Our Views: Consensus Opinion

HOPE can be saved

Compromises can be made to keep scholarship viable

The statement that HOPE funds could run out as early as 2014 is upsetting and forebodes negative consequences for students and the University System. There is no way that the HOPE situation could be completely dire now without warnings ahead of time. Either HOPE has time to be reevaluated and fixed or Georgia has been hiding the reality of HOPE from us for some time.

We hope that all measures possible to save HOPE will be taken. The HOPE program is one of the best parts of Georgia's school system. By eliminating HOPE, we would kill the competitiveness of our universities and take value from Georgia education as a whole. Schools in Georgia would lose attractiveness to top students while letting underprivileged students fall to the wayside.

Since there have been no announcements of doing away with the Georgia lottery, we assume there will still be a substantial amount of revenue taken in by the lottery. That money revenue can be reevaluated and redirected in such a way as to sustain some HOPE benefits.

Yes, adjustments will have to be made. Perhaps the rigor of HOPE requirements should be adjusted or new sources for funds could be evaluated.

Currently, we do not have access to data to make recommendations for actual solutions, but we hope for communication and transparency throughout the reform process.

There are a lot of factors to be considered, but if a group of students can shoot ideas for reform in a few short hours, we certainly hope that decision makers can devote time to reaching a compromise and some solution.

We think everything possible should be done to keep HOPE viable. If there truly is no solution, we want to see the facts and know why.

The Consensus Opinion reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

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Techniques turn their gaze to printed word

by Rachel David
The Daily Titan

(UWired)—As a lover of reading and someone who wants to have a career in the world of print one day, i.e. newspapers or book publishing, I am disheartened by the latest technology which has sighted its joys on my beloved world of print: video advertisements in print sources and e-readers.

In mid-September, Entertainment Weekly was unveiling the first ever video advertisement in a print magazine. There is a small speaker below the screen that will allow the reader and all those around him, whether they like it or not, to listen to a Pepsi Max commercial and the CBS fall line-up.

As if there aren't enough distractions when it comes to reading, we now have to endure the incessant white noise of commercials when trying to read the latest celebrity gossip. Outrageous!

Correct me if I'm wrong, but aren't commercials things we try to avoid at all costs, even going as far as to press mute when an overly annoying one comes on TV. Anyone seen the Mary J. Blige AT&T commercial? I rest my case.

So now when you're sitting in the doctor's office and trying to tune out the crying kids that the lady next to you has brought along with her, or Dr. Phil on the TV in the waiting room yelling in his southern drawl at the latest dysfunctional family to cross his path, you have to block out the person next to you who's reading a magazine with a built-in screen.

Is there nowhere safe from the constant bombardment of advertisements? We now have to have it embedded in our reading material?

No wonder we are breeding a generation of children who can't focus on a task before them for longer than two minutes.

How can we expect them to when white noise invades every aspect of their existence? How can the printed word compete with a loud, flashy video screen placed directly within the text? And for those of you gung-ho about the latest technological annoyance to hit the market, don't worry about the advertisement's batteries dying: they are rechargeable.

Yes, can you believe it, you can watch that same Pepsi Max ad over and over until your heart's content.

Also disrupting the sacred world of print are e-reading devices, most notably Amazon's Kindle.

By no means is the Kindle the sole murderer of print sources; devices such as Sony's Reader, iRex's iLid and Jinke Electronic's Hanlin eReader are just a few companies and devices that also believe in robbing individuals of the pleasure of browsing a bookstore or bookcase and smelling the unique, welcoming scent of a new or old book. Say goodbye to the days of waking up, drinking a cup of coffee and walking to the end of the driveway to pick up the newspaper.

Not only are these e-reading device companies putting countless individuals out of business and denying readers the aesthetic pleasure of reading, they are doing away with a cultural tradition: reading a tangible newspaper with a cup of coffee.

Now, I'm fully aware of the benefits of technology as a whole, and am not completely immune to it myself: I just bought a BlackBerry Curve; however, must technology infringe on every aspect of our lives?

Just because we have the know-how and tools to create “bigger and better” things or “smaller and sleeker” things, doesn't mean we have to.

Some things are just sacred.

There is nothing stuffy or static about enjoying the peace and quiet that can come from reading or the feel of actually flipping through pages of a newspaper or book.

How sad to think that one day future generations may walk into a library with e-readers sitting on the shelf, where beautiful hardbound books once resided, how sterile.

I can't imagine looking up at one of my bookshelves throughout my house and seeing a lone e-reading device in place of my sandry and alluring book collection.

Sounds lonely.
Advice is as hard to give as to take

Being a high school student is one of the most frightening occupations out there. I certainly couldn’t be paid enough money to go back.

I should buy my former high school counselor a drink next time I see him. Functions are good that he'll need it.

My brother just started his senior year at the high school in our hometown. He’s an aspiring multimedia designer with an eye toward a future that might include coming to Tech like his older brother, or perhaps a cheaper school closer to home and friends.

The anxious tone in his voice and his constant checks with each phone conversation, and the tone of the questions changes from joking to desperately sincere. He could say as easily, “I’m afraid. I have no idea what I want to do. I don’t want to end up penniless and alone. Please help me not screw up my life.”

The melodrama of the looming high school graduation is simultaneously feared, revered, romanticized and admired in popular culture.

The implication that high school represents “the best four years of your life” is a cruel sentiment disseminated among an already nervous population of worried, hopeful young adults at the end of the structured, well-defined period of their lives.

No one wants to believe their best days are behind them. It’s no surprise, then, that there’s a great deal of fatalism inherent in events like the prom, leading the collectively fearful and hormonal to awkward after-parties for the anxiously preoccupied and the back seats of parents’ cars. (That’s a story for another time.)

