

LGBTQIA+ charity event protested by hate group Sunday

Megan Reagan
EDITOR

A group of nearly a dozen men carrying a Nazi flag protested Sunday afternoon outside a local event that featured a drag performance brunch for charity at Hix Farm Brewery.

This protest comes just days after citizens filled the Cookeville City Hall chamber at a council meeting demanding action to prohibit such shows from happening

in the city.

Upper Cumberland Pride, the organization who organized the event for charity, said they believe the influx of the word "grooming" has sparked flames of hatred targeted at the LGBTQIA+ community.

"We are disgusted by allegations of child grooming being placed on us as well as the community as they are unsupported and just sick," UC Pride officials said in a statement. "UC Pride supports protecting children."

In 2022, more than 141 LGBTQIA+ events were targeted by groups like Proud Boys, Patriot Front and other alt-right groups nationwide, according to Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). Tennessee was among the highest-ranking states for these attacks.

Protesters emblazoning the Nazi flag, which is seen by many as a hate symbol, carried signs that stated "No grooming in Tennessee" and "Why do they want an audience of children?"

While some of the events targeted across the nation were all-age events, Sunday's charity event for UC Pride was an 18-and-up show.

"We are currently being protested for staging an 18-and-up show. There will be no children at this, and yet, we are still being attacked," UC Pride officials said. "Our core mission is to strengthen equality and increase awareness around issues important to our community such as health, safety

SEE PROTEST, PAGE 3



PHOTO BY MEGAN REAGAN

Bonnie and Bowen Obenshain and Sandy Curtis were a few of many who attended Club Temptation last week to speak against legislation that has been proposed to target the LGBTQ+ community.

Bill looks to ban public 'cabaret' performances

Leah Dunn
REPORTER

The Tennessee General Assembly is introducing a new bill known as SB3/HB9 creating offenses to those who "engage in an adult cabaret performance where it could be viewed by a person who is not an adult."

This comes as no shock to members of the LGBTQ+ community, many of whom feel this bill specifically targets a critical part of their identity, self expression, and First Amendment rights.

Earlier, in the Fall semester of 2022, Tennessee Tech LGBTQ+ group, Lambda, hosted an all-age approved drag show.

Landon Starbuck, of Nashville, Tennessee, uploaded a recorded

video claiming the performance was "not appropriate for the young audience."

Phil Oldham, President of TTU issued a statement stating the disapproval of the show, which upset and angered LGBTQ+ students. Lambda students have since then had to move off campus entirely to host drag events.

This is not the only bill specifically aimed towards LGBTQ+ individuals. Bills SB1/HB1, SB3/HB9, SB5 and HB30 are being pushed on the legislators agenda. Bills SB1/HB1 and SB5/HB30 are calling to prevent doctors from giving care to minors with gender-affirming care. This would specifically affect trans and non-binary youth.

Since the bill's announcement,

Cookeville's allies and LGBTQ+ community recently last week at the local alternative bar, Club Temptation, to write postcards to House Speaker Cameron Sexton and Gov. Bill Lee, urging the two to not pass the legislation that many perceive to be discriminatory.

The general consensus of the letter stated "Criminalizing public drag performances is contrary to the First Amendment and based on gross information about what drag is."

Many members of the community are also against banning gender-affirming healthcare, writing "All credible medical associations agree that gender affirming care saves lives."

SEE BILL, PAGE 3

Federal judge sets discrimination lawsuit against Tech for trial

Megan Reagan
EDITOR

A case alleging discrimination against a female Tennessee Tech faculty member has been set for trial.

Associate Professor of English Kristen Deiter filed the federal lawsuit against Tennessee Tech in July in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee alleging she was discriminated against when seeking a promotion.

Claims brought against the university stem from a personnel decision made by Provost Dr. Lori Bruce and President Phil Oldham in 2021 where Deiter was denied a promotion.

