

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Manufacturing Partnership

AMP brings Tech many advantages looking forward

The Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP) initiative will bring Tech many benefits, name recognition being the most prominent one. Honored as one of the six colleges that form the AMP, Tech was identified as part of a short list of schools chosen to pursue research toward advanced future-centric manufacturing applications. This is a great opportunity for Institute President G.P. “Bud” Peterson, who is a member of the steering committee, to build personal relationships with other leaders of government, technological research universities and renowned manufacturing companies. Direct contacts with these powerful people and their establishments will surely help push Tech forward.

Collaborations with the different entities in the entire system will not only bring substantial research and work opportunities in the future, but also monetary and academic prosperity to the Institute. It is critical that Tech take

advantage of this opportunity to build off the strides in research made by companies and other universities. More recently developed departments at Tech, such as the Marcus Nanotechnology Research Center, can be involved in the initiative, advancing and improving through the AMP by interacting with colleges and companies with more developed divisions in the same research areas.

Tech's involvement in the AMP initiative should not be seen as a political gesture, but rather as an opportunity to produce real results. Hopefully Peterson will see to this by taking on a very active role in the process and trying to bring more research opportunities to Tech and its faculty where possible. Tech's focus within the AMP will be on increasing manufacturing capacity and producing quality manufacturing jobs on a national level, as it should be, and it will be all the better if Tech can benefit from this opportunity to bolster its future endeavors.

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EDITORIAL CARTOON BY CASEY TISDEL



Slipping economy caused by politicians

By David Reid
Central Florida Future

(UWire) — A couple of weeks ago, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its 2011 Long-Term Budget Outlook. The CBO's forecast of America's economic future ranges from bleak to nightmarish, depending on your level of optimism; the CBO's word is “daunting.”

According to the CBO, the primary culprits are a perfect storm: anemic economic growth forecast, record budget deficits under President Obama and future spending obligations that will consume a substantial portion of our gross domestic product.

Our politicians, through their addiction to spending taxpayer dollars at a rate far greater than our economy can sustain, have set us on the path to economic destruction.

The true blame, however, rests on the American people who voted such grossly irresponsible stewards of our nation's finances into office. In the same week, congressional Democrats, led by Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill), called for new government “stimulus” spending. In light of the CBO report, the Democrats' proposal is akin to self-immolation, except many of them will likely be re-elected, while the American people are left to burn.

The CBO report focuses on federal policy and broad economic trends, but the underlying data gives us the opportunity to forecast something much more personal—how much our skyrocketing national debt will cost each of us as individuals.

The national debt is a difficult phenomenon to comprehend. It is upward of \$14 trillion, a number wholly inconceivable to the human mind. Various analogies have been devised to try to give this extraordinarily large number a tangible meaning.

For example, \$14 trillion in \$1,000 bills would stack 900 miles high.

To bring the concept down to earth, the national debt is often divided by the United States population, which is at roughly 300 million, in which case it amounts to over \$46,000 for every man, woman and child in the country.

However, the CBO predicts that we won't pay any of that money back until long after we're all dead and gone.

Despite that fact, we are far from off the hook. As anyone with a credit card knows, the cost of a loan is far greater when you're not paying it off.

The true cost of the national debt—the cost that each of us, as taxpayers, is forced to pay every year of our lives—is not the principal amount (i.e. the \$14 trillion), but the interest.

The interest on the national debt already accounts for a sizable portion of total federal spending, around 10 percent, according to the CBO, and this will grow

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substantially in the future. Using the CBO's underlying data makes estimating how much each of us will pay throughout our working careers to cover the interest on the national debt pretty straight forward.

Readers are encouraged to repeat my calculations. All you'll need is the CBO's Supplemental Data spreadsheet and an IRS tax table; I used the 2006 “Schedule Z.” Pick your desired annual income, and use the CBO spreadsheet's “Wage Growth” column to calculate your inflation-adjusted income each year for the next 45 years.

Use the corresponding IRS tax bracket and include the 7.65 percent FICA tax and a standard deduction to determine how much you'll pay in federal taxes each year. Next, calculate how much of that money will be spent on the national debt interest by dividing the CBO's “Net Interest” column by the “Total Spending” column, multiply this by your annual taxes and add it up.

The CBO provides two budget outlook scenarios: the “Extended Baseline” or best-case scenario, and the “Alternative Fiscal Scenario,” which the CBO argues is more realistic and far worse.

