

Religion and freedom collide

Ayrinna Kiral-King
REPORTER

Religion is the belief in and worship of a higher power or powers, especially a God or gods. Freedom is the power — or right — to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint. But what happens when the two collide? Can religion and freedom coexist?

This question has been running through the minds of many as the expression of a marginalized group is being berated locally, across the state and nationwide.

In 2022 the student organization LAMBDA put on a drag show located at the backdoor playhouse, this show caught the attention of a Tennessee politician, Robby Starbuck and his

wife, Landon, a children’s advocate.

His response to a performance sparked controversy on campus, among leadership, and in the greater Cookeville area.

The response seemingly condemned further events being thrown by LAMBDA. However when asked, the organization’s president stated they had not been reached out to about can-

celing upcoming events.

Despite the words of President Oldham, students and locals fought for the reaffirmation of Tech’s policy on freedom of speech and expression.

A university spokesperson later clarified that performances are now again allowed on campus after a revisionment of Tech’s performance policies — which

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Black History Month guest speaker

PHOTO BY ELLIOT PAYNE

Anthony Ray Hinton, convicted in 1985 for murder, spoke to Tennessee Tech students on Feb. 7 in the Roaden University Center as one of many guests planned to visit campus through Black History Month. Wrongfully convicted, he was kept on death row for 28 long years, some of which was spent in solitary confinement, but Hinton was convicted on circumstantial evidence. In 2014, the Supreme Court overturned his conviction and he was released the following year. Since then he has written the book *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row* discussing his experience.

‘Divisive Concepts’ in the classroom

Leah Dunn
REPORTER

Divisive concepts is a term many individuals have become familiar with through news stories and social media.

Now these words are being used to describe parts of a curriculum, some of which are facing controversy and speculation.

‘Divisive concepts’ aim to educate individuals on concepts such as race, sex, white privilege, class systems and other issues which are often classified as systemic problems.

While these issues are talked about in history books, many educators feel there should be more depth given to these topics.

Some of the public, however, wish for these issues to not be brought into the classroom at all. These topics are often classified as polarizing, and the public scrutinization of what is taught in the classroom has been placing more pressure onto educators to change the curriculum, ultimately bringing into question academic freedom.

Students in higher education rely on instructors to give adequate lessons for the future.

However, a Tennessee law was passed in the year 2022, and it “prohibits public institutions of higher education from taking certain actions regarding divisive concepts and the ideologies of employees.”

SEE CLASSROOM, PAGE 3

University board of trustees approves new organizational structure

Megan Reagan
EDITOR

Tennessee Tech’s Board of Trustees last semester approved an organizational structure that would “better support the effort to increase enrollment.”

At the recommendation of Tech President Phil Oldham, Chief Communications Officer Karen Lykins is the new vice president of enrollment and communication — which sets her salary at approximately \$200,000.

Lykins has been serving as the interim vice president for enrollment, but Oldham said merging her two duties is just logical.

The previous vice president of enrollment resigned earlier this year, and Lykins has taken on the additional responsibilities.

“Based on Lykins activities over the years that have drawn those two units into closer alignment regarding the recruitment of students, it is my best judgment that the university is

best served merging these units,” Oldham said.

The merging of the units removed one position from the cabinet, and Oldham described the decision as a more “effective and streamlined way of doing business.”

The Office of Communications and Marketing will also merge with the new division while the Registrar’s Office will now fall under Academic Affairs.

Some trustees questioned the workload

that might be placed on Lykins as a result of the merging of her duties, but board chair Trudy Harper said Lykins can expect to get the support needed to be successful in her new role.

“[Her] success speaks for itself in the numbers we saw this year,” Harper said.

Tennessee Tech has record enrollment for first-time freshmen, largely in part because of Lykins’ office’s efforts in recruitment marketing.

According to Lykins,

applications for enrollment thus far have increased by 1,170 for next academic year.

“I’m a big believer in bringing people in who have the strengths that I do not have,” she said. “We’re going to see if we need to bring people in, or whether they are already there and we just haven’t made the most of those resources.”

Lykins said approaching both roles requires many of the same skills, and merging the units makes sense.

Editorial

Oracle staff gives opinion on diversity and inclusion in greek life.

Culture

The effects of social media. Photography column. Black History month events.

Sports

Dainte Wood responds to in-game injury. Mercedes-Benz Stadium becomes first sustainable sports arena. Baseball begins.