Deiter, according to the court documents, has been published in two internationally known peer-reviewed journals, has published a book review, and presented papers at international conferences domestically and abroad. She was also the recipient of Tech's Scholar-Mentor Award that honors faculty that display accomplishments in mentoring, scholarship, research and teaching.

"[Deiter] was qualified for the promotion to professor," according to her attorney, Joseph Hubbard. "She received an overwhelming majority in favor of her promotion [in her department]: six of the eight evaluators voted to recommend her promotion."

Despite her qualifications and peer recommendation, Bruce allegedly recommended that Deiter not be promoted and did not provide "justifiable reasons for her disagreement with the prior recommendations," according to the lawsuit.

"Contrary to TTU policy, Dr. Bruce did not write a letter to the plaintiff's unit peers, to the plaintiff, to the unit chairperson, or to the dean explaining the reasons for her disagreement," the lawsuit says. "Instead, Dr. Bruce summarily concluded that 'there is not adequate documented evidence to satisfy these criteria.'"

The lawsuit alleges that the rejection was discriminatory in that male associates have been promoted to the rank of professor "with fewer or an equal number of peer-reviewed publications."

SEE DISCRIMINATION, PAGE 3

Cream City owners celebrate 10 years

Bee Goodman
EDITOR

In the heart of downtown Cookeville, a three-ton neon sign illuminates Broad Street below. The smell of fresh made sweet waffle cones fills the air before you even step inside the infamous ice cream shop.

Cream City is the home of these

twinkling lights and tempting aromas. A familiar sense that many Cookeville locals have been missing for years, but ten years ago husband and wife Chris and Karen Savage, both Tech alumni, reopened the doors to the iconic Cream City Ice Cream and Coffee once more.

In 2013, Karen was a stay-at-home mom, scared of failing this renewed legacy. She kept faith and

worked hard, and made the connections to get Cream City into a second coming of glory days that patrons are lucky enough to get to experience now.

"We have the best customers in the whole world! The community is broad. We have customers that will come in and tell us that they worked here back in the 60's, and customers that are just little kids,"

Chris said.

Chris also shared that he loves coming in on graduation day because he enjoys seeing students and family celebrate that vital moment with them. The party room in the back has been a part of numerous birthday parties, fraternity events, graduations, and other shared

SEE CELEBRATE, PAGE 3

Guest Columnist

SGA President Addison Dorris is a featured columnist discussing how to make the most of college life.

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Lifestyle

Tennessee Tech music professor has his music score featured in a film.

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SPORTS

Tennessee Tech women, so far, have had a winning season. Read about their season so far.

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Student journalism of great value to journalists, campus community

Every journalist began their media journey somewhere.

Some found their way into the business by chance, and others have always known they wanted to work the craft and spent years preparing for this very opportunity: behind the walls of our student newspaper's office.

This newsroom, and student-journalist newsrooms everywhere, is more than just an extra-curricular or resume addition. What we do continues to sharpen our skills as reporters to sculpt us into the journalists we want to be.

This office provides us with the training wheels needed to learn adaptability, detail digging and ethical, but accurate, story-telling.

More than just students, it seems, see the value in student journalism. But the greater campus community can find value our reporting.

As student journalists, we are the eyes and ears of our university.

It falls upon our publication and ourselves as individual reporters to identify and address what is often buried or brushed off, to bring to light the wrong-doings and tragedies within our community and highlight the voices of those underrepresented on campus, the offerings and improvements of our university and the accolades of our student body.

Serving the university as a student-run publication provides an opportunity for informed change, accountability and influence.

Because we are students, others within the student body are more likely to see the value in work created by those of the same status. Students often feel more comfortable sharing necessary, newsworthy or controversial information with those whom they feel will better understand—other students.

The position of a student journalist provides the opportunity for unbiased work that seeks to serve our peers and the university community, generally, without any self-serving or face-saving motivations.

When the administration might seek to censor information — not saying this has happened, but that it could — it falls upon us to report the raw facts and inform our readers from all angles and perspectives.