Let's use the best-case scenario. If you're graduating from college this year and earn a career average annual income of \$50,000 in 2011 dollars, the interest on the national debt is going to cost you \$88,000, which is every penny you'll earn for 15 months of your life. Under the “Alternative Fiscal Scenario,” you will pay \$165,000, or your entire income for two years and four months of your working life.

Obama's massive deficit spending has increased our national debt by 40 percent in just four years. This spending is beyond reckless; it is generational theft. The CBO report shows that America's younger generation, UCF students included, are the victims of this should-be crime and will pay a price that is unprecedented in American history. This horrible burden—two years of lost income—has been forced upon us by politicians claiming to work in our best interest. The true cost of deficit spending should be foremost in the mind of every student when we go to vote in 2012.

Scrutinizing media obstructs justice

These past few months, it's been hard to flip a channel without running into coverage of the Casey Anthony murder trial.

The media frenzy reached a boiling point on Tuesday, July 5, with the sentencing of Casey Anthony, who was found not guilty of first degree murder, aggravated child abuse and aggravated manslaughter, but simply four misdemeanor counts of providing false information to police.

Within an hour of her sentencing, nine of the top 10 trending topics on Twitter were related to Anthony, as viewers turned to social media to express their angry reactions to the controversial ruling.

The main reason for this massive reaction to the sentencing has to do with the endless media coverage of this trial. There was a rare fascination with this story that would have otherwise gone relatively unnoticed had the media not chosen to fixate on it.

It is unfortunate that today's media is more interested in catering to ratings and consumerism than reporting what matters. They do so by choosing to focus on controversial and entertaining stories instead of news that is actually relevant to America.

There are countless news stories that have been passed over in the past few months in favor of the Anthony tri-



"[T]oday's media is more interested in catering to ratings and consumerisms than reporting what matters."

Patricia Uceda
Entertainment Editor

als, from the civil wars taking place in Libya and Syria to the Greek debt crisis that could have disastrous effects on the EU. Not to mention the current American debt ceiling problem we are facing as well as the ongoing nuclear crisis in Japan. Clearly there are more important stories that deserve the half of media coverage that the Anthony trial has received, so why have they not received this attention?

The tendency of the media to focus on trial stories has the negative effect of making the defending party involved appear villainous. The reason for the worldwide negative reaction to Anthony's acquittal of all serious charges was because, in our eyes, she was guilty even before the trial.

All of the circumstantial evidence was there: partying for a month before reporting her child was missing, rancid smell in her car and searches for chloroform use on the family computer. The age-old adage "innocent until proven

guilty" did not apply. However, at the end of the day the prosecutors reached too far by charging her with first-degree murder and seeking death penalty.

Without a direct cause of Caylee's death, or a motive or anything linking Anthony to the dead body, the jury was unable to rule her guilty without a reasonable doubt of first degree murder. They chose to rule objectively, instead of emotionally, even though based on circumstantial evidence, Anthony was as guilty as they come.

Perhaps if there hadn't been so much pressure on this high-profile case from the media, the prosecutors would have chosen to pursue a lesser and more realistic charge. Instead, because of the outside scrutiny, they aimed too high and ended up with nothing.

The sensationalizing of a murder case by the media has been seen many times before, most recently in the Amanda Knox trial. Accused of mur-

dering her roommate Meredith Kercher in Italy, Knox was convicted and sentenced to 26 years in prison. As with the Anthony case, the prosecution largely relied on character assassination by the media that portrayed Knox as a promiscuous girl who had been jealous of her roommate.

The difference between the different resulting verdicts can largely be attributed to the fact that, in Italy, the jury is not required to be sequestered and isolated from the media, as American jurors are in high-profile cases.

Those jurors in the Knox trial were free to watch the nonstop media coverage that widely vilified Knox, and that no doubt affected their decision. In fact, Knox's case is currently on appeal right now, and there is a chance that she will be exonerated due to a new report by forensic experts that casts doubt on the DNA evidence that was a huge key to her conviction.

While the true characters of these now infamous women are shrouded in mystery, it is safe to say that scrutinizing media has obstructed justice.

Instead of fixating on these murder trials and turning them into sensational reality shows to bolster ratings and increase sales, the media should focus on real newsworthy stories and let justice work undisturbed.

BUZZ

Around Campus

What do you think of Skiles Walkway's new name?



Leanne Measroch
Fourth-year ISyE

"It does not make any difference to me."



Andy Kiesler
Fourth-year CS

"The majority of students will keep calling it Skiles."



Stefanie Olivier
Fourth-year EIA/PSYC
"I don't like it. Traditions are meant to last, not be changed."



William King
Second-year CmpE
"A new walkway deserves a new name."