Can Greek Life be more diverse and inclusive on campus?

Coming into a freshman year joining Greek Life is the last thing on the mind of many when starting college.

Throughout high school Greek Life is often viewed as a hierarchy of caucasian supremacy, simply a group of people who sought out to exclude others from their elusive organization.

But what most people don't realize is that it our own bias in harboring those stereotypes.

One staff member of The Oracle remembers being reached out to by a sister from Delta Phi Epsilon.

The staff member had reposted a headquarters post for 9/11, and this chapter took notice.

Something about the message struck struck her interest, and soon she came to the conclusion that she was going to go through "continuous open bidding."

Her experience going through COB, she said, was amazing. She felt right at home surrounded by loving people and immediately noticed two things: the chapter is built on community and inclusivity.

This experience, however, is not universal.

Some students feel that as a plus-sized women, recruitment is different — especially when they don't "fit the mold."

Many, during recruitment, feel intimidated because of the expectations and appearance standards.

But the truth is that the "picture perfect" sorority girl does not exist, and she should not be the standard of Greek Life beauty.

Fraternities are no exception to the rule, as they too have a certain look and image to maintain, which leaves many feeling excluded from attempting to join based off of looks alone.

However, it is important to understand that diversity in Greek Life is not solely based on looks.

It also is centered around different majors, different personalities, different political and religious views.

To put it simply, Greek Life is not as inclusive as it should be. But that can change!

And Greek organizations are trying to incorporate these diverse and inclusive practices into their chapters.

There are three main points that can be addressed to increase diversity within Greek life.

Greek life can implement diversity and inclusion education, a chapter member position to monitor and maintain inclusivity and open statements demanding diversity.

Greek Life is a beautiful and fulfilling experience, but changes must be made to open the opportunity to more people.

BSU makes an impact for many on campus

I'm a Junior at Tennessee Technology University. I came to Tech in 2020. I am majoring in graphic design with a minor in communication studies.

My life here on campus started when I joined RACE (Reaching Achievement and Committed to Excellence) in my freshmen year. Starting as a mentee, I was given a mentor to help me transition from high school to college, help me with anything, and answer the questions that I had. After the first year, I wanted to be a mentor to share my experience and help out just like my mentor help me out. So, I applied to be a mentor.

Later I went through the interview and was a mentor after a couple of weeks. I joined another organization in the fall semester of my freshmen year called the Black Student Union. I became the social media chair for them, then at the end of my freshmen year, I became president of the



Darin McNeal
GUEST COLUMNIST

BSU. It was an honor to be acknowledged for what I was doing to help get BSU off the ground in creating its flyers and promoting its brand around campus. These two positions assisted me in making more connections to assist in promoting our diversity on campus — ultimately letting people know that we are here on campus and that we were not going to be looked over again.

The BSU definitely helpful in working with other organizations as it promotes the different skills and functions of the other BIPOC organizations. Because of this, there has been an improvement in the mixture of attendance in events. The minority students

see it and are impressed with it.

In promoting diversity on campus, we are still pushing for a little more diversity among faculty and staff, and hopefully, in the future, it will show. Tech has really made an impact on my life, and I feel as though I have been able to leave my mark on campus.

I have been following leaders that are making an impact because we need nothing but greatness in this world.

On Saturday, Feb. 4, Cookeville citizens came together at the prayer vigil event organized by the Cookeville chapter of the NAACP.

I was there to represent and show support as BSU leadership against hate groups who parked in the historically Black neighborhood of West End Cookeville while McClellan Church of Christ, a largely Black congregation, was in service before they headed to protest across the street from a dang show. Their pres-

ence made our students on campus feel uneasy. The Tech chapter NAACP President Mark Rine has been greatly impactful to the diversity here on Tech campus as well. Without his help, we wouldn't be making history.

The networking BSU has allowed me to do is something I never thought would happen, but I can only thank my lord and savior, Jesus Christ, for giving me opportunities in my life at each and every moment.

The BSU has assisted in bettering my resume, and it has made my people back home proud of me.

I hope that my involvement is making an impact on others to do something great because we always need new leaders to keep pushing us to greatness. I hope to continue to be a leader in life after Tech.

DARIN MCNEAL is a Tennessee Tech is the president of the Black Student Union. He can be reached at damcneal@tntech.edu.

Student On The Street

Callie Smith
REPORTER

What can Tech do to better diversity and inclusion on campus?



