

Wright State University

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Wright State Student Body

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The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Domestic violence during a pandemic

Shaddia Qasem

May 11, 2020

As people are being encouraged to stay home, quarantine may be boring for some but can be dangerous for others. With places like stores, offices and park reserves closed, opportunities for those in violent relationships to distance themselves have dwindled.

“The pandemic is forcing most folks to ‘shelter at home,’ which can mean being forced to spend most of the time with an abusive partner in close quarters,” said Corrie Pleska, survivor, advocate and case manager for Student Advocacy and Wellness. “This can make for extremely dangerous situations for individuals in abusive relationships by cutting them off from resources, support systems and a lot of freedoms experienced during working hours.”

Statistics

Pleska stresses the importance of discerning the correlation between domestic violence and sexual assault. Pleska encourages people to remember that sexual abuse is a form of domestic violence.

“When looking at the statistics, it has been found up to 50 percent of individuals in an abusive relationship will experience some form of sexual assault during that relationship,” said Pleska. “Many who experience sexual assault in a relationship experience this kind of violence more than once throughout the relationship. It is also important to recognize more than half of reported rapes are perpetrated by someone known to the victim, making it much more likely for domestic violence to factor into these relationships.”

According to Pleska, hotlines are being utilized both nationally and internationally.

“I have spoken with a Domestic Violence Detective in Greene County who reported the rates are relatively normal for her jurisdiction, but we also know Columbus [Police Department] has reported an uptick in their [domestic violence] calls since the shelter at home order was put into place,” she said.

Where to get help

Although they are remote, it is important to remember that Student Advocacy and Wellness are still offering services to students.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

A website [<https://survivor-advocate.wixsite.com/powerbasedviolence>] is available to provide access to a variety of resources.

Pleska encourages students to reach out to her through email at corrie.pleska@wright.edu or by phone at 937-775-2727.

“If folks do not feel comfortable reaching out to me, hotlines are always a great place for validation and support,” said Pleska. “Hotlines can also provide referrals for local resources.”

Whether in Greene County or back home, support and services are still available to students, even off-campus.

What you can do

Pleska recommends having a safety plan at the ready.

“It is important for folks to be told they are the expert in their lives and their relationships, and they should trust themselves during those violent incidents. Listen to your gut. Leave the situation if possible. Contact the authorities if you can,” said Pleska. “If leaving is not a possibility, identify a space in the home without hard surfaces or items which could be used as weapons. Go to a trusted friend or family member close by for support and safety.”

Pleska recommends getting out of the house by going for a walk or a drive, as well as remembering self-care like hydration, nutrition, exercise and sleep.

“All domestic violence shelters are still open and accepting clients,” said Pleska. “These services have not, and will not, stop being available.”

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Breaking: Eligible students to receive CARES Act funds

Dylan Collison

May 11, 2020

Wright State will begin issuing mass emergency financial grants totaling approximately \$4.8 million to more than 5,700 students who attended in the spring 2020 semester.

The university will begin issuing grants on May 11 with the goal of completing the process by May 22.

The CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) provides funding to institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends meet due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to the university.

Wright State received an award of \$5,070,423 from the U.S. Department of Education to provide direct relief to students.

“We believe this effort will provide some financial relief to a broad range of spring 2020 students who experienced disruption as a result of COVID-19,” said Kim Everhart, director of financial aid at Wright State.

Eligibility

According to Wright State, students must meet certain eligibility requirements to receive CARES Act HEERF funding:

- Degree seeking
- Continued enrollment for the spring 2020 semester
- Enrolled in one or more face-to face course that was converted to remote instruction after March 13, 2020
- Title IV eligible: Student filed a FAFSA and completed all outstanding requirements to receive federal financial aid prior to May 1, 2020, and met satisfactory academic progress standards

Wright State will automatically award students who meet the above eligibility requirements. Funds will be disbursed based on each student’s FAFSA. Each student should receive an email from Raider Connect explaining the details of the funding.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Students are also only eligible for the HEERF grant one time. No additional grants from the university are planned as of May 11.

Those ineligible for funds include non-degree students; international students including undocumented and DACA students; or students who were enrolled in courses exclusively taught in a remote or online distance learning environment on or before March 13, 2020.

Wright State will contribute \$250,000 of the CARES Act funds to supplement the [Student Emergency Relief Fund](#), which is managed by the Wright State University Foundation in coordination with Student Advocacy and Wellness.

Students who do not receive a grant by May 22 are encouraged to apply for the Student Emergency Relief Fund at wright.edu/StudentRelief.

If you have questions about the HEERF grant and are attending the Dayton Campus, please contact RaiderConnect at 937-775-4000 or by email at RaiderConnect@wright.edu.

If you are attending the Lake Campus, please contact Enrollment Services at 419-586-0232 or by email at lakeenrollmentservices@wright.edu.