That’s not to say college students don’t face similar problems. Our questions just run deeper and reflect a greater existential dilemma. It’s not merely, “What am I going to do after graduation?”

Instead, it’s like it was in high school. We have that figured out.

But the questions, like the coursework, have become more complicated. We ask ourselves, “What does it mean for me to live a good life? How can my limited time in this world be spent in a way most fulfilling to me?”

Personal philosophies are not constructed in a vacuum. Life experience shapes our views and carves out a niche for how we process new information.

That’s why even the most brilliant people in the world have different opinions. High-minded platitude will often not stand up to the scrutiny of day-to-day living. Over吹形和的系统 is completely relative to the individual.

This is why experience is so important. It’s impossible to say with certainty what you value until you have experienced a test of those beliefs.

What makes this idea so intuitive and universally applicable is also what makes it completely useless as advice. Unlike my brother, I was fortunate enough not to have a relative giving me advice on life after high school graduation.

Philosophers rarely give practical advice. Words of wisdom don’t often translate well to reality. But what else can be said? I don’t have the key to my brother’s lifetime happiness anymore than I have the key to my own.

If there’s anything experience has taught me, it’s that you can do everything right and still fail short. Conversely, you can do nothing wrong and somehow luck out. I imagine most people’s lives to be a series of decisions and turns that fall somewhere on that continuum.

My brother, like all of us, will probably stumble in the dark until he finds something that seems like a good enough idea that it’ll work. No such biguity is not what high school students want to hear, but it’s almost certainly what’s in store for them.

How counselors, mentors and motivational speakers deal with the paradoxes of assuring students that everything will work out is a combination of glittering generalities and small lies, but I don’t envy them any more than I blame them for trying.

After all, it’s not like life’s events are completely random. There are many cases where the work we put in is equal to the reward we get in return. As long as you keep things in perspective and take the opportunities where you can to move infinitesimally towards your goals, chances are good that you’ll end up somewhere in the ballpark of contentment. If not, at least you’re less likely to have regrets about how you lived your life.

Maybe that’s the right advice to give.

Traffic tickets cost more than just fines

Everyone tries to give college students advice. Most of which is all nice and sentimental.

Here is some advice that all college students can live by: Do not run traffic lights in the city of Atlanta...at least until you are 21 years-old.

More importantly, can you tell me when the traffic lights in the city of Atlanta…at least until you are 21 years-old.

Matt Hoffman
Advertising Manager

“always thought that traffic lights in Atlanta were more like an FYI than a real, important law.”

Shalv Madhani
Second-year BME

“Went to the football game.”

Cindy Wang
First-year BME

“Danced and tried to get rid of the Freshman 15.”

Stan Guillaume
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Photos by Lauren Toomey

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OPINIONS

Technique - September 11, 2009 - 9

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Community matters, however you decide to define it at Tech

What does the word community mean to you? Does it conjure frustrations of a useless buzzword? When I first came to Tech I put little stock in ideas and ideals like being part of a strong community. I was here for school, pure and simple academics.

Tech was the school for me because classes were full of hard, concrete material that could be proven and derived analytically. Community was a nice word and I thought I might have some extra time for it but what I really wanted were classes. Then I got to Tech.

Freshmen year turned out to be one of the most pivotal times in my life. I lived on a hall with great guys and we generally raised a ruckus. I joined a campus organization and got to know lots of new people and got involved with my hall council.

I threw myself into school, mostly socially, and grew bonds with many people and groups. Without realizing it I had built a strong community that helped me through an academic wake up call.

Even people that claim to not need or want a community crave that connection with others around them. Without even realizing it we all naturally integrate into a community.

Community is a hard concept to grasp and avoid the temptation to dismiss the importance of it because of its complexity. Seeing familiar faces at social events hosted by your fraternity, working on a move in salsa club with a friend or saying hi to your neighbors as you walk down the hallway are all examples of community.

Some people find it within a club or organization, and some find it within their residence hall. Everyone wants to feel like they belong to something larger and are accepted into a group to build lasting relationships.

The best examples of community I’ve seen at Tech is the fourth floor of Harris. Each member of the floor brings something unique but they bond as a group.

Activities aren’t planned but just evolve as if one big family shared the top floor in one of the oldest buildings on campus.

There is always a story to tell from the last weekend, mostly everyone has a nickname and they can count on each other to help during hard times. The experience on the fourth floor define their time at Tech, as one resident put it, “I live on campus because of my community.”

There are several factors that contribute to a functioning community:

- The demographics of the students in a hall, the architectural layout of a building, the Residence Hall council all contribute toward the success of a tight knit community.
- FE buildings the difference of having auto closing doors vs. open doors affects the feel of a building more than you would guess.

The careful manipulation of some factors can really encourage a community to form. That is one challenge that RA’s, PL’s and RHA hall council officers face on a daily basis.

RHA works to create a welcoming environment to encourage the creation of community within the residence halls. Most people know RHA or Hall Councils as a great way to get free food during finals week but there is something bigger going on: a chance to feel the pain together with others you know are going through the exact same thing creates bonds that last longer than finals week. That interaction and yes, community building, is what makes living on campus something special and not just a place to sleep.

I encourage you to think about the communities you are involved with. If you’re going to talk about it, be sure you are not bragging Tech alone, it takes the support of your peers.

If you aren’t a part of a community, join one. Opportunities are abundant with over 400 organizations or groups of friends on campus. They do take a little time and effort just like any other relationship, but you’ll reap the rewards for years to come.

Be intentional with your efforts and know the dynamics of a community you are thinking about joining. It could be the most important decision you have at Tech.