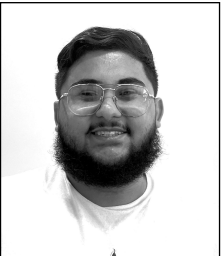
Diyron Jones
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
Freshman

"I think Tech could be more diverse by including more cultures on campus by having culture days, to basically bring more foods from different cultures. So everyone could try different cultures foods and more stuff like that."



Taylor Knox
ACCOUNTING
Sophomore

"I think we can plan more events on campus, especially on the plaza, to incorporate everyone and be inclusive to all."



Peter Wasif
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
Senior

"Maybe have more of our administrative people higher up in our university come and support the different events or programs that we have for students of color here for our advancement, and just so they can educate themselves on what they could bring to the university to support us."

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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.



Spring Publication Dates

March 7 March 28
April 11 April 24

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News content and photographs for The Oracle are provided by The Oracle staff, JOUR 2220, JOUR 3370, JOUR 4820, and JOUR 4930



Festival of Winds

PHOTO BY LAUREN SOWARDS

Kent Mathis plays the flute during the symphonic band’s concert on February 10 at the Festival of Winds and Percussion. Music is a healthy outlet for emotional expression and food for the soul.

University receives clean state audit

Megan Reagan
EDITOR

Auditors report no findings in a review of Tennessee Tech’s financial and management practices during the 2021-22 fiscal year.

“Tennessee Tech’s leadership always strives to be responsible stewards of university dollars and public trust. We are constantly seeking ways to improve upon our own high standard of accountability to those we serve,” university officials said in a statement. “The university is gratified by the findings of this year’s audit and appreciates the importance of this annual process, which ensures we continue to operate in a compliant and fiscally sound manner.”

The audit is conducted annually for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the university’s basic financial statements.

The audit also evaluates the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the “reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.”

This is Tennessee Tech’s second consecutive clean audit.

CLASSROOM: Faculty discuss academic freedom amidst scrutiny

FROM PAGE 1

Along with the bill, a mandated survey is now required to be sent to students in all public universities. A survey was sent in recent weeks by Tech administration asking students how they felt “expressing their ideas and beliefs without fear or discrimination and without being influenced to embrace any specific viewpoint or belief.”

According to critics, challenges have been placed on academic freedom because of laws such as these across the nation — and they have some educators on edge, especially in sectors that teach what some may perceive to be the ugly truth.

Dr. Arthur Banton, an assistant history professor at Tech, explained his perspective on divisive concepts in the public college classrooms and how it has affected him in teaching almost a year since the bill was passed.

“It’s higher education, higher way of thought, higher way of developing these other skills that kind of go along with that,” he said.

Along with this, he felt college students pay money for an education and that “should not be encumbered in any way by politicians” and to be educated on “topics that meet your (students) intellectual interest.”

Associate professor, Dr. Troy Smith said he feels as though so-called divisive concepts are “critical to humanity and especially education.” also commenting “It’s our job to teach people what they need to know.”

Both professors, however, see the bill as an opportunity to continue the conversations about critical topics in the classroom.

“You have to let people who have different voices express themselves in a classroom and not censor or hinder them,” he said.

Both professors believe that along with freedom of expression in the classroom to have these conversations, it is also their job, as educators, to give the truth of America’s history to the best of their abilities.

“I feel like politically motivated or culturally charged topics that people in the community have gotten very upset about without having a clear understanding of has made many of our students not only afraid to discuss things in class and our faculty as well, but in some cases it makes them fearful for their safety,” Smith said.

Banton’s opinion on freedom of conversation in the classroom was that it should continue to be protected “without constraint, as long as you’re not harming others.”

RELIGION: Students say religion and freedom can exist together

FROM PAGE 1

said to not single out drag performances.

“No type of live performance art is singled out or treated differently in these policies, nor is any student organization. These policies will be applied consistently across campus to include any student organization-led event with a live performance element,” said a university spokesperson.

The controversy and disdain extended far beyond campus borders in recent weeks.

While not targeting Tech specifically, citizens gathered at Cookeville City Council meeting last month, demanding action should be taken to prohibit drag performances from happening in the city.

Just days later, a charity event held at Hix Farm Brewery hosted by Upper Cumberland Pride to raise money for the organization was berated by a group of protesters gathered outside of the venue on North Cedar Avenue, some bearing Nazi flags, and signs calling the event out for “grooming” children. Other groups, like Proud Boys and Patriot Front were also in attendance, while a small, quiet and peaceful group were said to be there praying and monitoring to make sure no children attended the 18-and-up event.