The voice of a student journalist holds unique value on a college campus, not only providing the opportunity for otherwise-hushed student perspectives to be heard but opportunity to hold those in greater positions of power accountable.

Our publication allows us the freedom to disclose the information, facts and details needed for students campus-wide to make informed decisions and form merited opinions about our university, its decision-makers and campus life.

Beyond this, our publication essentially serves as a university time vault, recording history as it happens and providing documentation of our campus' most critical moments. In times when our student body feels kept in the dark, our student journalists seek to inform and spark conversation. Through hours of interviewing, researching and reporting, student journalists continually provide a platform for civil, unbiased discussions to take place and questions to be answered.

Not to mention, the experience is invaluable. Behind these walls is the closest opportunity that many student reporters will get to real-world experience before beginning their professional careers — and this only further prepares them.

'College is the best four years of your life...' NOT

I hate it when people try to tell us, "Your college years are the best years of your life!"

I don't know about you, but I always immediately think, "Gosh, I hope not."

College is full of stressful academic deadlines, a diet of caffeine, cafeteria food and Cookout, and less than six hours of sleep on most days.

Five years from now, I sure hope I'm not eating a Junior Tray with a Huge Tea on a regular basis. But I hope I still have opportunities to experience new things, learn new skills, and grow in ways I never thought imaginable.

See, our college years are not the best of our lives — but they are wildly influential on our growth as a person, employee, leader, and friend.

The experiences you can take advantage of during college are once in a lifetime, but you must step out of your comfort zone to find them. Don't miss out on lifelong memories by



Addison Dorris
GUEST COLUMNIST

getting caught up in the negative aspects of college life.

Do you feel like you have been missing out on those core memories? How do you find them?

You step out of the box!

This semester, I encourage you to find something that makes you excited. Find the thing that makes you want to be better and do better. Join the club. You might discover a passion or leadership skill you didn't know existed. Try a random hobby. It might be the thing that keeps you grounded when the world feels like too much. Go to the cheesy campus event. You might make a lifelong friend. Apply for the internship. You might find your perfect career path.

Don't be scared.

College is a time when it is okay to fail and try again, but it is not a time when you can sit back and expect an opportunity to knock on your door. Go find the thing that you are passionate about. It's never too early or too late.

Two years ago, I was too scared to step outside the box.

I was scared of what people would think of me if I joined the club, or spoke up in class, or made a leap of faith.

But I realized that being bold was better than being scared.

Being scared led me to feelings of loneliness. Being bold led me to join a sorority where I made lifelong friends.

Being scared led me to a lack of direction toward my future career. Being bold led me to a job where I could see my future as a businesswoman.

Being scared led me to feel like a follower. Being bold led me to become a leader through serving as the Student Body President of Tennessee Tech.

Your college years won't be the best years of your life, but they will be monumental in preparing you for the incredible years ahead. Who do you want to be five years after college? Ten years? Twenty years? Do something today that your future self will thank you for.

Now is your time. Leave your comfort zone. Be bold. Don't let this semester pass you by. Take the leap of faith now. Make your college days worthwhile.

ADDISON DORRIS is the 2022-2023 Student Body President. She can be reached at SGAPresident@tntech.edu

Student On The Street

Callie Smith
REPORTER

What class are you looking forward to the most this semester?



Anirudh Dutta
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
Freshman

"I am interested in Math. There are a few reasons for that. First, sometimes I could be really good at math. I had homework I did way before anyone else, even before my teacher. She didn't even explain the topic and I was already done with the correct answers. That's why I like math. I look forward to it and I like it."



Marisol Villafuerta
FINANCE
Sophomore

Lunch.



Tay'viona Harris
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION
Freshman

"The class I am looking forward to this semester is my FOED (Foundations of Education) class. I have two of them actually. Those classes are to get you into a teaching environment."