Photos by Will Folsom / Student Publications

Lockout impedes newly gained momentum

After one of the most successful basketball seasons in recent memory, the NBA lockout could not have come at a worse time. Ratings went through the roof, and merchandise sales shot up for the first time since the mid-'90s. Walking around town, everyone was talking about the NBA finals, and how exciting the down-to-the-wire games were going. It's undeniable that the media portraying the Miami Heat as villains and making everyone's home team a "good guy" against them seriously boosted the appeal of watching the NBA.

Despite the momentum picked up in 2010-11, the NBA may be lost in the shadows again if any games are lost to a lockout. In the U.S., it's no secret that the MLB and the NFL are what the majority of sports fans get excited for, while the NBA struggles for the same attention by marketing off superstars. If history has shown sports fans anything, it's that when a sport isn't on to talk about, it can become forgettable. Just look at how many people forgot about soccer once the excitement of the World Cup in South Africa died out last year and fans in the U.S. were subjected to watching the MLS.

The 1998-99 NBA lockout shows a clear picture of what will happen if any length of the season is missed, and the picture is a serious loss of view-



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Sports Editor

ership. Even though a 50 game regular season was still salvaged in the lockout, ratings dropped for three straight years afterward, and attendance at games dropped 2.2 percent immediately. It took several years for the NBA to recover as the attendance continued to drop another two percent over the next two years.

This year's NBA finals had the highest rating in 11 years in Game 6, up 35 percent from the last time the Dallas Mavericks and Miami Heat met in the NBA finals five years ago. It also says a lot that the ratings were up 22 percent from last season's game six when two of the league's most popular teams, the Lakers and the Celtics, faced off in the finals.

Under the structure of the last collective bargaining agreement, players received approximately 57 percent of the total revenue gained by the NBA. Many people would consider these disputes ridiculous, with the impression that millionaires and billionaires are just greedily trying to

make more money. However, with 23 of the 30 teams reporting losses last season, it's understandable that the owners want to restructure the cap system and lower player salaries throughout the NBA. It's also understandable that the players want to keep their salaries high with most players having to pay large sums to agents, trainers and attorneys, along with providing for their family.

The owners and players are currently in the thick of negotiations, with the owners pushing for a hard salary cap. Their current offer is reported to be imposing a surprisingly low cap of \$45 million per payroll. The proposition of having such a low cap could prove to be a lot of trouble for many of the contenders in the NBA, as several solid teams have payrolls much higher than the proposed \$45 million. The big three of Miami (Lebron James, Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh), are scheduled to make over \$47 million alone, filling out a complete roster with

those three stars on the team would be out of the question. Other teams like the Lakers, Celtics, Magic and Mavericks have committed payrolls of over \$91 million, \$72 million, \$76 million and \$63 million, for the 2011-12 season respectively.

The cap would provide a lot more parity in the NBA, which would create a lot more excitement for the smaller markets, but also unfairly diminishes teams with good core rosters currently. With the cap, teams with multiple "star" players will have to spread the talent around in order to avoid going over the set cap. Fans shouldn't fret about losing their favorite players yet; the proposed \$45 million is just that—a proposal. It's likely that when we finally see a compromise it will be a higher figure that will allow teams to keep the majority of their rosters together.

The players and the owners need to come to a decision quickly in order to avoid fans losing interest in basketball. Whether the players or the owners are the ones to cut some slack, they both realize that they need the fans to make up for the losses in revenue. There's not an easy way of handling the issue, which is why the blame can't simply be placed on either party, but it's clear that the NBA needs and wants to continue the momentum coming off the buzz of the 2011-12 season.

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT^{or} -NOT

Accio tickets

As the tales of Harry Potter finally come to an end on the silver screen, the Student Center Programs Council has given Tech students the opportunity for an advance viewing of the final movie. Tickets have sold out, but those who took advantage will have an early opportunity on July 14 to witness the conclusion of one of the most captivating childhood tales of this generation.



North Ave. blockade

If there were ever a time when getting to classes on time seemed impossible, North Ave. residents can now attest to the difficulty that is getting out of the North Ave. Apartments complex. Not only do residents have to walk back and around to simply get outside, the nearly blocked off corner of North Ave. and Techwood makes punctual arrivals only an hopeful dream.



Shooting star

Former Tech point guard Iman Shumpert's decision to enter the 2011 NBA Draft paid off when the New York Knicks took him with the No. 17 overall pick. Shumpert was not expected to be a high draft pick, but a series of strong pre-draft workouts during the combine boosted his stock. The Jackets will miss his strong defensive play on the court and his musical abilities off of it.



