

THE ORACLE

April 18, 2023

Volume 107 | Issue 12

Free in single copy

Tech's primary news source since 1924



PHOTO BY ELLIOT PAYNE

Refresh and UNITE campaign signs can be seen across campus promoting both election candidate teams.

SGA elections approach with contested race

Megan Reagan
EDITOR

With the end of the semester approaching, Tennessee Tech's Student Government Association election is approaching. SGA voting is Thursday, April 20.

This year's election is a competitive one with two teams running for the executive office: Refresh and UNITE.

Those making up the teams include:

For Refresh — Madison Jones, a junior animal science major with a pre-vet focus and biology and chemistry minors; Claire Myers, a junior chemical engineering major with a biomolecular focus and a vocal performance minor; Lindsey Taylor, a sophomore interdisciplinary studies major with a business and workplace leadership focus; and Jeb MacLennan, a junior nursing major.

For UNITE — Chance Hale, a sophomore finance major; Braxton Westbrook, a senior computer science and political science major; Eli Tidwell, a junior computer science and mathematics major; and Diana Popa, a

sophomore biochemistry and cellular molecular biology.

The Oracle reached out to both teams asking questions about their platforms ahead of this year's election, and Jones from REFRESH and Westbrook from UNITE answered on behalf of their teams.

The questions asked and answers are as follows:

In your own words, can you tell me about your team's platform and how you stand out from the other team?

Jones: The Refresh platform stands for a change in SGA's student interactions and support. SGA does a lot behind the scenes, but our team wants to refresh and refocus on SGA's core goal: Students Serving Students! We have several ways that we plan to enact this change. We want to create an environment where students feel comfortable attending senate meetings and sharing their thoughts about TN Tech with someone who can make change happen. We pride ourselves on our main platform points including mental health advocacy, sustainability efforts, and

improving SGA-student relations! What we think makes us stand out is that we truly embody the students serving students mentality. Each of the candidates on our slate comes from a different background and area of the Tennessee Tech campus, is involved in a diverse group of clubs and organizations, and has a unique skill set that would make us successful in each of our respective positions if elected. We believe we are a true representation of the student body!

Westbrook: Our vision is encapsulated in our name. We want to bring this campus and everyone in it together to achieve real and visible change that matters. Our platform is designed to further these aims. Each letter of UNITE stands for something we believe in and want to implement in our Student Government. U stands for our unwavering commitment to student organizations. We plan to implement a Student Organization Advisory Council (SOAC) that would allow every single registered student organization, including fra-

SEE ELECTION, PAGE 3

Gun violence data: Increasing rate continues

Franklin McCarthy
CONTRIBUTOR

Guns have been involved in 11,526 deaths so far in 2023.

This includes 4,926 homicides, murders, unintentional killings and self-defense situations and 6,600 suicides.

These figures put the average of gun-related deaths at 116 people per day.

These figures do not account for the number of injuries guns are responsible for so far this year; however, 8,821 people already have been harmed, including 1,130 children aged 17 and under.

These numbers, reported by the Gun Violence Archive website, are updated to reflect the country's current struggle to alleviate firearm incidents.

In the past two weeks alone, two mass shootings have made national headlines.

This reflects less than 1% of mass shootings that have occurred in the first three and a half months of 2023; that number is 147.

Still, students and teachers are unsettled following the recent shooting at The Covenant School, a Christian private school in Nashville, Tennessee.

In the shooting, three nine-year-olds died as well as three staff from the school.

"It is very unsettling—even more than usual since it happened in our city. I do not understand how someone can do this," Kathryn McCarthy, a Metro Nashville Public School teacher, said.

McCarthy, who teaches first grade, said the shooter's lack of apparent motive is especially unsettling, because it shows how dispassionate the shooter was and how easily a troubled person can make a random but devastating decision.

While protecting schools is of major concern for police authorities across the country, the other recent shooting sparked discussion about gun violence prevention in every public space.

Last week, five people were killed and eight people were wounded at a bank in Louisville, Kentucky.

This left people considering how their local law enforcement is training to prevent or manage gun violence in their area.

Grady Hicks, a sophomore at Tech, says he feels confident in the campus police's ability to keep him safe.

"I am aware of both campus and local police patrolling the area as well as the many safety precautions put in place by the university, such as the yellow emergency poles that can notify first responders," Hicks said.