Your Campus Representatives

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Addison Dorris
Student Body President
SGAPresident@tntech.edu

Jacob Cherry
Vice President
SGAVicePres@tntech.edu

JD Rankin
Treasurer
SGATreasurer@tntech.edu

Savannah Griffin
Secretary
SGASecretary@tntech.edu

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President
Lori Maxwell
Sociology, Political Science
facultysenatepres@tntech.edu
931-372-3683

President-Elect
Michael Allen
Mathematics
mallen@tntech.edu
931-372-3594

Past President
Jeannette Luna
Earth Sciences
jluna@tntech.edu
931-372-3695

Secretary
Christy Killman
General, Basic Engineering
ckillman@tntech.edu
931-372-3467

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Voice Your Opinion

The Oracle encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of interest. A few guidelines:

Letters should not exceed 300 words. Commentaries should not exceed 500 words and include a picture of the writer.

Originality is required, no plagiarism. For verification, letters and commentaries must include your name, email, hometown and classification or title.

Letters may not run every edition due to space. The Oracle reserves the right to edit for style, grammar, length and clarity.

Submissions must be sent to oracle@gmail.com and received by 3 p.m. the Wednesday before publication.



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Find an error? Contact the editors:

Bee Goodman bmgoodman43@tntech.edu
Megan Reagan mareagan42@tntech.edu

Oracle Staff

EditorBee Goodman
EditorMegan Reagan
Sports EditorAvery Nettles
Photography EditorSarah Aku
Social Media EditorCallie Smith
Distribution ManagerLeah Dunn
PhotographerElliot Payne
Online EditorAyrianna Kiral-King
Copy EditorGus Creter
Faculty AdviserTeddy Burch

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PROTEST: Hate groups protest LGBTQIA+ charity event at Hix Farm

FROM PAGE 1

and marriage equality. UC Pride celebrates individuality and diversity of every person as we all strive for acceptance from parents, friends and society at-large.”

Among the men dressed in all black with mostly-covered faces to conceal their identities, were other groups that were identified as Patriot Front and two other groups who clarified to the The Oracle reporters that they were not with the men carrying the Nazi flag.

LuAnn, who did not feel comfortable providing her last name, said she was among the crowd at Thursday Cookeville City Council meeting where many demanded that the city prohibit these shows that have sparked controversy among the greater Cookeville area.

While LuAnn spoke with Herald-Citizen reporters protesters chanted “Fags out!” and one trying to incite private guards outside then venue while shouting, “Come over p*****, let’s fight!”

“We’re here praying. We’re here just making sure there are no children going in,” she said. “It is unfortunate that they have half a truth, which is that we don’t want kids groomed. But the other half, we’re not for any of that. We don’t think children should be exposed to it. When you’re an adult, sure. Knock yourself out.”

“We’re here to stand up for all the children of God,” Sean Mohler, with Protect The Children Now, said. “We wish they (drag supporters) would come over and speak with us, let us pray and show them that we don’t hate them. We’re here to make our presence to provide a healthier



PHOTO BY MEGAN REAGAN

Several groups of protesters, including some that appear to be affiliated with known hate groups, assembled in protest against a charity event to raise funds for Upper Cumberland Pride.

alternative to them (the apparent alt-right groups).”

One PTCM member, Zion Hochstetler, even crossed sides holding a sign that said, “Free hugs.”

He told The Oracle reporters he chose to cross sides because he did not like what was happening across the street.

“Do you know what an LGBT activist is? A groomer, a rapist, or an enabler,” the men in black shouted while Hochstetler spoke.

“I don’t like this,” Hochstetler said. “This is something that is incredibly rude and mean. The whole everything is just wrong.”

While some of the protesters tried to provoke violence, no incidents occurred as a result of the disturbance.

UC Pride expressed their gratitude to Hix Farm Brewery for sticking by them through this turbulent time, and all who volunteered to work as private security, as well as the Cookeville Police Officers who patrolled the area, to keep the fundraiser safe.

Mayor Laurin Wheaton said Sunday the disturbance was unfortunate.

“This is not the Cookeville we all know and love,” she said. “Some people are looking to start a fight when such a polarizing topic is front and center. When people come, because most of these are outside agitators, and send messages such as this, the original message gets lost.”

