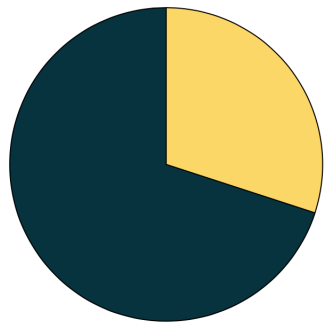


What's Your Opinion?

Are you more of an early morning or late night person?

Out of 50 responses:
Early Bird -- 15
Night Owl -- 35



● Early Bird ● Night Owl

Next Poll:

Healthy Food Battle
Do you prefer fruits or vegetables?

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 heraldopinion1921@gmail.com.

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

Physical media is more important than ever

ELIJAH TEMPLETON
OPINION EDITOR



Elijah Templeton is a junior English major from Jonesboro.

Our world is becoming more and more digital as the years tick by, leaving the fate of physical media up in the air and in danger of being lost for good.

This reality has made physical media more important than ever before because it has quickly become the only surefire way to ensure you can hold onto the media you love.

We have witnessed just how powerless we are to hold onto our media if a large streaming service decides they do not want to keep a movie or show anymore.

The past few years have seen streaming services, like Max, delete shows and films from their platform

without warning in an attempt to save money on residuals. These shows, if not picked up by another streaming service, are effectively wiped away.

As society has begun to shift away from physical items to their digital counterparts in all aspects, it is no surprise that all forms of media have started to follow suit.

E-books, Netflix and Spotify have largely taken the place of paperbacks, DVDs and vinyl records.

These issues with digital media extend to video games as well. Recent headlines have drawn attention to game companies shutting down servers, effectively shutting out players from playing their games, even if they already 'owned' them.

Long gone are the days when purchasing a game guaranteed you could play it as long as your console functioned, no matter what the developer was doing.

This has even caused a man named Ross Scott who runs the YouTube channel Accursed Farms to put together a petition to bring about legislative change to prevent studios from selling games and then shutting them down with no way for players to access what they bought.

This has been labeled the "Stop

Killing Games Initiative" and while the project is still in its infancy, it shows the reality that there are grass-roots efforts to combat corporations and ensure that media, once bought, is yours forever again.

There is no denying that improvements in technology have benefited us, but it has also made us over-reliant on the internet. We have neglected physical media for long enough that companies and retailers no longer have a viable basis to keep making and selling them.

If your media consumption is reliant on an internet connection, what do you do when there is no service? If all of your books are on a Kindle, what do you do if it one day stops working?

This digital world we now live in has made access easier and removed the hassle of storing physical copies of media in your home, but has also removed power from the hands of the consumers.

If a company decides to not pay for your favorite movie, it is extinct. If your favorite artist is not on Spotify, it may become nearly impossible to listen to their music.

Despite the hassle and expense, prioritize purchasing physical media whenever and wherever you can. It is

not a guarantee that it will keep being produced and once it is fully gone, there is nothing left for us as consumers to do.

It may be more expensive to buy records and DVDs in the short term, but compared to how much we pay now for various monthly services year-round, paying the one-time premium to have it for life does not seem so bad.

If you own products, you are safe from companies flipping a switch and telling you that you do not get to use them anymore.

Enjoy the benefits of the digital, but do not forsake the physical, no matter how much easier that reality becomes.

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



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF SAMANTHA SWEIG
Artist depiction of various types of physical media.

Please, let me pay with cash again

LAILA CASIANO
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR



Laila Casiano is a junior multimedia journalism major from Paragould.

I miss the "pay with cash" option.

As an avid supporter of digital transactions, like Apple Pay, CashApp, Venmo, PayPal, the "tap to pay" feature or digital wallets, missing cash was a surprise.

While its efficiency and quickness are great, we are seeing the evident effects of using digital ways to pay as we become a cashless society.

I stopped carrying cash when Arkansas State University announced Jan. 7 2022 that it would no longer accept cash at the Acansa Diner Hall and retail outlets, only accepting Flex or cards effective immediately Jan 11.

This move toward cashless payment

options isn't unique to A-State; it's happening everywhere. Many more businesses are moving to mobile payment methods, and as much as I appreciate the ease of use, I miss dollar bills.

A cashless society is a simple concept; essentially, it's a society in which money is transferred from physical means of payment, like cash or coins, to digital means.

We are seeing a lot more people pay electronically. A Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco report found payments made using cash in 2022 were about 18%, while Forbes found in 2023 that 53% of people use digital wallets to pay for "traditional payment methods."

Gen Z leads the trend, with over 60% paying with digital wallets, which is not surprising since we were raised in the digital age. It would make sense for us to follow a near-cashless society.

There are many benefits to paying in this digital currency, like convenience and quick transaction completion. There are also better security (eliminating money theft and helping with insurance cost reduction) and environmental benefits (lowering carbon footprint). Studies have shown that it reduces crimes since it becomes harder to steal and there are fewer examples of money laundering.

But there was something so simple about cash. I was more responsible with my spending, more charitable with tipping and never so anxious about misplacing my phone.

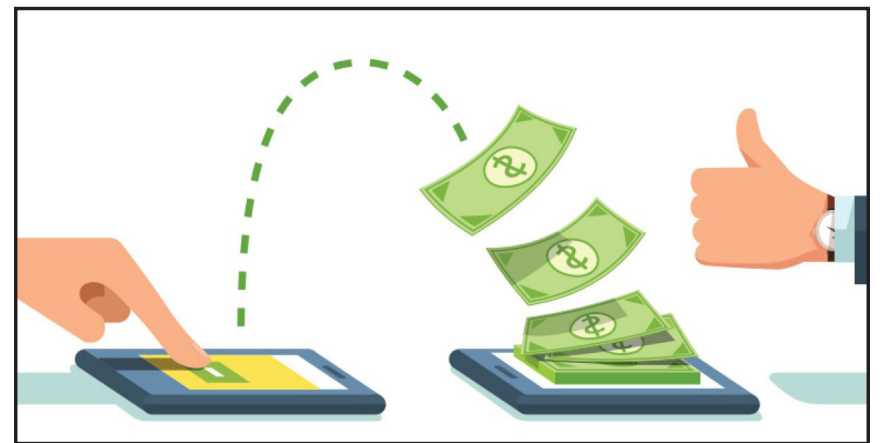
I miss paying with cash, especially whenever I'm on campus. As a journalism student, I practically live in the Education/Communication building, where the vending machines don't even accept Flex, only cards and cash. Besides the small exception of the vending machines, there is no reason to pay with cash, so I'm stuck paying electronically because I don't carry cash. It's a loop I can't escape.

We should have a cash option again

here at A-State. Even if most students have Flex or are fine with paying digitally, it would help the other people who are feeling the same way I do.

Bringing back cash would offer more discount opportunities, as any transaction fees within third parties are eliminated, chances of fraud or reversed bank transactions are reduced and tracking your funds becomes easier.

Whether it's to help with budgeting or just to help people avoid spending a lot of money daily from their bank account when buying food, bringing back cash payments would make a big difference for students at A-State and society as a whole.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF GOVTECH.COM
Artist depiction of the switch from cash payments to digital payments.

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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 rachel.rudd@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.

CORRECTIONS GUIDELINES

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.

CORRECTION: The final quote in last week's story about the Hermana Y Hermano event should have been attributed to Heidy Bulbarela.

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.