Spankies brings together campus, greater community

Sarah Aku
CONTRIBUTOR

Located at 203 E 9th St., Cookeville, Spankies Restaurant and Bar is one of Tech's closest campus neighbors.

According to Tech students and Spankies employees, the bar has been a vital part of keeping Cookeville and the campus community connected for many

years.

The owner of Spankies Restaurant, Steve Jones, explains how liquor by the drink in Cookeville was voted and passed in the Summer of 1992.

"Before that, Spankies Restaurant couldn't sell any beer or anything because it was too close in proximity to a church and school. I graduated from Tech December of 1992, right as

we got the bar finished and we opened up with the full bar Dec. 8," Jones said.

"Since then we have developed and molded menus for lunch and dinner, and most consider us the best food in Cookeville," he said. "We have also ended up with the best bunch of restaurant and late night regulars you could imagine."

Jones always aims to provide

customers with a great meal and a great drink to pair it with, as well as a comfortable atmosphere to enjoy it in. He is also diligent in ensuring his establishment plays an active role in helping out the local community.

"We also give back to the community through our Autumn

SEE SPANKIES, PAGE 3

THE ORACLE

WE'RE HIRING! JOIN OUR TEAM

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'A Brave New World' Of Our Very Own'

Franklin McCarthy
CONTRIBUTOR

Aldous Huxley's 1932 novel "Brave New World" imagines a society whose citizens are manufactured and whose happiness is prescribed and dispersed in pill form. This world may seem far-fetched and hyperbolized, but in many ways, it is perfectly reminiscent of current American society. In fact, reality may be worse.

Especially since the COVID-19 pandemic, parallels to several of literature's dystopian classics have been drawn regarding America's current social trajectory resulting in some truly horrendous misinterpretations of both the novels and reality. For example, the irony of republicans deeming mask mandates and vaccine recommendations as "Orwellian," while advocating for bans of drag shows, racially inclusive history, and even books cannot be overstated.

Unfortunately, the stupidity of the outwardly bigoted and prejudiced half of American political discourse casts a shadow of senseless wolf crying on the legitimately unsettling overlaps of fiction and reality.

Huxley's work implies that the tyranny of the modern world will not be imposed by the heavy hand of a fascist ruler, but it will be self-inflicted. The people will be indoctrinated by consumption to the point that it becomes their identity, and their endless pleasure will distract them from a genuine care for passionate individuality, freedom, and justice.

The manifestation of this culture in our real world is happening now with the advent of the internet and smartphones. According to the Pew Research Center, 85% of Americans now own some kind of smartphone. This means a majority of the country's population is connected to the internet by a device they can take anywhere, and they can stimulate almost any interest or impulse they may have on command.

This often means engaging with social media, as 302.25 million Americans do, according to the Pew Research Center. Pew's research also indicated that 64% of these people say that social media has a mostly negative affect on the way things are going in the U.S. today.

This is alarming, because it shows that despite the consensus reflecting a negative perception of the media, people are still comfortably engaging with it. Taking one look at current platforms reveals this comfort is not because people want to keep up with friends or relatives, but their attention is being mined by short videos.

The largest tech companies in the world have crafted algorithms that effectively know what the consumer wants, so it can then regurgitate similar content. Then, it is essentially a rinse, wash, repeat process that keeps people scrolling for hours on end.

As the world has mostly recovered from COVID-19, a main concern people must have is how comfortable we have become with media we hate. If we do not begin questioning the spiritual dissonance technology has created within us, we are in a "Brave New World" of our own.

FRANKLIN MCCARTHY is a graduating senior at Tennessee Tech from the Department of Communications and a regular contributor for The Oracle.

Colleges should invest in graduates

It's time for colleges to invest back into their students.

After all the money students have made for the university, which is nothing short of millions, students are left empty-handed aside for the paper they've been working so hard for. Students are mentally and physically exhausted by the time graduation arrives.

Institutions claim to prepare students for the outside world but fail to prepare them for the immediate change after graduation.

On the special day, family and friends surround them, cheering them on to finish their journey, there are smiles everywhere.

The celebration doesn't last long.

What is to come when the hero saves the town? What happens after the fireworks fade and the crowd goes home?

For college graduates, it's often an overlooked downward spiral: the "post-grad slump."

Extending access to resources and university programs for at least two years would give students



Bee Goodman
EDITOR

a leg up into post-grad life, whereas, before graduation, time is spent inside classrooms and learning.