As news of the disturbance cir-

culated in the community on social media, Tennessee Tech student groups who were recently targeted on social media for hosting an all-age drag show event to raise funds reacted to the disturbance in the community with great concern.

One student said, “Nazis in Cookeville are dangerous to students of color and other minority groups on campus.

Another student said they could imagine that non-local freshmen would see this disturbance and think it is a common occurrence.

Tech’s Lambda GSA said in a statement that it is their role as an organization to build a community for LGBTQIA+ to interact in a safe environment.

“This is impossible when the larger community we inhabit is becoming less and less safe,” said Lambda president E. Vigil. “The demonstration (Sunday) shows that fascism is not just alive but thriving. As long as institutions such as this university refuse to speak out against it, they remain complicit in its growth. By pandering to the whims of extremists, these institutions empower them.”

Vigil referenced an all-age event hosted by the organization to raise funds for Lambda which subsequently led to controversy across the state after Landon and Robby Starbuck, proclaimed children’s advocates, posted a viral video demanding action from the university.

Ultimately, Tech President Phil Oldham issued a statement condemning the event and prohibiting Lambda from hosting similar events upon a policy review.

“We will not be silent,” Vigil said. “We will continue to promote freedom of speech and the right for our community to exist.”

CELEBRATE: Cream City owners celebrate 10 years of business

FROM PAGE 1

celebrations. “That just tickles us, you know, we just feel privileged that they want to spend part of the evening with us,” he said

What isn’t widely known is Cream City wasn’t always a sweet shop. In 1890, Consumer City helped service milk and butter from Chicago, partnering with a store of the same name in Murfreesboro. Serving the same community, the Cookeville location decided to branch out into a sweet-eer business.

The business flourished into the 1900s, the famous neon sign was placed in 1950 along with a new building construction after the original was burned in a fire in 1948.

Family is an essential piece of Cream City’s success as they have had several family members work there, as well as Karen and Chris sharing that their employ-

ees now have become a family to them too. Some employees like to come in to hang out even outside of working hours because they enjoy the store so much.

Tech students have made a second home of Cream City, often coming in with friends or just visiting to enjoy a coffee and free wifi to work on assignments when they need a good place to study away from campus.

Earlier this month they shared a celebratory post on instagram to share their excitement of reaching their ten year anniversary, while teasing that they will have special things happening every month for the rest of the year.

Karen said these special events will entail bringing back discontinued flavors for a limited time and special T-shirts. For January, they are featuring the double fudge flavor that is only back for a limited time.



PHOTOS BY BEE GOODMAN

The three-ton neon sign was mounted atop Cream City in 1950 and is now a historical landmark managed by Cookeville Cityscape.



Alumni Vicent Davis, and junior business major Julie Baker both express how happy they are to work at Cream City.



SUBMITTED

Karen and Chris Savage, the owners of Cream City celebrate ten years of ownership.

LEGISLATION: Some speak against proposed anti-LGBTQ bills

FROM PAGE 1

Upper Cumberland Pride President, Jessica Patterson, shared her feelings on the bills and her experience over the

last few months when dealing with protestors of recent drag shows.

“Well, I think it’s kind of ridiculous, especially that the last two events that they protested were

18 and over events, and they keep using children as the excuse to have them (protests).”

Many members were also shocked at how sudden these protests came

to be.

Wendy Mccown-Williams, owner of Club Temptation, questioned why drag performances have recently come under scrutiny.

“These shows have been going on in Cookeville for,” she said. “I mean the bar’s been going for seven years now and Upper Cumberland Pride has been going for 11 years. So in 11 years,

they’re just now figuring out that it’s going on in Cookeville. While I have owned the bar for seven years, there has been a local alternative bar presence for nearly two decades.”