The Oracle staff published an editorial in it’s Feb. 7, 2023 edition, condemning the hate groups, which drew some criticism from anonymous people.

An email was sent stating, “It’s probably not a good idea to call people Nazis and fascist. Especially while preaching that people should have an opinion but taking away the opinions of people who don’t agree with you (what fascists actually do).”

“Your article specifically said the newspaper is for spreading truth,” the email went on to say. “So stop using it to spread your political views. Not all people who disagree do it because of hate but because of religious views but the church got lumped on with it all because they stood up for the Bible.”

As these events take place close to home, some questions continue arise from those concerned about recent disturbances in the community: Can religion and freedom coexist? Are people of color, minorities, LGBTQIA+, and non-religious people safe?

Tristyn Fanning, a sophomore secondary education major, says she believes it depends on the people involved.

“If you practice religion in a way that doesn’t hinder others’ ability to do what they believe is right, I don’t see the problem,” said Fanning. “However I will say I don’t feel safe on campus as certain religious groups have received more tolerance than other non-religious affiliated groups.”

Dr. Robert Owens, Tech’s Chief of Diversity Officer, however, says the university is committed to ensuring that every student, regardless of beliefs or background, feels respected, safe and valued on campus.

“We celebrate the diversity of perspectives and opinions represented among our students, faculty, and staff, and expect that those opinions will always be shared through a lens of understanding and kindness,” he said. “If any student is made to feel excluded or unsafe, we encourage them to immediately share that with Student Affairs so that the university can work with them towards a resolution.”

Members of LAMBDA who were directly affect by the vitriol have their own opinion on the matter.

“Deep down, I believe there can be peace between people with different religious and political values. Peace can only happen if we start seeing people as people, instead of what beliefs they might hold. There will always be disagreements, but you can disagree with someone and give them the basic level of respect,” Peace Caelia Burchett, a sophomore psychology major and LAMBDA member, said.

The Oracle staff attempted to reach out to local religious groups in Cookeville and on campus, however, they have yet to respond to requests for comment regarding their perspective on recent events.

Leadership from Chi Alpha retracted their statement after Oracle staff stated they could not let them review the article prior to publication.

Culture

Campus Events

Tuesday, Feb. 21

Celebrating Black History Month Event – Annual Soul Food Night, Jim and Samella’s House Memphis restaurant who are featured on Netflix’s “Somebody Feed Phil” will give a presentation. Music by the School of Music’s Caribbean Ensemble, 5:30 p.m., Multipurpose room, Roaden University Center, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Wednesday, Feb. 22

Celebrating Black History Month Event – Center Stage presents An Evening with Ebone Bell, 7:30 p.m., Derryberry Auditorium, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Thursday, Feb. 23

Center Stage – School of Music – Guest Artist: McAllister and Ames, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee
Thursday, Feb. 23

Friday, Feb. 24

School of Music – Concert: University Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.
Friday, Feb. 24

Sunday, Feb. 26

School of Music – Concert: Pops Night for Trombone, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.
Sunday, Feb. 26

Celebrating Black History Month Event – 5th Annual IMPACT Cookeville Scholarship Banquet honoring Mary Alice McClellan and Lori Jackson Strode, 5:30 p.m., Leslie Town Center, Cookeville, Tennessee. Tickets at www.impactbanquet.com/.

Tuesday, Feb. 28

Celebrating Black History Month Event – Painting with Marc Burnett. An evening to paint a specially designed piece with Tech alumnus and former VP of Student Affairs, 6 p.m., Tech Pride Room, Roaden University Center, Cookeville, Tennessee.
Tuesday, Feb. 28

Center Stage – One World Multicultural Evening: International Cuisine and Linda Ragsdale, 6 p.m., Centennial Plaza (in the event of rain, Tech Pride Room).
School of Music – Concert: Tech Student Jazz Ensemble, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

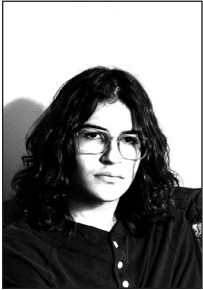
Thursday, March 2

School of Music – Guest Artist: Sullivan and Trio Village, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee

Sunday, March 5

School of Music – Junior Concert: Messerschmidt, Saxophone, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.
Sunday, March 5

Making the jump



Elliot Payne
PHOTOGRAPHER

“I’m really enjoying my 35 mm camera, but I think I am going to make the jump to medium format.”