This can result in bingeing, breakdown and more.

Universities usually shrug this off and pass it over as if it's a fact of life. But it doesn't have to be. Universities could change their perspective easily by putting more effort into caring for students.

After graduating, students lose resources like housing, career counseling, mental and physical health programs.

Practically overnight graduates lose the life they have been building for at least four years.

To help graduating students, why not extend these services to be available for a short period after graduation, possibly even for a discounted price, if offering these services for free causes a problem?

Discounted prices still

allow these grads access to services, but they also can fund continuing alum programs to have continued access to medical services, counseling and career services.

Career services could help recent grads find employment opportunities and hold resume workshops for graduate students.

The goal for most students is to graduate and get a job in their desired field, but the reality is a slim job market and an ever-rising cost of living, some graduates even find themselves moving back into their childhood bedrooms. Many graduates fall into the slump as their mental health declines before graduation.

"The number of students seeking help at campus counseling centers increased almost 40% between 2009 and 2015 and continued to rise," according to data from Penn State University's Center for Collegiate Mental Health (CCMH) (CCMH Annual Report, 2015).

This isn't news to college counseling centers. Many have begun

to hire additional staff and bring in medical resources for students in need, an excellent program for students on campus. These programs help students cope with life between school and outside life, and as graduation approaches, these services are dire for students, but access will be cut once students are no longer active. This is dangerous, especially for students who use the school pharmacy for medications or mental health counseling.

Universities play a huge piece in the life of students. Colleges usually send out a "welcome to the family" statement when first accepted, but cutting students off from dire resources doesn't seem to be something a family would do. By continuing access for at least two years after graduation, students could gradually wean away from the university's guidance and become fully independent without such a rough start.

BEE GOODMAN is the Managing Editor of The Oracle. She can be reached at bmgoodman43@tntech.edu.

Student On The Street

Callie Smith
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR/
SPORTS REPORTER



Brenlee Goins
POLITICAL SCIENCE
Freshman

What is the "light at the end of the tunnel" for you post finals week?

The Taylor Swift concert.



Canaan Jones
FASHION
MERCHANDISING
Sophomore

Summer break



Mason Henderson
INTERDISCIPLINARY
STUDIES
Freshman

Knowing I'm going to fly home and see my family once it is over. And once its over, there's nothing I can do about it. Just having that peace.

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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 tntechoracle@gmail.com and received by 3 p.m. the Wednesday before publication.

Spring Publication Dates

The Oracle will return next fall in August 2023.



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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

Spankies: Spankies connects campus to the community

FROM PAGE 1

Bacchanal Wine and Art Auction, to benefit scholarships for students going to Tennessee Tech's Appalachian Center for Crafts," he said. "We love what we do and have a blast doing it!"

According to spankiesrestrant.com, the restaurant strives to refer to customers as "friends" rather than "guests." Employees make an effort to get to know customers on a first name basis to further enhance their experience.

For years Tech students and others in the Cookeville community have used Spankies as a place for meaningful socialization, live music, drinks and good food.

"Spankies is a great place to hangout with friends after a long day of classes. I feel like Spankies keeps Tech students connected and reminds everyone that it's okay to blow off some steam and have fun," Senior Jacob Guy said.

Spankies' doors are flooded with Tech students and other mem-

bers of the community throughout the week. Typically their busiest nights are on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Cat Green has been serving these loyal customers as a part of the Spankies team for three and a half years. Green says she will always consider Spankies her home and her fellow employees as family.

"My favorite part about Spankies is the community it's brought me. I've been through hard times. I'm still growing up. I'm still learning. Spankies has been my family

through every single bit of my young adulthood.

Green has seen first hand the positive impact Spankies has had on people's lives and appreciates how the establishment provides a loving community to all who enter. Green praises the bar's owner, Jones, for how much she's grown as a person working under him.

"Spankies has taught me how to be a better person. How to care about other people, and has shown me how people care about others. I will forever be thankful for the people,

life and connections Spankies has brought me," Green said.

Another member of the Spankies team, Dillon Attkisson, believes Spankies is a vital part of the community because it has been around long before Tech and the greater community of Cookeville has grown into what it is today.

"The best part of working here is definitely the loyalty of the customers and the kindness they bring to our staff. It's also a great way to

meet people — successful people. I also work with the best staff I have ever been a part of, my coworkers have become my best friends and the customers also! Steve, our manager, is the glue that holds it all together, by far the best boss I've had," Attkisson said.

