

# The Meter

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

*The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment*

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Special Issue

## Special Edition

# Illegal drug operation leads to shooting in dormitory

By Stacey Diltz  
Staff Writer

In what began as a week to pledge a life free of violence, a man many students believe to be a fellow student and friend was shot and killed yesterday at Boyd Hall.

Ryan Keith "Reno" Anderson, 21, of Memphis was killed on the 6th floor of the men's dormitory at approximately 7:41 p.m.

Officers say at least five people were involved in what appeared to be a disagreement that eventually led to a chase up the stairwell of Boyd Dormitory, where Anderson was shot in the back of the head by a gunman.

Metropolitan Nashville homicide detective E.J. Bernard said at least two of the five men involved were ex-students of TSU.

He also said according to witnesses and physical evidence, Anderson was making an illegal drug transaction and committing an armed robbery before he was shot.

Bernard confirmed two handguns were found on the scene.

According to Bernard, the individual who shot Anderson was buying the illegal drugs.

Another individual who was shot at the east end of the Boyd Hall parking lot has been identified as 22-year-old Antoine D. Hester. He is in stable condition and is not a student at TSU.

At the press conference immediately following the incident Bernard said they are detaining a witness to the murder at the police station.

No one has been charged with murder, but Bernard said they have two handguns in possession that were possibly used in the what he said was "two people involved in an illegal drug transaction that led to a robbery and shooting."

TSU Public Relations director, Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, said the person who was shot did not live in the dormitory and was pronounced dead upon arrival at Vanderbilt Hospital.

She also said that at the present time, she could not verify whether or not he was a student of Tennessee State University.

"We are very saddened by

the loss of life, of any life that occurs on this campus," Brooks said.

TSU President James A. Hefner also said he could not confirm that Anderson was a student of the University. "This is a very sad situation, a human life is very important...but we want people to know that this does not represent what TSU is all about," Hefner said.

The reason TSU officials could not verify whether Anderson was a student or not was because for security reasons, after a certain time, the university computer system shuts down, according to Jonetta Mooreland of Campus Crime Prevention services.

"We must make sure the student is properly enrolled," Mooreland said.

She also mentioned the anonymous tip phone line, 963-5200, where students can call and report suspicious activities and leave investigative tips.

After the press conference, some students were concerned about the lack of information given by authorities.

In response, the Concerned Student Association

and Student Government Association held an open forum for students wanting to express their grief, as well as address possible solutions to campus problems.

SGA Vice President Myron Broom told students "I'm tired...we are going to take steps, actions."

Honors Program director Dr. Sandra Holt told students "It is time out. We are killing ourselves. When are we going to get serious and make some changes around here?"

She also gave students guidelines in making sure steps were properly taken.

Holt said "Things have to be done decently and in order. It must be well planned and must be carried out with dedicated leadership. You (students) have too much power. It can be done." SGA President Johnnie Bond later led a prayer for Anderson and his parents.

President Hefner held a meeting with the Student Government Association at 8:00 a.m. this morning and a candlelight vigil ceremony will be held for Anderson in the parking lot of Boyd Hall at tonight at 6:00 p.m.



# Student leaders speak

On behalf of the student body, I would like to offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Ryan Keith Anderson; a young man that was well known by the TSU family.

In this time of sorrow, I ask that we keep the Anderson family in our thoughts and prayers.

Additionally, please know that the SGA is working diligently to address the many concerns that surround this tragedy.

It is our purpose to ensure that the student body is safe and secure at all times on University grounds.

Sincerely,  
**Johnnie D. Bond**  
SGA President

Any questions or comments can be directed to 963-5657 or TSUSGA@HARPO.TNSTATE.EDU.

There is very little I can offer the Anderson family other than my humble condolences and sympathy. This is a tragic loss to the entire Tennessee State University community and campus as well. We request spiritual knowledge, organization, and action in this time of mourning and pain.

As leaders on the campus, we must provide an avenue for the students which is justice—the only avenue for peace to prosper and exist. Justice will come as we take precautions to prevent this situation from happening again; it will come as he survives in our hearts, minds, and souls.

Ryan Keith "Reno" Anderson is a part of our TSU family forever. We will remember him as a friend, son, and brother to us all—for those of us who knew him and for those who will remember him always.

I send my prayers and love.  
**Myron Broome**  
SGA Vice President



The Meter thanks SUBG president Jami Burnett, Stacey Diltz, Mia McNeil, Timothy O. Bond, Jonathan Gray, Ashley Jefferson, Ronald Edwards, Kwame Chavers, Demeika Thompson, Johnnie Bond, Myron Broome and the other people who helped get this out at 5 a.m. this morning.

-Ambre S. Brown, Editor in Chief