If you spend any amount of time in the film photography community, you will doubtlessly hear this line out of many a young film shooter. Only months into their first camera ever, novice photographers will already be looking for their next piece of gear. This often is called G.A.S. (gear acquisition syndrome), and is certainly not confined to just the film community.

This behavior — of “making the jump” to the next more advanced type of gear — is shared among all types of photographers as they keep looking for ways to improve their skill. Unfortunately, as much as sharper lenses or higher resolution can improve a good photo, they cannot turn a bad picture into a good one.

While it is normal to upgrade gear and add new tools to a

photographer’s toolkit, there has to be an understanding of pace. Rapidly and continually “moving up” in gear can incur many costs to a photographer.

The first cost is literal: the monetary cost of buying new gear.

Any photographer will tell you camera gear is expensive! Often we have to spend money on art of course, but often the financially wise option is to try to work with what you have.

The second cost is time — the time spent to learn the new gear.

For film shooters going from 35 mm to medium format, there are a myriad of new things to learn and understand in order to effectively move from one format to another. Even if you are upgrading from one model camera to

the next year’s model, there is some time spent getting set up with a new camera or lens.

The last cost is a potential for wasted effort.

Even after paying for and getting familiar with the new gear, the improvement in resolution or lens sharpness does not have the capability to improve one’s photographic skills. At the end of the day, a nice camera has the same capacity to take bad photos as a potato.

The greatest tool in improving one’s photography is practice and dedication to the craft, not new gear.

This is not to say photographers should always stray away from new gear; on the contrary, it is sometimes necessary.

Bad gear can be a great hindrance to the success of a photographer. Old or broken equipment can prevent a photographer from creating good work at all. Even if the gear does technically function, being in poor condition or being low-quality

can mentally hamper creativity and inspiration.

On the flipside, nicer, newer equipment has the capability to be a source of inspiration to go out, shoot and create new work. Well-crafted gear is designed to help facilitate the creation of new art. Many camera manufacturers such as Leica and Hasselblad pride themselves in creating some of the most well-crafted, expertly made cameras in existence.

Equipment like this can encourage creativity and a desire to take more photos.

Despite this, holding the attitude of a photographer needing to keep adding and adding to their collection of cameras can be dangerous.

Instead of trying to “move up” and replace your gear with the next cool camera, take some time to create art with the toolset you have.

The old adage remains true.

“The best camera is the one you already have.”

Technology: A curse or blessing to society?

Sarah Aku
REPORTER

As you wait in line for your coffee, you look up from your phone screen and come to a harsh realization you’re the only person in line paying attention to their surroundings.

The hunched over necks and the tapping thumbs begin to make you feel uncomfortable, and you realize your mindless feed scrolling has become second nature — just as subconscious as your breathing.

There are many benefits to our society’s habitual internet usage, but the repercussions accompanying it may outweigh the positives.

When Tech students were asked to describe their relationship with social media and its influence on themselves and others, their answers portrayed the pros and cons to living in an internet reality.

The main question to explore in this matter is if the

habitual use of social media is more beneficial or harmful to our society.

“I believe that social media is almost both. We have ways to communicate and receive news about situations that aren’t broadcasted on a normal broadcasting platform. However, social media can also be negative because we hear about false news and we’re constantly looking at posts that take a toll on our mental health,” senior Sierra Bozeman said.

Although social media addiction can affect people of all ages, the constant social media exposure to today’s youth can be viewed as a cause for concern. Tech students were asked if social media platforms should implement, or better enforce, age restrictions to protect the developing minds of the youth.

“I think social media would benefit users with an age restriction to cope with the addiction aspect of it all. Age restric-

tions would possibly lower the chances of social media addiction if the user is not exposed to it until a later age,” Lucas Cobb, a Tech alumnus said.

Following strict age guidelines could protect children from the exposure to lewd and violent content. If monitored properly, platforms could prevent children from viewing potentially dangerous and traumatizing matters.

Senior Chapel Bell believes social media as a resource to society is beneficial, but the trade off for addiction, especially in kids, is not worth it.

“Social media should absolutely follow strict age guidelines. Kids shouldn’t have to be using their will power to fight addictio,” he said.

The internet as a whole has a tight grasp on society — regardless of age.

