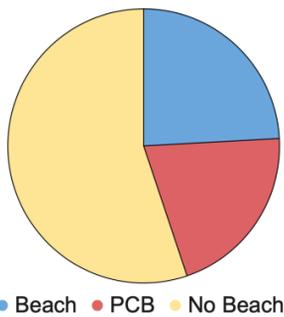


What's Your Opinion?

Are you going to the beach or Panama City beach for Spring Break?

Out of 29 responses:
 The Beach - 7
 Panama City Beach - 16
 No Beach for me - 16



Next Poll:

Herald Edition

Which one was your favorite edition of the Herald?

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 shayaanseyeed22@gmail.com.

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

Why are people so angry with Zohran Mamdani?

SHAYAAN SAYEED
 OPINION EDITOR



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

Opinions on the recently elected New York Mayor, Zohran Mamdani, are as varied as they are numerous. From how he is running the most influential city in the world, to how he responds to reporters and even his wife's social media history, Mamdani faces no shortage of scrutiny.

Say what you want about Mamdani, but he knows what he is doing.

The death threats this man gets alone are absurd. Most recently, 18 year old Emir Balat and 19 year old Ibrahim Kayumi, both residents of Pennsylvania, attempted to assassinate the mayor by detonating explosives left in front of his mansion.

Aside from violence, Mamdani has encountered his fair share of racial discrimination. He has been slandered several times just for being the first Muslim mayor of New York City. He

has also faced criticism for saying that immigrants make New York City better. Everyone who is complaining about how Mamdani is running the city must have been sleeping under a rock to not notice the state of the city before he came in.

For example, one social media post depicts a woman standing in front of a trash can, with a caption that reads "Welcoming myself to the beautiful NYC. Thank you Zohran Mamdani #snowisblack #trash everywhere" clearly mocking the administration's efforts.

Let me ask you this: when was NYC ever clean?

The comments under the post did not disappoint, with netizens calling out the woman for standing in front of the trash can, lacking common sense and being illogical in calling NYC dirty now that Mamdani is in charge.

Not only that, when it came to the insane blizzard that hit the city earlier this year, Mamdani took initiative by paying citizens to come out and shovel snow.

But what did some people have to say? "Oh, he came out to help just for a minute so they could get all the pictures they needed for PR."

Did the citizens get the money for

helping? Yes. And did the mayor get out of his heated mansion to come shake hands with people shoveling snow? Yes. So what really is the problem here?

It has only been a couple of months since Mamdani has come into power, so we cannot tell what the future holds. Despite his efforts, there were controversies regarding his stance on Gaza, after he was elected, as well as his wife, Rama Duwaji, was seen liking a post that was celebrating the October 7th attacks.

As of recently there has also been a video circulating where a man is seen yelling at Zohran Mamdani at a public event, over his comment on "Israel has the right to exist". The Palestinian man is visibly angry over this comment telling him how he should have a clear stance, as he advocated for Palestine during his campaign.

I understand that he needs to speak up more on his stance, and spread awareness about the ongoing conflict, but that is a lot of pressure to put onto one person, who logically cannot do anything about the situation. He cannot stop America's interference in any of the conflicts, but what I will agree with is, he should advocate more on his stance on Gaza.

It is also speculated that a lot of his works are for show, as his campaign was heavily social media based, attracting Gen Z, hence people think that it was all that, a marketing scheme not actual call to action.

But one of the major reasons why Mamdani is being targeted has nothing to do with his policy, but simply the color of his skin.

Whether you like it or not, you have to deal with the fact that he is the mayor now, and you can't deny he's doing a pretty good job.

Mamdani is active in his community and he accepts New York City for what it is, a city of immigrants, culture and diversity. That's more than can be said for many of the city's previous mayors.

"Whether you like it or not, you have to deal with the fact that he is the mayor now, and you can't deny he's doing a pretty good job."



PHOTO COURTESY OF PBS.ORG

(Center) Zohran Mamdani is sworn in as mayor of New York city in City Hall, the first mayor to be sworn in with the Quran instead of the Bible.

Panama City Beach: The Least Relaxing Spring Break Destination

ALLIE CARSON
 NEWS EDITOR



Allie Carson is a junior creative media production major from Jonesboro.

If you were to ask a student where they were going for spring break, chances are, they'd answer with PCB, or Panama City Beach.

PCB is not a vacation destination. It's hell on Earth.

For one, the beach, in general, sucks. There's nothing you can do at the beach that you can't do at a much less crowded lake, which isn't built on miles of sand.

Lakes are great because you can tube and kneeboard and ski and whatever else it is that your little vacation heart

desires. At the beach, what is there to even do? Lie in the sand and get it everywhere in your swimsuit and belongings? Doesn't sound like fun to me.

The beach is also far away. Lake Thunderbird is an hour and a half away and Norfolk is two and a half hours away. Get your tan on there, not at the overcrowded PCB.

PCB sees around 150,000 visitors daily during the Spring Break Season, increasing the population 600%. There's no room to be by yourself because everyone is packed in on the sand like a bunch of sardines.

If you don't like the lake for whatever reason, fine. Just go somewhere, as long as it's not the beach. Take a trip to Memphis or Nashville if you don't want a long drive.

If you still want to go to Florida, I know two great theme parks you can visit: Disney World and Universal Studios. I went to Universal for spring break one year and the crowds weren't awful like PCB. I was able to get on all the rides and do everything I wanted to in both Islands of Adventure and

Universal Studios in just two days.

If you're going to the beach for a tan, just go to the pool or lie outside. If you're going to drink, which I'm sure a majority of you are, just go to New Orleans. It's probably the same price and drive time, but with more stuff to do and see. If you enjoy the people watching at the beach, that can easily be done at every other spring break locale.

Or, just spend your week off from school work at home, relaxing, something you physically cannot do at a crowded and sandy beach.

There's no argument for pro-beach that can't be disputed with a better, more relaxing option. But, at the end of the day, it's your spring break and maybe your money. It's definitely your memories, though. So make the best of it.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PINTEREST.COM

A large crowd gathers at the Panama City beach in 2013, a popular spring break destination.

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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.

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Herald is printed every Wednesday during the semester, except during finals and holidays. Copies of The Herald are free.

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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.

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