Opinions provides the best view on life

“Optimism provides the best view on life”

Thurman Adams, former president of Techno, wrote, “I’ve always been a big optimist. When I’m in a bad mood, I just imagine I’m on a beach, with the ocean waves lapping against the shore.”

Optimists believe in the power of positive thinking and the ability to overcome obstacles. They are more likely to see challenges as opportunities for growth and learning. They also tend to be more resilient and adaptable, bouncing back from setbacks more quickly than their pessimistic counterparts.

Contrary to popular belief, optimists are not simply “ignorant fools.” Rather, their positive outlook has been shown to have a number of benefits. Optimists tend to be happier, healthier, and more successful in their careers. They also tend to be more creative and successful in their personal relationships.

So why not be an optimist? It’s not as hard as you might think. Start by focusing on the positive aspects of your life. Be grateful for what you have, and try to see the good in even the most difficult situations. And most importantly, believe in yourself and your ability to overcome any obstacle that comes your way.

By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

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Technique • Friday, November 21, 2003

OPINIONS

Our Views

Consensus Opinion

More budget woes

The latest budget crisis on the table is the large increase in funds the Campus Recreation Center (CRC) has requested from SGA. The question is: Why has this budget crisis arisen so suddenly and so close to the end of the semester?

Due to the late notice, SGA now has approximately one month to figure out how to fix the mess that the CRC has created of SGA’s yearly budget. The magnitude of this blunder is on the order of a $25 fee increase per student. This increase would allow SGA to continue operating as it has in past years.

We find it unacceptable that the CRC did not inform SGA before now that it was planning to ask for such a steep increase. The issue raises troubling questions. How long have CRC officials known of this increase and have concealed the information from SGA? If they haven’t known, why not? Is someone not doing his job?

Students should not be forced to bear the burden of the mistakes made by CRC officials. At the same time, students shouldn’t blame SGA for the problems. The CRC’s blunder has already been made and solutions must now be found to rectify the budgeting woes and minimize their detrimental impact on students’ wallets and activities.

To prevent crises like this from happening in the future, money allocated to the CRC should be separated from the Student Activity Fee and made into its own fee. Splitting the fee will force the CRC to be run more like a business, make it more accountable to student needs and prevent future budget troubles from affecting student organizations. However, such a solution will not provide any monetary relief for this coming fiscal year.

The Board of Regents is unlikely to approve the enormous fee hike that $25 per student represents unless policy changes so that the already-struggling HOPE scholarship is not required to pay for it. The CRC and SGA need to be brainstorming other alternatives, contingency plans and supplemental solutions between now and when the Board will make its decision. Possible options include working on internal cost cutting within the Center, operating at less than full capacity, reducing staff numbers, shortening operating hours, increasing the cost for faculty and alumni to use the facility and fund raising within the community for sponsors (i.e. a GT Hotel and Conference Center basketball court scoreboard).

A solution must be formulated soon since without more money Tier 3 organizations will be crippled and SGA will become irrelevant. Afterall, without funds to allocate, SGA would be left with little but issue meetings to orchestrate.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

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For Tech gear forget pink and stick with gold

Last week I had the unfortunate displeasure of seeing a girl wearing a pink Tech sweatshirt. The Tech sweatshirt she was wearing was pale pink and had Tech in embroidered blue letters across the front. The next day at the bookstore, I saw more pink Tech sweatshirts. The style comes in white and pink, pale blue and blue and yellow and white. Barnes & Noble also sells a charcoal gray version with “Georgia Tech” printed in dark pink. Besides sweatshirts, you can even get your own pink Tech hat or pink shorts with “Jackets” written in white across the back.

Granted, I’m used to seeing a girlfriend decked out in pink. But pink sweatshirts, you have an excellent excuse to hang up the mistletoe and trick the neighborhood into thinking you have an excellent excuse to stick around in the rain, because of Technology Square and pink.

Refresh your memory, official school colors are white and gold. Navy blue has been approved as an acceptable color on our basketball teams but black is definitely advised. However, white, gold and navy are the traditionally accepted choices. Tech gold is tried and true; recognize the name of the Thames it now goes by. You have your yellow, gold, “game day gold,” “buttercup yellow” and “gold.”

This situation highlights a bigger problem that has challenged Tech for the decades. Over what period of time has Tech color choices been regulated for a long time. Last year “game day gold” was supposed to become the new accepted standard for all time. Problem is that everyone took to the new color and at games you can see a plethora of other hues.

While school colors may be a trivial issue to focus on during the day, there are problems that need to be solved. A school’s color contributes to its national profile. What would Tennessee be without its orange and white, Georgia without its red and black? When Tech has a football game on national TV, all I can see is a field of orange in the stands. When Tech plays, I can only distinguish the visiting team’s block of screaming Techies clad in gold on their way to make a shot. With the addition of Miami and Virginia Tech to our football schedule next year, our team needs the kind of additional support only color in unified colors can provide.

Don’t get me wrong, I realize that anyone who buys or wears Tech clothing is only trying to show his or her support for the school. But ask yourself the next time you find yourself invited to buy a Tech shirt in a renown color, are you buying it because you like the color or because it showcases your school spirit or because you like the color? If you simply just prefer the color pink or gold, then go to your nearest mall and pick up a sweatshirt at the Gap.

Holidays=free food

With the coming of the most festive and commercialized time of the year, along comes the multitude of holiday get-togethers featuring the ever popular buffet line. Plus, now you have an excellent excuse to hang up the mistletoe and trick your current lab partner into walking under it with you.

