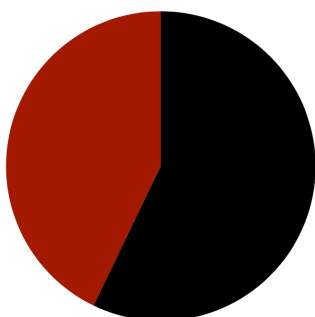


What's Your Opinion?

Do you prefer watching films in the theater or at home on streaming services?

Out of 63 responses:
 Movie Theaters -- 36
 Streaming -- 27



● Movie Theater ● Streaming

Next Poll:

Siblings or Dating?

Are the A-State mascots Howl & Scarlet siblings or are they dating?

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 [astateherald.com](https://www.astateherald.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.

Movie theaters in the age of streaming

JACK DOUGLAS
 STAFF WRITER



Jack Douglas is a junior multimedia journalism major from Paragould.

Growing up in Paragould, Arkansas there was never much to do around town, but for a long time we had two things: a bowling alley and a movie theater.

My brother and I didn't get to go to the movies very often, as our parents both worked and going to the theater was expensive. But when we did go, I loved every second of it.

The scent of popcorn wafting across the air, the small arcade tucked in the corner of the lobby, sounds of gunfire

and explosions seeping out of every darkened theater, it was like heaven to me as a kid. In fact, some of my favorite childhood memories are spending my ninth, 10th and 11th birthdays going to see "The Hobbit" movies with my dad.

As much enjoyment as I got out of watching a movie in theaters, the movies themselves were never really the main draw. The best thing about the movies was the sense of comradery and connectedness I felt with the other theater patrons.

For a few hours everyone was united, brought together by what was happening on screen; all rooting for the same hero, spooked by the same ghost or laughing at the same jokes. The movies might be why people come, but the people are what make theaters special.

The communal aspect of watching a movie in a theater full of other people is something that, as hard as they have tried, streaming services cannot replicate. Good or bad, the human presence in a theater is part of the appeal.

It seems like every bit of the streaming process is streamlined and sterilized, the

human element having been replaced with cold, hard algorithms that tell you what you want to watch. It makes for a predictable, boring experience.

Movie theater experiences are unpredictable, because people are unpredictable. Sometimes, you might have a terrible experience in which someone brought a fussy baby into the theater or you might have an incredible experience and meet some new people with interesting perspectives on whatever film you're about to watch.

Either way, you got an experience that was new. You got to experience life happening around you, with people you wouldn't have if you had been sitting alone on your couch. That's where the theater experience outshines the viewing experience of streaming.

Going to the theater, as opposed to sitting down and watching a movie through a streaming service, is becoming part of the performance itself and it's a shame that over time audiences have lost that attitude.

According to IndieWire, box office audiences have dropped over 50% since 2019, while streaming service

subscribers have grown steadily by almost the same amount. At first, it's easy to see why streaming has grown to dominate the film and television industry. Many platforms offer massive amounts of content for a monthly price less than a visit to the snack counter at any major theater.

It seems in the modern internet-connected age, the more content we have at our fingertips the shallower the experience of consuming that content becomes. Theaters offer a chance to connect with other people, and that's worth far more than the price of a ticket. For the full story, visit [astateherald.com](https://www.astateherald.com).



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF IONA JOURNAL
 Netflix shown in a crowded theater

Senate united over SHORTS

ELIJAH TEMPLETON
 OPINION EDITOR



Elijah Templeton is a junior creative media production major from Jonesboro.

In an increasingly divided political landscape, America's elected officials cannot seem to agree on much of anything.

Whether it is healthcare, the border or gun control, the party lines are more divided than ever and leave little hope for bipartisan solutions.

All of that changed this past week as the United States Senate came together and unanimously voted to pass a bill that will change American politics for the better.

In a landmark ruling that will benefit millions of Americans, the Senate codified The SHORTS ACT (SHOW Our Respect To the Senate) which requires business attire, specifying "a coat, tie, and slacks or other long pants" for men. The bill does not mention any changes to the dress code for women.

Now that male senators can no longer wear shorts to work, the potential of our nation is truly limitless.

This all started on Sept. 17, when Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer instructed the Sergeant of Arms to no longer enforce the informal dress code for senators. This came as a surprise to many who learned that there was never an official dress code in place.

Business attire was the widely held standard for those in public service. Pennsylvania Democrat John Fetterman bucked this trend by wearing hoodies and shorts to work most days.

Fetterman became well known for his casual attire when he was the Lt. Governor of Pennsylvania. Strangely, the state did not fall into disarray or collapse entirely as a result of his clothing choices.

Once Fetterman returned to work after a hospitalization earlier this year, he began to regularly wear hoodies, shorts and sneakers to work. While he never wore them on the chamber floor, the outrage was persistent nonetheless from his colleagues.

Once Schumer ditched the enforcement of the dress code, 46 Republican senators sent a letter to Schumer demanding he reverse the change, writing, "The world watches us on that floor and we must protect the sanctity of that place at all costs."

Days later, West Virginia Democrat Joe Manchin and Utah Republican Mitt Romney introduced a bipartisan bill that would formally instate a dress code for the Senate floor.

If my satirical hyperbolic statements have not made it clear thus far, I am not the biggest fan of this bill.

The idea that a man wearing shorts to work is what finally unites both sides of the aisle is something out of a sitcom's writers room.

The idea that the tradition of business attire in the Senate is such a massive ordeal that it requires immediate legislative action in a country with as many issues as America is laughable.

This vote was held just two days before the looming deadline of a government shutdown that was narrowly avoided in the eleventh hour.

Again, Fetterman never wore this casual attire on the Senate floor before the dress code was dropped and just a few days of this was enough to bring the opposite sides of the political spectrum to common ground.

Senators being so opposed to Fetterman dressing like a regular person highlights a deeper problem with politics in America: politicians are believed to be above their constituents.

We wear hoodies and shorts, they wear suits and ties. They decide what is best for us because they are held in higher regard than us.

The idea that one of their own represents the people they look down upon from

Capitol Hill was too much to bear and needed to be fixed immediately.

Why should it matter what our elected officials wear if they are competent enough to do their duties? Do the clothes you wear make such a difference in your perception that your colleagues are unable to work alongside you?

Apparently so, as the swift unanimous bill was passed without any pushback from Fetterman, who knew it was not a hill to die on.

Being able to dress freely would further humanize our elected officials who suffer from public mistrust in their true motivations. If we could see them express themselves through their clothing, we can see them in a new light; as fellow Americans, not the nameless suits who vote on our behalf.

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



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF NEWSWEEK
 Fetterman (at podium) speaking alongside fellow Democratic Senators

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