Playground Tech

Shortly following FASET, the campus once again faces wildness, this time brought by the waves after waves of elementary school children. They are hungry, they travel in hordes and, worst of all, they make getting lunch in the Student Center extremely difficult. Student traveling anywhere near the center of campus are guaranteed to be swarmed.

Consumers must take action in upholding information security

As the digital world shifts increasingly to cloud-based services backed by faster computing power and internet connection speeds, the issues of cyber crime and information security have become significantly more important to the average user. In spite of that fact, a significant proportion of individuals (including college students) remain ignorant and unaware of the serious threats these issues present to their finances and digital identity.

The recent spate of cyber attacks mounted by various online hacker groups should cause individuals to rethink their online presence and encourage them to strategically approach the management of their personal information on the web. Groups such as Anonymous and the recently disbanded Lulzsec have wreaked havoc in cyberspace by gaining unauthorized access to information stored by a broad range of organizations, including corporate giants like Sony and governmental organizations such as the FBI and CIA.

Remarkably, these incidents have evoked little public outrage, in part due to the lack of adequate coverage from the mass media. The WikiLeaks organization, which released hundreds of thousands of diplomatic cables last year, was chastised for months for publishing documents authored by governments around the world. In contrast, the release of personal information belonging to millions of individuals received comparatively little coverage as the perpetrators continued to expose security flaws in major web-sites over many weeks.

For example, when the hacker



"Would you store your valuables at a bank after you saw that they used common gym locks to secure their safety deposit boxes?"

Vijai Narayanan
Columnist

group Anonymous breached the Sony PlayStation Network in April, it retrieved the personal information of over 77 million accounts, each potentially containing the credit card information of its owner.

Consumers should demand more security and accountability from businesses like Sony, with whom they entrust their personal information. In the weeks following the security breach, a group launched a class action lawsuit against the company for failing to secure user data. While I wholeheartedly support their cause, the costs associated with these actions will be ultimately passed down to the consumer, and does not guarantee that user data will be more secure in the future.

In order to decrease the likelihood of such attacks from being successful in the future, consumers should lobby companies and governments to know in simpler terms what means are used to secure their data and how their personal information may be used by third party applications. Would you store your valuables at a bank after you saw that they used common gym locks to secure their safety deposit boxes? Why would you trust an organization that does essentially the same with your personal information?

Finally, consumers also bear the responsibility to secure their information by maintaining strong passwords and encrypting their data whenever possible. Creating a strong password using alphanumeric and special characters is currently the consumer's best defense against such attacks, at least until the companies responsible for securing user data become more capable at resisting them.

While it is easy to malign these hacker groups for exposing such a large trove of data, they do deserve credit for bringing the issue of cyber security to the attention of major corporations and governments. After all, there are many more groups operating with similar capability and more nefarious intentions who don't announce their exploits to the public. Groups like Lulzsec do force companies to secure their data and alarm consumers to the seriousness (or lack thereof) with which their personal information is handled.

Cyber crime and information security will continue to become increasingly important as the world becomes even more connected during the 21st Century. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders, particularly consumers, to insist that personal information is stored safely and securely.



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i just wanna graduate with honors... is that so hard?
Wish yall had swagga like me... then we could really make Tech a better place for lost souls
Stimulant drug use rising among Tech students. Sun rising in east.
Look, can we just get free helicopter ride to get past the construction? It seems to be the only way
CAPS LOCK IS NOT NECESSARY AT ALL TIMES!!
I got out of Tech!! BWAHAHAHAHAHA
The health center is great! I get the medical attention I need, not one, but two days after I REALLY needed it, thanks
So the Technique only has new issues every three weeks or something? lamesauce
parks & rec rules!
Smoking better bud than rick ross
nesbit where you at?
you know what they say, if you ain't using numerical methods to approximated PDE's, you ain't tryin'.
FASET! Whooooo! ON/LS/TT FTW! (totes abreeds)
Club Love you say? OH LEH DO IT!
I think I have to say sorry first before I can say I love you...
If you wanna look good, you gotta try new things...
I want a pidgeon on a boat with some fruit snax right now!
Pacman has more choices of where to go than north ave students do!
Once again I shall go and get the fishmonger to prepare the fish. Trout are freshwater fish and have UNDERWATER WEAPONS
Trout are very valuable and immensely powerful.
Keep away from the trout
This accursed weather is sapping all my energy and will to do anything else.
Summer is just like any other semester. Except there are even less girls.
Now we all know the words were true in the sappies songs. white people are racist to asian males but nice to asian girls thats not gonna make the slivers haha