Our day-to-day lives rely on the internet for convenience, communication and access to

resources, making it easy for adults to become dependent and addicted to it as well.

Addictioncenter.com explains the intentional addictive design of smartphones is created to keep users consistently engaged and tethered to their devices.

Senior Marketing student Daleigh Walker stated, “I feel that I unfortunately have a social media and screen addiction. I feel that I have an urgency to constantly check my phone without any reasoning. I also tend to click on an app and immediately close it just to click on it again. My screen time is also astronomical.”

Regardless of your beliefs on internet usage, it is important to identify ways you can balance your life online and your physical reality.

Having rapid and unlimited knowledge and entertainment at your fingertips should be utilized in moderation and bal-

Sports

Let’s Talk Sports

Stadium sustainability is achievable



Avery Nettles
SPORTS EDITOR

Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta has become the first professional sports stadium in the world to receive a Platinum zero waste certification. This means the stadium is an eco-friendly facility. Mercedes-Benz Stadium is the first professional sports venue in the United States and the world to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Certification.

In order to achieve the highest level of LEED Platinum certification, the rating system requires 80+ points to be earned on the LEED scorecard through innovative and sustainable building design. Mercedes-Benz has a score of 88 points on the LEED scorecard — the highest score ever achieved by a sports facility.

Some features of stadium target energy reduction, renewable energy, stormwater management and water efficiency; which were incorporated into the stadium during the design and construction phase of the project.

Mercedes-Benz Stadium earned all possible water-related credits from the LEED scorecard, earning points in the innovation category. These building features help the stadium operate efficiently on a day-to-day basis, minimize the environmental impact on event day and benefit the surrounding Atlanta community.

If a stadium in the heart of downtown Atlanta can be eco-friendly and sustainable, why can’t other venues?

It may cost more to build an eco-friendly stadium, but in the long run it helps the environment while also reducing operating costs. The stadium pays less for electricity and water. The stadium produces approximately 1.6 million kilowatt-hours of renewable energy per year. That’s enough to power nine Falcons games, 13 Atlanta United matches, or 150 households in Atlanta with renewable energy. The renewable energy generated by Mercedes-Benz Stadium reduces greenhouse gas emissions and provides renewable energy for the Georgia Power electrical grid.

Other stadiums should become more sustainable like Mercedes-Benz because it just makes sense.

We want to live in a more sustainable world, so why not try to build sustainably?

We need to start planning and thinking with a sustainable and eco-friendly mindset in order to protect the environment. Stadiums host millions of people each year so it just makes sense for them to be sustainable and eco-friendly.



PHOTO BY SEIRRA BOZEMAN
Nolan Causwell, Tech’s center, dunks Thursday against Linden Wood University. Causwell was one of multiple scorers that contributed to the 77-68 win against Linden Wood University.

Golden Eagle battle injuries

Callie Sells
REPORTER

The Tech men’s basketball team is entering their final week of the regular season with good standings on making it to the Ohio Valley Conference postseason tournament. With only two conference games left, the Golden Eagles currently stand as 5th in OVC.

When asked how the Tech team was feeling at the end of their regular season and going into the OVC tournament, Sophomore guard Grant Slatten stated, “The team is feeling really confident as the season is coming to an end. We have been playing well for all of conference play, and look to continue that heading into

tournament play. We are preparing everyday by working on what got us in the position we’re in right now, and just mastering those skills.”

The Golden Eagles have had a hard fought regular season with a record of 13-16.

The season started shaky, although things have been on the uprise for Tech.

The men’s team ended the 2022 year, and first part of their season with a 5-11 record.

However, the new year brought a new start for Tech as they started the month of January with a five-game winning streak. Thus setting up the Golden Eagles for a 9-5 record in 2023 at this point.

With enough wins to advance the team to the

post-season tournament, Tech has been experiencing losses in other ways.

In two of their recent games, the Tech men have lost two players to injury.

The Team was able to pull away from the Lindenwood Lions to win the game, but lost junior guard Erik Oliver to a leg injury.

However, Saturday Feb. 11 was a night that all of the Hooper-Eblen stadium stood still.

In a game against in-state rivals, Tennessee State University, a heartbreaking injury ocured that caused the game to end early. Junior guard Diante Wood sustained a head injury and was unconscious on the floor. He was brought by

ambulance to Vanderbilt University for further evaluation.