Open seven days a week, Spankies welcomes all to be a part of their family and to make them a part of your daily routine, whether as a customer or a potential member of the team

Elections: SGA executive committee race is contested

FROM PAGE 1

fraternities and sororities, the chance to give direct input to SGA's elected leaders. N stands for negotiations with university administration. UNITE, if elected, plans to hold weekly, open meetings with various university officials on contentious issues that impact the student body (parking, housing, campus internet, etc.). I stands for inclusion. Our team plans to create a Cabinet position dedicated to diversity, equity, and inclusion that will ensure every voice on campus is heard, regardless of their viewpoints, abilities, or other personal characteristics. T stands for transparency. We plan to implement an open-mic period during Senate meetings where the student body, through their feedback, may hold us to account; furthermore, we will ensure meeting minutes from every meeting in our Student Government (not just from the Senate) are regularly published and distributed to campus publications, like the Oracle. Finally, E stands for Experience. Our team has a collective decade of experience in student government. We have the ability, motivation, and drive to get the things we mentioned above done, and if the student body elects UNITE, we will see to it that these things come to pass. We stand out from the other team by our proven experience in student government. Not only have we collectively served for ten years in SGA, but we also have accomplished many things on behalf of the student body. We, along with many excellent Senators, have implemented numerous constitutional revisions to make SGA more responsive to the needs of students, written bills that have resulted in extra faculty being hired in the counseling center, and ensured all new Eagle Cards issued starting this Fall are

printed with the phone numbers of important university resources.

What are the highlights about your team running for the SGA executive office?

Jones: We believe each of the members of the Refresh team brings a different perspective to the table. Jeb MacLennan, our Secretary candidate, is a junior nursing student. He has a passion for helping others and wants to expand mental health awareness and resources on Tech's campus. Lindsey Taylor is a sophomore Interdisciplinary Studies major and is our Treasurer candidate. She has served on the SOLO Funding Committee for three semesters and is well-versed in the SOLO Fund guidelines. She wants to create more guidance for student organizations to ensure their voices are heard! Claire Myers, a junior Chemical Engineering major, is our Vice President candidate. She has a passion for the environment and improving the state of sustainability on campus. She is a leader in the sustainability space at Tech and currently serves as the Secretary of Environmental Affairs and founded the Tech B.I.K.E. Club! Madison Jones is our Presidential candidate. She is a junior Animal Science major committed to making sure students' voices are heard no matter what! She wants to make senate meetings a more welcoming environment for students to attend and speak their minds. She also wants to take the time and make sure all parts of campus are properly represented and can be heard! Together, we believe we will be the perfect foundation for student-led change to happen at Tech!

Westbrook: Our UNITE platform is by far the thing we are most proud of. But, in particular, our experience in getting things done is what we feel makes all

the difference. It is one thing to have an idea but another thing entirely to be able to implement it. We wholeheartedly believe that the ideas we talk about in our platform will be implemented during our terms of office.

What made your team want to run together on this platform?

Jones: The Refresh team came together because of Madison's desire to be Student body president - to serve Tennessee Tech and its community as best she could. Lindsey has been consistently involved with the SOLO funding committee with Madison for a while, so she was an obvious choice for a Treasurer candidate due to her experience working with the SOLO fund! Jeb was interested in running for the position of Secretary, so he talked with the previous secretary and felt so enthralled with the position that he decided to join the team. Madison had kept the spot open for him as she knew he would eventually come around. Claire was someone Jeb had worked with, and thought was a good pick for our team as she matched what we wanted and desired for the VP position as enthusiastic and knowledgeable student leader. We now couldn't imagine this team without her determination and strong work ethic. She really has brought this team together. Almost all of us have been connected in one way or another, whether it's Jeb and Madison's work friendship as SOAs, Madison and Lindsey working on the SOLO committee, and Claire and Jeb working on the Environmental committee. We had an immediate connection founded in mutual friendship and continued by consistent communication and value of each other's ideas. We came together in hopes of serving the student

body and continuing to improve Tennessee Tech by helping others and making the school even better than before.

Westbrook: We wanted to run together on the UNITE platform because we believe Tennessee Tech works best when everyone is part of the conversation. In other words, united. Our team comes from many different walks of life, and we each carry our own experiences into the student government that inform the way we think and work. A piece of each of us went into developing this platform, and we found that our message of strength in unity drew us closer together. Today, we are close friends, and we have the UNITE campaign, informed by our personal life experiences, to thank for that.

