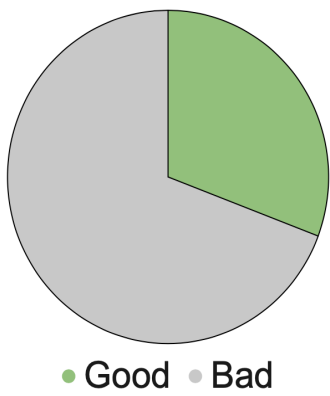


What's Your Opinion?

Is new technology like the Apple Vision Pro an overall good or bad thing?

Out of 26 responses:
 Good -- 8
 Bad -- 18



Next Poll:

Mass Shootings on College Campuses

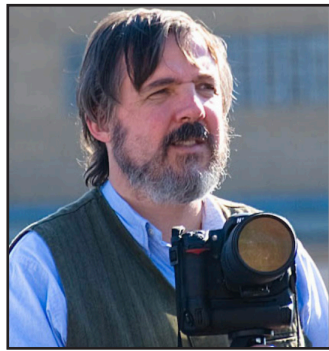
Do colleges do enough to protect students on campus from mass shootings?

Students can answer the poll on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](#). Instagram polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on [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.

Letter to the editor: The future of journalism at A-State

JACK ZIBLUK, PH.D.
 SPECIAL TO THE HERALD



Jack Zibluk, Ph.D., taught journalism at A-State from 1993 to 2012. He is currently a professor of communication at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

To the editor:

As a long-time faculty member in journalism and printing and as a former faculty senate president, I am more than saddened by the termination of the multimedia journalism program at Arkansas State University.

I understand the dynamics that led to the unfortunate but inevitable decision. You can't support a program when there are few students. It didn't have to be that way. Reorganization, attrition and just plain neglect put the department on life-support, so pulling the proverbial

plug was understandable.

But as Rahm Emmanuel, a protégé of Arkansas' own Bill Clinton once said, "Don't let a good crisis go to waste."

The alumni, community leaders and members, along with many media leaders have shown concern and support for the best-respected journalism program in the region. There is a great deal of support for A-State journalism well beyond state and regional borders.

"Reorganization, attrition and just plain neglect put the department on life-support, so pulling the proverbial plug was understandable."

There's an opportunity to take the legacy of Tex Plunkett and Joel Gambill, two legendary A-State journalism professors, and hundreds of others, who, like me, have gone on to remarkable careers due to the very special dedication, professionalism and care the program presented.

We need to preserve that legacy to present it as a gift to future generations. But the internal and external circumstances that led A-State to this point continue to bedevil it. However, there are ways to move forward.

Make a strategic plan. Look at your opportunities and the demands of the journalism market. Look at

the needs and aspirations of potential students. Look at the needs of the employment market. It exists in a more entrepreneurial and digital form than in the past, so create a new plan to meet those needs.

Find donors, foundations, public and private grants and funds, as well as individual contributions, to develop an endowment to grow the program and supplement salaries, purchase equipment, etc.

Look at new models, such as developing interdisciplinary programs like media literacy, a much-needed niche in our current society. Partner with businesses to develop entrepreneurial programs that empower people to grow

their digital presence into a sustainable career.

Revive former associations with faculty in public relations, advertising and broadcasting and do so while ignoring as much as possible interpersonal issues that plagued such partnerships in the past.

I suggest forming a committee or task force dedicated to drawing up a strategic plan to revive and reconstitute the journalism program at A-State. I would certainly volunteer to be involved.

I realize it's tempting to do something cosmetic and call it journalism, but the alumni, the state, region and the potential future students deserve better.



Graphic by Elijah Templeton | Opinion Editor

New age technology may not be what we need

ELIJAH TEMPLETON
 OPINION EDITOR



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

With the release of the Apple Vision Pro, it feels like the future of technology is arriving right before our eyes, raising questions on how much our world will change as technology continues improving.

The idea that technology will continue to progress to such a degree that the virtual world becomes indistinguishable from the actual world is a terrifying prospect.

These thoughts started with the recent roll-out of the Apple Vision Pro, a headset with cameras that show your physical surroundings, overplaying it with a virtual layout of apps and other services usually limited to your phone.

If you find yourself looking at the Vision Pro in action, it all seems very dystopian, like the Oasis from "Ready Player One."

My worries come from the knowledge that this is as bad as this technology will ever be.

The technology will only continue to improve from this point forward. Devices will get smaller and easier to carry around with you if the advancements of the cell phone and laptop are models to be followed.

Who is to say that the bulky headsets of today are not inevitably replaced with eyewear that can be worn for long periods of time?

The more reliant we become on technology in our professional and personal lives, the more companies will devote resources to bringing these devices to fruition.

These advancements in artificial reality will no doubt bring about a great deal of convenience to people's everyday lives, but I cannot help but think that it could also be the end of life as we know it.

Why bother visiting someone when you can see each other virtually as life-like and realistic as if they are sitting right next to you?

Why bother to attend concerts when they are streamed to your augmented

reality vehicles and you have 'front-row' seats?

We are more reliant on technology than ever. Social media and the internet are massive parts of everyday life and already we see negative results.

Loneliness epidemics, declining mental health and a loss of community are just some of the side effects of this over-reliance that we have already seen take shape. Again, this is as bad as the technology will ever be again.

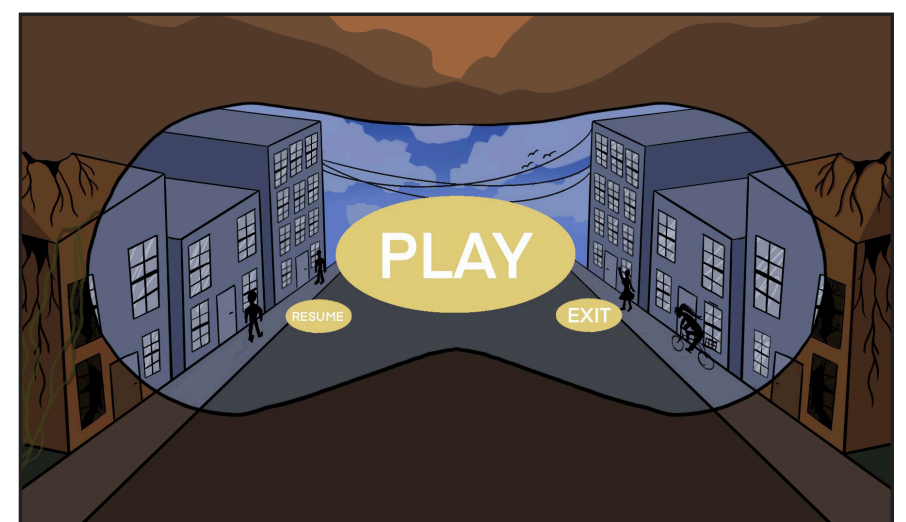
It may seem promising to envision a future where everything inaccessible in reality is at your fingertips in the virtual one, but I fear that this may remove

all meaning from the interactions themselves.

I know it is unlikely this future can be averted, as the proverbial snowball is already rolling downhill, but if we speak out about the things we believe, we really can have an impact.

Get the Vision Pro if you are excited to be a part of our cyberpunk future, but be mindful of what you might be giving up to have a role in the new virtual world that seems to be knocking on our door.

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



Graphic by Adrienne Ails | Graphic Designer

Artist's depiction of 'virtual world' overtaking the real world.

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