Wood is thankful for all of the Tech community’s thoughts and prayers and states, “I am doing a lot better, still have room for improvement but just taking it day by day! Thank you to everybody who reached out and kept me in their thoughts and prayers. I really appreciate it. Hopefully I’ll be back in action soon! Wings up!”

The Golden Eagles will play their last two regular season games at Southern Indiana this Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. and at Eastern Illinois at 3:30 p.m.

All Tech basketball games can be broadcasted at ESPN.com.

Women take win over UT Martin 74-63



PHOTO BY JIM DILLON
Number 11, Maaliya Owens, senior guard for Tech, looks for an opening to pass against UT Martin.

Avery Nettles
SPORTS EDITOR

Tech women’s basketball had their last home game of the season and senior night on Saturday, Feb.19 against UT Martin (UTM).

The final score was 74-63 with a Golden Eagle victory.

Head coach Kim Rosamond said, “We have to continue to play with high energy and play for each other as we go down this stretch, and I am telling you this is a good basketball team, and we will have our hands full, but

we will need to bring this type of effort and energy with us.”

Tech’s stats for the game were 50% field goal, with a 50% three point percentage, with 15 turnovers and 27 rebounds.

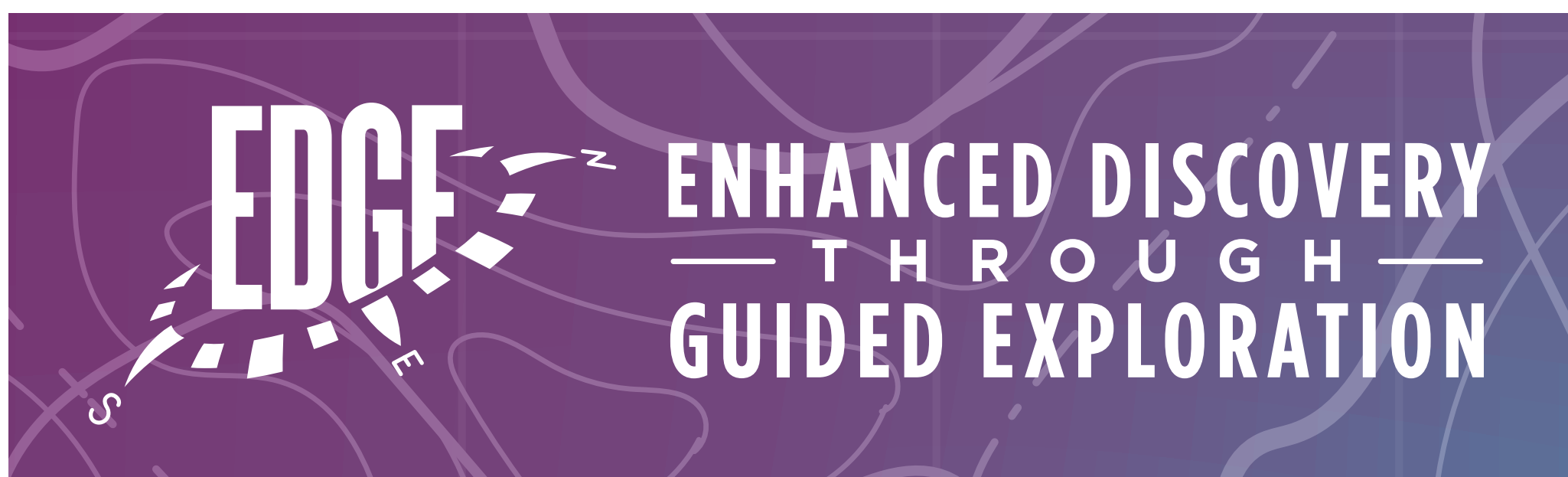
UTM had a 38.6% field goal, with a 27.6% three point percentage, with 16 turnovers and 33 rebounds. Tech’s leader number 11, Maaliya Owens, had 27 points, 64% for field goals, 4/4 for three throws. Peyton Carter, Tech’s guard number 22, had 5 rebounds, all defensive rebounds. Jada Guinn Tech’s guard num-

ber 24, had eight assists with three turnovers in 28 minutes of playing time.

Maaliya Owens said, “I think we need to focus on staying locked in defensively, and finishing out these last few regular season games strong.”

The Golden Eagles will be on the road next week to finish their season, first at Southern Indiana and then at Eastern Illinois.

They will be back at the Ford Center for the OVC championship tournament. The last women’s game will be Feb. 25 away at Eastern Illinois.



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