Both teams have slogans centered around change, so we would like to know what exactly it is that you would like to do that is different from previous administrations?

Jones: We have focused our campaign around the word "refresh", which is rooted in change, but not in the way you might think. We see that SGA has been able to do amazing things in the past and we want to keep doing amazing things by providing a little refresh! We want SGA to reflect on both its successes and shortcomings from an internal and external view. To improve internal SGA functions, our team want to introduce a program for older senators to mentor new onboarding senators so that they feel supported in their new positions. We believe that this will lead to a decreased turnover rate of senate seats. Creating a stronger SGA can give us the power to improve external relations with Tech students. Throughout our campaign so far, we have found that many students are not aware of what SGA is

and how it can support them. Our team believes that this has to do with the perception of SGA as being overly professional and unapproachable, not a resource for students. We want students' connection with SGA to feel more personal, and we believe this sentiment is evident in the way we have run our campaign so far. SGA can only be as strong as it's connection to the student body, so improving this connection is one of our main goals.

Westbrook: The UNITE campaign has two members who are in the President's cabinet and one member each in the Senate and on the Supreme Court. We have been thankful to assist President Addison Dorris with achieving the goals her and her team set out to achieve this year. But we want to go further. We believe that we can deliver real, visible change through our UNITE platform — each platform point has an actionable item that we can show to the student body so they know we are working hard on their behalf. Of these, we are most proud of our Student Organization Advisory Council (SOAC) and the Secretary of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

What challenges are you looking to tackle on behalf of the student body?

Jones: With Students Serving Students as our guiding principle, our team has been avid about hearing student opinions on the state of campus. We have heard many great ideas, but an overwhelming majority of students have stated the need for improved supports for mental health at Tech. SGA has been successful in this regard through the Mental Health Matters initiative in the past, and we want to continue working with the Counseling Center to support their needs so that they can be a resource accessible to all

students. Students are also interested in more sustainable solutions on campus and more free events that are accessible to all. We think these are great ideas and are excited for the chance to improve these areas of students' lives!

Westbrook: Besides the things listed in our platform, we plan to tirelessly lobby the administration on the student body's behalf to address the parking situation on campus, the state of some academic buildings, and the promotion of the free and open exchange of ideas here at Tennessee Tech.

How can the students become involved in your endeavors for the next academic year?

Jones: We suggest following the SGA Instagram (@tntech_sga) as well as our campaign Instagram (@vote.refresh.tntech) to stay in the loop with what we are doing if elected. As previously stated, we are guided by student input, so feel free to DM or comment on our posts with and ideas or concerns. We appreciate your time, and we hope you choose to vote Refresh!

Westbrook: Besides the things listed in our platform, we plan to tirelessly lobby the administration on the student body's behalf to address the parking situation on campus, the state of some academic buildings, and the promotion of the free and open exchange of ideas here at Tennessee Tech.

Elections open Thursday, April 20, and will be held online. Links to the voting server will be emailed to students. Polls will open at 8 a.m. and close at 4:30 p.m. Counting will begin immediately following the close of the polls. The election results will be posted on the SGA website: tntech.edu/sga/elections and social media.

Culture

Campus Events

Tuesday, April 18

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

English Department – “Leading Ladies” by Ken Ludwig, Showings on April 21-22 at 8:00 p.m., April 20 at 10:00 p.m., and April 22 at 2:00 p.m., Backdoor Playhouse, Jere Whitson Memorial Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Thursday, April 20

School of Music – Concert: Tech Student Jazz Ensembles, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Friday, April 21

School of Music – Concert: Double Reed Ensemble, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Saturday, April 22

School of Music – Senior Recital: Robert Moore, percussion, 12:00 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

School of Music – Concert: Opera & Musical Theater Scenes, 3:00 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

School of Music – Recital: Piano Studio, 4:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

School of Music – Sophomore Recital: Wesley Gaines, Percussion, 4:30 p.m., Recital Hall, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

School of Music – Junior Recital: Abby Nedeau, horn, 6:00 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

School of Music – Sophomore Recital: GweneVera Acebado, percussion, 6:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Sunday, April 23

School of Music – Concert: BSO, 3:00 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

School of Music – Sophomore Recital: Em Cluck, 6:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Monday, April 24

School of Music – Concert: Percussion Ensemble, 7:00 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Tuesday, April 25

School of Music – Concert: Airlifter Brass, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Wednesday, April 26

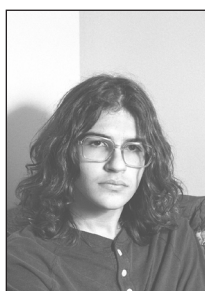
School of Music – Recital: Flute Studio, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.
Thursday, April 27

School of Music – Recital: Trumpet Studio, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Drawing with light

Is Instagram bad for photography?

