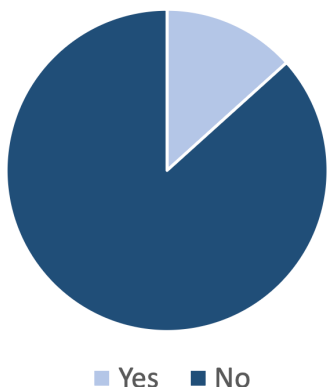


Opinion

What's Your Opinion?

Have you gotten a parking ticket this month?

Out of 30 responses:
Yes - 4
No - 26



Next Poll:

Back to school blues
Is college harder socially or academically?

Answer the poll on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](#). Polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on [astatetheherald.com](#)

Have an idea for a poll? Send your ideas to the opinion editor. [See box below for emails.](#)

ALLIE CARSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



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

To my fellow Red Wolves,

Welcome to the first edition of The Herald for the 2026-2027 school year. My name is Allie Carson, and I'm honored to serve as your new Editor-In-Chief. This longstanding publication has given me a place to grow as a storyteller, journalist, and member of the A-State community.

I started as a fresh staff writer who traveled all the way to Iowa State for a football game, to becoming the "thrown to the wolves" news editor, and now I'm honored to serve as Editor-in-Chief. Each new position has been exciting, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity

to lead a team of talented student journalists in covering the stories that matter the most to you and the stories that deserve to be told.

Being the Editor-in-Chief of The Herald is not a position I take lightly. I aim to continue the newspaper's legacy and honor the trust placed in me by those who came before me and those who work alongside me.

This issue's theme doesn't just revolve around the pack being back; it's also about new beginnings. From freshmen moving into University Hall to the girls who just went through rush, from leadership changes in the Chancellor's office to editorial changes here at The Herald, this issue features the new beginnings of many.

As the school year begins, I encourage you to make your voice part of The Herald. Send us your news tips, opinions, story ideas and even your pop culture reviews. Your voice is just as important as the words we write. Together, each edition, each volume, each issue, tells the story of Arkansas State University.

I'd like to thank those who made this first issue possible. To my fellow editors, thanks for trusting me and working to put together an early issue. To our IT department, I appreciate your help getting our new computers

set up and ready to use when our staff returned to campus. Thank you to those in Printing Services for helping us get the paper ready and printed on an odd schedule.

Thank you to all of the sorority Vice Presidents of Recruitment and the NPC Recruitment team for working with me over the summer on the recruitment story feature. To those in the Chancellor's office, thank you for scheduling meetings with Dr. Todd Shields and Dr. Calvin White, especially in the middle of historic

administrative changes. Thank you to the athletic department for helping with our sports page during the summer. To everyone I didn't name, but who helped in some way with this first issue, thank you for your help and support.

Welcome to a new beginning at Arkansas State University and another year of The Herald.

Your Editor-In-Chief,
Allie Carson



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLIE CARSON, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
ASU system president Todd Shields in an interview with Allie Carson, the Editor-in-chief for The Herald.

Break up with your loser boyfriend before college

AHTZIRY ZUÑIGA
LIFE EDITOR



Ahtziry Zuñiga is a sophomore political science and global studies major from Jonesboro.

Girls, it's 2026, just let that loser go already.

Over the course of this past year, I observed a pattern: baddies are breaking up with their loser boyfriends. This trend is occurring at heightened and record-breaking rates and, let me just say, I'm so proud of us women.

Sometimes, though, it's hard to tell that you're dating a loser. In those cases, it's more difficult to pull away, because it's genuinely hard to pinpoint whether you're going crazy or going through it. And that's completely normal; that's why I'm here to be a helping hand.

We can NEVER accept men treating us like a second option. If a man goes hours and hours and hours on end not answering you, and he claims

to have been "just so busy," obviously you shouldn't believe him. People have lives, yes, but it's evident when men are just being weird and trying to ghost and actually doing productive things with their lives.

First off, just don't assume a man is actually busy unless he demonstrates that to you. What is he doing? Is he working a 10 hour shift in the ICU? Chances are, maybe not, unless he's really cool. Other than that, don't take that disrespect.

If you tell a man over and over where it is that you draw the line, and he still can't get it, he's gotta go. I mean, what is he? Deaf? It takes very minimal emotional and social and physical intelligence to understand and respect another person's boundaries.

It should not be necessary to have to reiterate the limits you have set for your relationship and it's exhausting. If the person you're dating isn't willing to meet you in the middle after repeated pleas on your end, they straight up don't really respect you.

Communication between partners is very bare-minimum. Women are magical, amazing and beautiful people. With all that being said, though, they cannot read minds. As women, we should not be constantly pulling at a man's teeth to make them tell us how they feel. If they want to, let them. If

not, let him find the comfort to speak elsewhere.

Ladies, why are we ever allowing a man to insult and belittle us? When a man wants to make you change any detail about yourself or your appearance, the only proper response he should be receiving is seeing you walk away from him. A man who hates himself will always push that hate onto someone else, so flee.

Listen, it's a great thing to find a man who is secure and confident in himself. In fact, I believe that we should not be dating men who completely hate themselves. How would someone who can't love themselves ever find the room to love another person? For our own safety, though, we also need to stay away from the men who are head over

heels for themselves.

One of my good friends just recently distanced herself from a man exactly like this. In his view, he himself hung the moon and the stars. If you're this kind of person, okay, good for you, but don't string someone along just for the fun of it or to further feed your ginormous ego. That's just not cool.

As a farewell note, we have to stop giving men the benefit of the doubt. For decades and centuries and millennia, men have never given women a break, ever. Every single day, there is a new expectation and standard that is put on by the patriarchy for women to keep up with. It's time we quit forgiving these mishaps for men and hold them at the same stupid standard.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHUTTERSTOCK
An unhappy woman stressed over an unhealthy relationship.

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Email story ideas or news tips 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 allie.carson@smail.astate.edu.

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

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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.

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.

Most updated version.