“I is it really necessary to cheapen the tradition of school colors for the sake of the almighty dollar?”

Kimberly Bloek
Sports Editor

YOUR VIEWS
Golden tickets can be bad

When I purchased a parking pass from Tech, I was under the impression that it gave me the permission to park my vehicle on campus. Recent events have shown this line of thinking to be rather naive.

The hero of our story pulls into the parking lot with plans to park his car and go straight to bed. He drives by his favorite spot, his normal spots, the spots he prefers. He shows this line of thinking to be rather naïve.

However, he drives by his favorite spot, his normal spots, the spots that are on the floor wearing uniform shirts. Opposing athletes see the block of screaming Techies clad in gold on their way to make a shot. With the addition of Miami and Virginia Tech to our football schedule next year, our team needs the kind of additional support only color in unified colors can provide.

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The hero of our story pulls into the parking lot with plans to park his car and go straight to bed. He drives by his favorite spot, his normal spots, the spots that are not terribly convenient for his daily commute.

Not only has Parking enforcement of me to want to park in a convenient spot with the intention of moving to a more convenient spot, his normal spots, the spots he prefers. He shows this line of thinking to be rather naïve.

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A global trek with view from Tech

Send our Ramblin’ Reps to Washington to teach Intro to Fiscal Responsibility

This week Tech’s Student Government Association joins the likes of the U.S. federal government, most states of the Union and the majority of countries around the world. It faces a potential budget crisis.

Fiscal policy is not a very sexy topic, which explains why it fails to gain attention from the media or the general populace. The acts of budgeting and appropriating generally hover below the radar of even the most informed members of the citizenry, at least until their problems reach crisis levels. In this way, expenditures continue to increase, even as incoming revenues fail to cover expenses, which contributes to budget deficits and to an accumulation of debt.

Projected deficits and growing debt may be the biggest problems you have never heard of and the ones that in the long term may cause Americans the greatest pain. When the Bush administration took office in 2001, the fiscal surplus stood at 2.4 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), one of the greatest surpluses among developed countries. In two years the picture turned completely upside down. Fiscal Year 2003’s budget deficit stood at 3.5 percent, and prognosticators predict a 4.3 percent deficit for 2004.

Some experts, especially partisan ones, argue that budget deficits are nothing to be feared: they are part of the economic cycle and occur because of decreased tax revenues that come with a slower economy. The stock market bust also contributed to this deterioration more than originally predicted.

This argument might hold true, at least in the short-term, were it not for the fact that, in addition to decreased tax revenue from a downturn in the economy, the Bush administration has cut taxes several times. Some of the missing money will never return. Is this a long-term strategy by the administration to starve the government and force it to reduce spending? One could make this “Bush as reformer” argument were it not for the administration’s spending habits.

The Congress and the administration have spent money like a sorority girl with her daddy’s credit card, accumulating charges that it might not pay but that will eventually require payment. Some of the increase can be chalked up to defense spending, a rise with which most Americans can agree, even if they do not agree with the manner in which the administration has spent it. Non-military discretionary spending, however, has increased 21 percent under President Bush. He has handed out subsidies to farmers, signed appropriation bills filled with superfluous pork and appears set to expand Medicare to include a prescription drug benefit. So much for all the campaign rhetoric about reigning in Washington’s outlandish expenditures.

These changes will lead to grave problems for the U.S. economy in the medium-term, as these tax cuts become extended and changes to Medicare come to fruition. Savings will decrease, and private investment will be reduced. The U.S. will become increasingly reliant on foreign countries to finance its debt. Currently, foreign-held debt is at 5.1 percent of GDP. China, which, prior to Sept. 11, many analysts saw as the greatest challenge to U.S. supremacy, holds the greatest percentage of this debt.

In the long-term, the retirement of the “baby boomer” generation will further compound the problem. The Office of Management and Budget projects that by 2040 the government will spend 15 percent of the federal budget on such entitlements, as compared to today’s level of seven percent.

These combined factors pose a serious challenge to American national security, economic security and the growth of the world economy. However, Americans will likely refuse to accept tax increases or great cuts in the services, in order to bring finances back into the black.

The Democratic candidates for president, however, offer no viable alternative to this problem. Many propose eliminating the Bush tax cuts, but they also propose spending these funds on new social programs, which would still keep the U.S. budget in the red. Thus, the difference between President Bush and his potential replacements becomes one of who should benefit from irresponsible fiscal policy.

Would you rather have tax cuts or universal health care? Where is the party of fiscal discipline?

Perhaps its future members are here at Georgia Tech in our SGA. Without the federal government’s power to borrow funds and run a deficit, SGA administrators and representatives are forced to make responsible appropriations decisions; they must make due with the revenues they receive from our student activity fees or persuade the Institute and the Board of Regents to increase these fees.

In doing an evaluation of all tier one and tier two organizations, the funding classification into which most student organizations at the Institute fall.

Faced with this possibility, SGA plans to request an increase in the student activity fee, and it may also consider separating the CRC fee from the rest, so that students will better understand where their fees go. Members of SGA understand that increased spending must be accompanied by increased revenue collections, although they do lack the tempting power of the federal government to spend indiscriminately and finance their debt. Perhaps the federal government needs such restrictions. Or perhaps it just needs fiscally responsible decision-makers, like our Ramblin’ Reps.