It is crucial as a photographer to learn from and take inspiration from the work of other photographers.



Elliot Payne
PHOTOGRAPHER

Art feeds on the creation of new art, and getting to experience another person’s creative fruits will help your own.

Photography is consumed at unprecedented levels today. With its 2.35 billion users, Instagram is one of the largest photo sharing apps in the world. Countless photographers seek to show off their work and network with others through the medium of social media. However, Instagram is not a platform based on instilling creativity as much as instilling consumption.

Instagram, like all social media, profits from advertising. Platforms like this are able to support themselves and their expansion through the ability to sell ad space expected to be seen often.

To maximize the viewing of ads, social media platforms do their best to keep the attention of the user as long as possible, multiple times a day. In the world of social media, the user and their attention is the product, and the advertisers are the buyers.

This advertising method impacts our lives in a myriad of ways, but has a unique im-

act on photography. These impacts can be made on both the viewers of the platform, as well as the photographers who seek to showcase their art to as many people as possible.

First, Instagram is built to be scrolled through quickly. Each image is placed on a digital wheel the user can scroll down infinitely to view more and more pictures. This interface allows a maximization of ads placed between posts, but can be devastating for photography. For viewers, the platform is designed to keep you moving rather than slowly take in the images you see.

The pictures benefiting from long contemplation will not survive on the platform as well as images with a bright, flashy subject which easily captures attention.

Secondly, in order for Instagram to maintain its fast loading times, it compresses all posted images down, sometimes a fraction of their original resolution. For many photos, the small image size used by Instagram is all that’s needed. However, larger, higher-detailed images can sometimes take a hit from the requirements used by Instagram. This impacts both viewers and poster because both are unable to appreciate high-resolution photographs on the app.

Finally, and perhaps most significantly, Instagram operates using a specialized algorithm to, as said before,

to maximize use and increase advertising.

Posters are often required to abide by a very specific set of, often arbitrary, techniques in order to stay visible on follower’s feeds. This may include maintaining a tight upload schedule, use of particular hashtags, and maintaining a consistent type of image.

These can be disciplines that could be helpful to a photographer, but could also distract from the photography and get in the way of art appreciation. Viewers can sometimes miss the posts from photographers they want to see, and posters can fail to get their images to those who want to see them.

So what is to be done? There are other platforms besides Instagram. A long staple in the photography community is the platform Flickr, and a more recent contender is Grainery, which focuses on Film Photography.

With that being said, it is important to also engage with photography outside of the internet – find galleries in your area or purchase photo books or zines. These can be purchased new, or bought from thrift stores. However you do it, engage with new work and new perspectives, because without studying other work, it is impossible to develop your own.

ELLIOT PAYNE is a graduating senior at Tennessee Tech from the Environmental Studies program and a regular photographer for The Oracle.



PHOTO BY ELLIOT PAYNE
Tennessee Tech’s Women’s Center in partnership with ASPIRE raise awareness about domestic violence and sexual abuse through a campaign called the Clothesline Project.



PHOTO BY ELLIOT PAYNE
The shirts anonymously are designed and hung by survivors of DV and SA or by loved ones who have lost someone.



PHOTO BY ELLIOT PAYNE
One shirt speaks of consent stating, “If she says no or stop, it is rape.”



PHOTO BY ELLIOT PAYNE
Sexual and domestic violence disproportionately affect young girls and women, and the Clothesline Project allow for a visualization of how many have been affected.

Local artist is living the dream

Sierra Bozeman
PHOTOS AND LAYOUT



Braden Wall, a communications major at Tennessee Tech, plays at Spankies to boost his exposure before he graduates in May 2023. He plays a rotation of shows at Spankies on Tuesdays or Thursdays starting at 9 p.m. and going till close at 2 a.m.



Braden Wall accepts tips at local venues. The sign makes it more efficient for artists such as Wall to accept mobile tip transactions.



