somewhat muted under the glossy sheen of girl-

power and the championing of diversity winning the day.

If it's a black woman ordering the bombs to be dropped, it helps lessen the sting a bit, right?

In all seriousness, the United States is in a precarious position. Currently at war with Iran at the will of our greatest ally to the tune of an alleged 2 billion dollars a day and an economy with tanking job numbers and rising gas prices, citizens are, rightfully so, a bit concerned.

But to dismiss these issues so flippantly by espousing that if Kamala were the president, we would be much better off, is both short sighted and frankly, a bit naive.

On the war with Iran, Democrats have publicly gone as far as to raise concerns about the legality of the war while also doing little to condemn it or demand our withdrawal.

Where Israel is concerned, the GOP and DNC remain largely agreed that the nation's defense is an utmost priority for America and if Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had been in contact with President Harris instead of President Trump, it is not unlikely that the results would have been much the same as they have been thus far.

On immigration, the militarization and excessive funding of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement

(ICE) has drawn mass outrage and condemnation from Democrats, despite Harris' own campaign platform on the issue being solely based upon reviving the failed 2024 bipartisan immigration bill that was torpedoed at the behest of Trump.

While it is difficult to speculate what shape a Harris administration's immigration platform would have materialized into, I find it likely that it would align with former President Obama's: a mass deportation effort, but one that is not so publicly flaunted or celebrated. Similar results, but without the tyrannical imagery.

This is the crux of the argument in favor of this alternate reality where Harris was our Commander in Chief. That history has shown time and again that Democratic presidents often differ from their Republican counterparts mainly on optics, rather than policy.

Trump is a wrench in the machine, a horse loose in the hospital, impossible to ignore and unable to engage with any degree of tact or subtlety.

Harris is a system player, an establishment figure, able to morph from one stance to the next like a chameleon, depending on what is called for in the moment, all the while championing faith in the systems that maintain the status quo and ensure no



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHEILA HAMILTON'S FACEBOOK PAGE

A woman holds a sign in support of Kamala Harris during a No Kings protest in Santa Barbara, California on June 14, 2025.

substantial change is ever really enacted. With Trump, there is chaos. With Harris, there likely would have been calm.

But the idea that things would be so much better for everyday American citizens is, like her campaign, a nice idea lacking any actual substance.

A Harris administration would have us at war with Iran, deporting hundreds of undocumented migrants daily, but it would be just quiet enough that we could all go to brunch in peace.

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

War! What is it good for?

SHAYAAN SAYEED
OPINION EDITOR



Shayaan Sayeed is a sophomore International Business major from Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Now that grocery prices have dropped, the housing crisis is over and gas prices are definitely cheaper than ever, let's shift our focus on something less pressing: the rapidly approaching war.

You there, living in the United States, are not feeling the direct repercussions of the attacks on Iran like most people living in most middle eastern countries, but you should be scared because this conflict may be escalating into another world war.

No, Iran will not directly bomb us, or any city in the United States. But, you know what will be hit? The resources we get.

Are we already at war? That will depend on who you ask. If you're part of the 1% or, hell, even the 10%, you probably aren't bothered by what is going on or even reading this.

But if you are the average American, your day to day expenses will increase, opportunities to experience the ethnic culture of the Middle East will be hampered and unrest will only grow.

Following joint missile attacks from the U.S. and Israel, Iran responded by attacking U.S. military bases in its neighbouring Arab countries, resulting in millions of dollars in damages, increasing tension in the area.

In a recent turn of events, Spain has also refused Trump's request to use Spanish bases to attack Iran. And Trump did what Trump does best, he threatened to cut off trades.

Now is the time to start paying attention.

With the status of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital oil trade route,

international trade and the cost of living for millions of Americans also lies in the balance.

Despite what many may think, many countries have never considered America the shining star of democracy.

But hey, what do I know about an

obviously collapsing economy being played by billionaires' blood money? War with Iran, gas and grocery prices skyrocketing and named co-conspirators in the Epstein files running amok, what's new?



PHOTO COURTESY OF PBS.ORG

Iranian security forces gather to express support for the new supreme leader of Iran, Mojtaba Khamenei, amid the US-Israel conflict in Tehran, Iran's capital.

THE HERALD

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

ALLIE CARSON: NEWS EDITOR
allie.carson@smail.astate.edu

ERIC FLUKE: SPORTS EDITOR
eric.fluke@smail.astate.edu

SHAYAAN SAYEED: OPINION EDITOR
shayaan.sayeed@smail.astate.edu

AMELIA YOUNG: ARTS & E/LIFE EDITOR
amelia.young1@smail.astate.edu

SOOYEONG CHOI: PHOTO EDITOR
sooyeong.choi@smail.astate.edu

ALLIE CARSON: SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
allie.carson@smail.astate.edu

POLLY MARSHALL: ADVISER; ADVERTISEMENT SALES
pmarshall@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

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