DISCRIMINATION: Judge sets matter for trial for Summer 2024

FROM PAGE 1

“The attitude of Dr. Oldham towards the plaintiff in singling out the plaintiff for treatment

that differed from TTU’s standards for promotion and that differed from TTU’s treatment of similarly situated male associate professors is evidence

of the discrimination against the plaintiff,” the documents stated.

Deiter asks that she be awarded compensatory damages and that

the court order the university to promote her into the position “she would have had.”

Tennessee Tech attorneys deny the alle-

gations in an answer to the complaint stating, “TTU had legitimate, non-discriminatory reasons for its actions regarding Dieter, and

was in no way motivated by illegal discrimination.”

The case is set tentatively for trial in June of 2024.

Culture

Campus Events

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

Faculty Recital

Mark Cramer will be performing on clarinet from beginning at 7 p.m.

Concert will be in the Wattenbarger Auditorium of the Bryan Fine Arts building located at 1150 N. Dixie Ave., Cookeville. This concert is free and open to the public. This performance will also be live streamed. Please go to the School of Music's Live Stream page to watch the performance.

Open Mic Night

Event presented by UNCLE at the Backdoor Playhouse from 8 to 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

Careers n' Coffee

Featuring the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department. Take a break and enjoy a FREE cup of iced coffee while speaking with recruiters from Metropolitan Nashville Police Department from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Roaden University Center Swoops Food Court (ground floor).

Faculty Senate Business Meeting

Virtual from 3:35 to 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Gold Career Readiness Workshop

Mr. Russ Coughenour with representatives from the Launchpad Advising Center will discuss the process of finding the right major for you if you are thinking of possibly switching majors and why this is beneficial for your ultimate career goals at 11 a.m. in the RUC Multipurpose Room on the second floor. This event is open to all students in all majors and counts towards the Gold Career Readiness Certificate for freshman and sophomore students. Bring your Eagle Card for a quick sign-in. See Handshake Events for Teams Link.

Concert: Brass Arts Quintet

Concert will be in the Wattenbarger Auditorium of the Bryan Fine Arts building located at 1150 N. Dixie Ave., Cookeville, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. This concert is free and open to the public. This performance will also be live streamed. Please go to the School of Music's Live Stream page to watch the performance.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Guest Artist: Alexa Still, flute

Performance in association with the 2023 Flute Day. Concert will be in the Wattenbarger Auditorium of the Bryan Fine Arts building located at 1150 N. Dixie Ave., Cookeville, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. This concert is free and open to the public. This performance will also be live streamed. Please go to the School of Music's Live Stream page to watch the performance.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Flute Day

Schedule:
 8:30-9 a.m. - Registration
 9-9:30 a.m. - Warmup class with Alexa Still *Bring your flute and play along*
 9:30 -10:15 a.m. - High School Masterclass with Alexa Still
 10:30-11a.m. - Alexa Still in Recital
 11-11:45 a.m. - Flute Choir Reading Session *Bring your flute and play along*
 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. - Lunch (provided)
 12:45-1:30 p.m. - Beatboxing & Beyond class with Dr. Matthews
 1:30-2:15 p.m. - Flute Repair Class with Keren Barr
 2:15-3:15 p.m. - College Masterclass with Alexa Still
 3:15-4 p.m. - Q&A session with guest artists

Professor's music featured in 'A Little Prayer'

Greg Danner, music professor at Tennessee Tech University, will have his score featured in a movie written and directed by Angus MacLauchlan during the 2023 Sundance Festival.



Greg Danner
MUSIC PROFESSOR

MacLauchlan – an established playwright and screenwriter with a number of films under his belt, including "Junebug" starring Amy Adams, and "Stone" starring Robert DeNiro – first reached out to Danner earlier this year.

He told Danner he had heard his concert music and felt the style would be a good fit for his newest film, "A Little Prayer," that focuses on the family dynamics and inner workings of Southern towns.

"I'd never worked as a film composer, but liked the idea of doing something different, so I told him that if he was willing to take a chance on someone without the typical experience that I'd be willing to take on a new challenge," Danner said.