As much as Braden loves all genres of songs and music, the crowd at Spankies has their favorites. According to Braden "Neon Moon" and "Something in the Orange" are the most frequent songs that are requested.



Spankies was decorated for a frequent attendee and his birthday. Balloons, streamers and other various decorations can be seen dancing around Braden as he sings to the crowd.



Braden Wall brings his guitar with him to almost every gig he plays. The guitar is a Taylor from Guitar Center and one could say that it's "attached to him at the hip."



Performing isn't as luxurious as it may seem, Braden Wall plays for hours at a time, with limited breaks. As a new performer, Braden has fought for his place as a local Cookeville artist.

Sports

Let's Talk Sports

NCAA prioritizes men's basketball and the pay gap is evident



Avery Nettles
SPORTS EDITOR

NCAA men's and women's college basketball teams aren't treated the same.

In the last two years, the NCAA allowed women to use #MarchMadness when talking and posting about the tournament. This happened after a video was released by a player on the men's team showing his practice facility during the tournament. This caused an uproar because people saw how different the women's team was being treated vs the men's teams.

The men's teams had better food and practice facilities in the March Madness tournament.

This opened many people's eyes to how women are treated in the sports world. Many things have gotten better within sports for women but they still have a long way to go for equal rights within sports. It was really made evident with the video shared last year. This year, ESPN released a video about how men are paid a certain amount for each tournament win within March Madness.

The rules behind how teams get paid are complicated. "If your college basketball team doesn't win a game, you win \$1.67 million. A round-of-16 appearance rakes in almost \$5 million. A

Final Four run? \$8.3 million." According to the Washington Post. This is how many schools make money from athletics. The NCAA splits up the money they make from the men's basketball tournament each year, which is an estimate of about \$700 million dollars. Teams don't win the money directly, the conference wins the money and then splits it up between the teams but gives the winning team a larger cut.

Men are getting paid for winning and they get paid well. On the other hand, women are not being paid at all for their tournament appearances, wins, or overall winnings. They make nothing, whereas the men make millions of dollars. This just

doesn't seem fair especially for those whose men's basketball team doesn't make the tournament and/or only has their women's team making the tournament.

Women should be paid and have the same opportunities just as men to earn money for their conferences and school. It's crazy to think that just a few short years ago women could start using the hashtag March Madness, then last year a video leaked about the difference in practice facilities within the tournament to women having the same opportunity to win their school and conference money. Women have come a long way since Title XI was created in 1989 but they still have a long way to go.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY OVC.
Despite playing in the March Madness tournament this year, the women's team will not be paid for the achievement. Tech's men's team did not attend the tournament.



**Tennessee
TECH**

Annual Winchester Lecture

"Prehistoric Archaeology and Global Nazism, 1933-1945"

Laurence Hare, Ph.D.

J. Laurence Hare is associate professor of History and chair of the Department of History at the University of Arkansas. A specialist in modern Germany and Scandinavia, Hare is the author of *Excavating Nations: Archaeology, Museums, and the German-Danish Borderlands*, published by the University of Toronto Press, and the lead author of *Essential Skills for Historians: A Practical Guide to Researching the Past*, published by Bloomsbury Press. His work on the history of German archaeology and nationalist scholarship has appeared in several anthologies, along with such journals as *Patterns of Prejudice* and *The Journal of the History of Ideas*. His current book project is tentatively titled *The Discovery of the North: Nordicism and the Making of Modern Germany* and traces the history of German Nordic thought from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries.



**April 25, 2023
6 p.m.**

**Derryberry Hall
Auditorium**

Recent scholarship has begun to explore in greater depth the global dimensions of German National Socialist politics and governance, including the cultural and intellectual reach of the Nazi movement both before and during the Second World War. For this dimension, scholars working in the humanities and social sciences were of critical importance, and perhaps most notable among these were German academics working in prehistoric archaeology. This young field grew tremendously during the 1930s, receiving a great deal of support from the Nazi state and attracting the particular interest of Nazi leaders such as Alfred Rosenberg and Heinrich Himmler. A number of German archaeologists allowed their work to be politicized, connecting representations of Germanic and Nordic antiquity to visions of the National Socialist revolution while using the German conquests to further their own research. With such scope and influence, prehistoric archaeology offers a unique lens for understanding the broader impact of Nazism, and this lecture will consider how it both affirmed and challenged the global dimensions of the Third Reich.