The challenge turned into a total

of 14 cues from the film, ranging in time from about 20 seconds to over three minutes, that enhanced the dialogue or action, made smooth scene transitions and established the mood.

Danner found the project very different from writing concert music where the composer is in complete control of the style aside from general guidelines for length, difficulty and instrumentation.

"In writing for film, you are part of a collaborative process where the music has the function to serve the story," he said. "For example, if the music is too 'busy' for a scene then it can take the focus away from what is important in the acting or dialogue."

While working on the score, Danner was given a rough cut of the film and after discussions with the director about where the music would be used and what type of mood it should have.

After creating the music, he sent it back to MacLauchlan who would then send it back with any notes for changes.

"While this type of collaboration is very different from writing concert music, I found it fascinating because both

you and the director are trying to find the right expression to enhance the scene," Danner said.

Once they finalized the score composition, the music was professionally recorded at Nashville Music Scoring, which contracts musicians and engineers for film, video game and TV companies around the world.

The ensemble used flute, oboe, clarinet, violin, cello, string bass and harp.

The whole process was fascinating to Danner, who is enthusiastic about being able to pass on what he learned to his music students at Tech.

He worked with Tech professor of flute, Mary Matthews, who coordinated the School of Music Career Check seminars, and was able to bring in the Nashville Music Scoring conductor David Shipps, who Danner worked with to record his score, as one of the speakers.

"Connections like this are important for students to see some real-life applications for what they are learning," Danner said. "Many of my students are interested in writing for movies or video game music, which is similar to film but also has its own

particular requirements. I stress to the music students who have this interest that they should look for opportunities to collaborate. There are often local opportunities, even on campus, where students in other disciplines are working on projects that need music."

"A Little Prayer" is now one of about 120 feature films selected from more than 4,000 submissions to be featured at the Sundance Film Festival, the largest independent film festival in the United States. There will be six screenings at the festival in Utah from Jan. 23-29, and tickets can also be bought to watch the film online from Jan. 24-30.

"Whether it's hearing your work in the concert hall or on a screen, it is a very satisfying feeling," Danner said. "I think part of it is knowing that you've made a contribution to something that is a larger effort. When I see a film now, I think about all involved, from the actors, producers, director, cinematographer, composer, editors, etc. It's really an amazing thing."

Provided by the Office of Communications and Marketing.



PHOTO BY MEGAN REAGAN

Orange cones and metal fences affect parking capacity on Tennessee Tech campus.

Students, faculty experience parking woes

Megan Reagan
EDITOR

Tennessee Tech students and faculty are experiencing parking difficulties as weather over the holiday break has created delays in the completion of construction projects.

Many people have expressed concern about the loss of some ADA-accessible parking since the semester started, but university officials say "even with temporary closures due to construction, Tech continues to exceed the number of accessible parking spaces required by ADA."

"As Tennessee Tech makes improvements to campus to better serve our students, we recog-

nize that some temporary disruptions to parking may occur," Jonathan Frank, Tech spokesperson, said. "The university continues to offer a free shuttle service from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. each weekday that classes are in session."

Frank said those with accessible parking permits can park in any legal space, regardless of zone, when accessible parking is not available.

He said parking spots currently inaccessible between Johnson and Foster halls will reopen soon after construction is finished.

"The university expects to have those parking spaces repaved and available for use around the end of the month, weather permitting," Frank said.

Sports

Women's basketball ranked 3rd in OVC

AVERY NETTLES
Sports Editor

Tennessee Tech's women's basketball team is currently 11-5 and 5-1 in OVC play.

This season they have beaten Stephens College, Ball State, Samford, Trevecca Nazarene, Alabama A&M, Tennessee Wesleyan, ULM, SIUE, Lindenwood, UT Martin, Morehead State and Tennessee State. This time last year Tech was 9-6 and 3-2 in OVC play.

Tech is currently second in the OVC behind Eastern Illinois. Last year Tech was second in the conference as well behind Belmont who is no longer in the OVC but is now in the A-Sun Con-



PHOTO BY JIM DILLION

Reghan Grimes number 33 Tech's guard makes a three. She helps keep Tech in the lead against Tennessee State on January 14th.

ference. Tech made it to the playoffs last year and did not have to play the first two games in the OVC playoffs games as they were secured bye games.

If Tech's women continue to play as they have so far this season, they have a good chance of

getting back to the playoffs in March in Evansville, Indiana.

According to the OVC rules, "the top eight teams based upon Conference winning percentage will automatically earn access to the OVC Basketball Championship. The OVC Championships

have 14 games of basketball action spanning four days as teams compete to capture the OVC title and earn a bid to the NCAA Tournament."

Tech's Golden Eagles beat Tennessee State 83-76 Thursday, Jan.12 — an OVC team that helped them get

closer to making it to the OVC tournament in March.

The women currently have a three-game winning streak, and it appears as if the Golden Eagles plan do not plan on slowing down anytime soon.

Their stats so far consist of 7-1 at

home and 4-4 away. With 68.4 points per game, 42.7 field goal percentage, 32.5 three-point percentage, 73.3 free throw percentage with 35.5 rebounds per game and 15.3 assists per game so far this season.

The women's next two games are away — one against Little Rock on Thursday, Jan.19 and the other Saturday, Jan.21 both games can be streamed on ESPN+.

Their next home game is Thursday, Jan.26 at 3 p.m. against SIUE who is ranked 5th in the conference and they are 3-3 in OVC play and 4-13 overall. Games are free to students with Tech ID.

Six-way tie for 1st place in OVC



PHOTOS BY JIM DILLION

Nolan Causewell number 4 Tech's center makes his three point shot. This helps extends Tech's lead against Tennessee State on January 14th.

CALLIE SMITH
*Sports Reporter/
Social Media Editor*

The Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles keep their hopes sky high as the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) tournament comes closer. Even though the Golden Eagles currently rank at 6th in the conference, the first place title is still within reach. There are currently six teams in the fight for first place in the OVC conference. For Tennessee Tech to win the fight and claim the regular season champion title, they must continue winning as the regular season comes to a close. However, TTU has great chances to enter the OVC tournament no matter the outcome of upcoming games since 8 total teams will enter the tournament.

The Golden Eagles are 9-12 so far this season and 5-3 in the OVC. Since the beginning of January, TTU has been soaring on a winning streak. Winning against five OVC competitors. Sadly the winning streak came to an end Saturday, January 21 in a hard fought, double overtime battle against Southeast Missouri.

You can find the Golden Eagles on the court again this Thursday, January 26 against the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Cougars at 6:00pm. Tennessee Tech excitedly welcomes ESPN to cover the game and Tennessee Tech University hopes to see you there as well.



Brett Thompson number five is running to make a basket. While former tech player, number 4 Jr. Clay guards Thompson.



Brett Thompson number 5 Tech's guard makes a free throw extending Tech's lead against Tennessee State on January 14th. Tech ends up beating them.

Sports

Sotball Schedule for February



Friday 10th at 10:00 a.m.



Friday 17th at 9:00 a.am



Saturday 18th- Sunday 19 at 4:30 p.m. and 11:00 a.m.



Friday 10- Saturday 11 at 3:00 p.m., 9:00 a.m., and 2:00 p.m.



Friday 17- Saturday 18th at 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.



Friday 24th at 10:00 a.m. and Saturday 26th at 11:30 a.m.



Sunday 12th at 2:00 p.m.



Friday 24th- Saturday 25th 3:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Baseball sechdule for Febuary



Friday 17th- Sunday 19th (Home Game)



Friday 24th- Tuesday 28th (Away Game)



Tuesday 24th (Away Game)



Tuesday 28th (Home Game)

Beach Volleyball schedule for Febuary



Friday 24th at 9:00 a.m.



Saturday 25th at 7:00 a.m.



Friday 24th at 11:00 a.m.



Saturday 25th at 11:00 a.m.