Music review: "It Is What It Is" by Thundercat
Maxwell Patton
May 12, 2020

American musician Stephen Lee Bruner, better known by the moniker Thundercat, released his fourth studio album "It Is What It Is" on April 3 to praise from critics and audiences alike.

The album is supported by five singles: "King of the Hill," "Black Qualls," "Dragonball Durag," "Fair Chance" and "Innerstellar Love."

Many of the other tracks on this record clock in at under two minutes, bringing the 15-song track list to a full 39 minutes of jazz, soul and humorous moments.

There are a number of featured artists on the album, including Louis Cole, rappers Childish Gambino and Ty Dolla Sign, and comedian Zack Fox. The title track also features a vocal sample from the late hip-hop artist Mac Miller, who the record is dedicated to. (Miller's album "Circles" was the first review that I ever wrote for the Guardian, so it's nice to come full circle during my last spring semester music review.)

Overall, "It Is What It Is" is an intriguing dreamscape of a project. Though it features uneven production and a few undercooked tracks, the humor and instrumentals help the record keep its rhythm for its full duration without losing a beat.

Highlights

1. "Dragonball Durag"

A humorous ode to Thundercat's favorite form of headwear, Thundercat sings about pursuing women while showing off his jewelry and wearing a "Dragonball Z"-themed durag. It's a beautiful moment of hilarity on the album.

2. "Black Qualls"

Featuring Steve Arrington, Childish Gambino and Steve Lacy, the song also features a gorgeous bassline as each new guest takes the stage for a cohesive and soulful listening experience.

3. "I Love Louis Cole"

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Louis Cole himself is featured on this tune, a fast-paced and spacey joyride that brings the synthesizers and strings to the forefront to create something truly entertaining.

4. "It Is What It Is"

This track is a really interesting choice to close the album, helping to carry the "it is what it is" lyrical motif found in the two previous songs. The ambient wind persists throughout the entire length of the track as Thundercat's vocals weave around a soothing guitar and drum instrumental. By far, this is my favorite song on the album.

Background

Thundercat started playing bass at a young age, scoring a minor hit as a member of the boy band No Curfew. He joined the crossover thrash band Suicidal Tendencies in 2002 with his brother, drummer Ronald Bruner Jr.

After signing with independent record label Brainfeeder in 2008, Thundercat released his debut solo album "The Golden Age of Apocalypse" in 2011. It was followed up by "Apocalypse" in 2013 and a third record, "Drunk," in 2017.

He is also a popular session musician, contributing bass guitar instrumentals, vocals and production to albums from Erykah Badu, Kendrick Lamar, Mac Miller and Brainfeeder founder Flying Lotus. Thundercat's work on Lamar's song "These Walls" earned the artists a Grammy Award for Best Rap/Song Performance in 2016.

I personally feel like this album is easy to listen to and get lost in. One moment, you hear the introduction track, which is titled "Lost In Space/Great Scott/22-26," and the next, you're vibing to groovy basslines and pleasing vocals.

Though there are a few bumps in the road, "It Is What It Is" is a lovely trip from start to finish with plenty of charm and character contained within its walls.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

An Alumnus with a passion for journalism

Tionna Clyburn

May 13, 2020

Rory Gilmore is partially responsible for Cassidy Apple's career in journalism.

Yes, seriously.

Gilmore inspired

Today, Cassidy Apple is the Digital Manager for Cox Media Group Ohio (CMG) after five years working for the organization. Having completed her bachelor's degree in Mass Communication, she is now in charge of all forms of digital content at CMG Ohio.

And yes, her interest in Journalism somewhat began with the Gilmore Girls.

Apple always loved to write, but Rory's character spurred her interest furthermore in making it a career. This was her initial exposure to the field.

Her dream switched to attending law school upon the completion of her degree.

However, when she went through media writing classes, Apple was reminded of her first love – journalism. She went on to work in different student jobs and internships.

She worked in the Montgomery County Public Defender's Office during her junior year.

"It gave me a great foundation for understanding court proceedings and criminal law," Apple said.

In addition, she was the social media manager for the College of Liberal Arts at Wright State University. This gave Apple the opportunity to work with the dean, as well as run various social media platforms for the 12 departments.

Cox Media experience

During her senior year, she acquired an internship at Cox Media. Here she was exposed to all the elements of the journalism field.

As an intern for the Breaking News Team, she experienced it all.

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

“I took and prioritized tip calls, called police departments to confirm leads, assigned first responders to scenes and wrote web bursts that were our initial ‘breaking’ of big stories,” Apple said. “It was high-pressure and high-responsibility, and taught me more than I can ever put into words.”

The faculty at Wright State University played a large role in Apple’s development, not only academically, but career-wise as well. They showed her that the journalism world stretched far beyond broadcast and print, and challenged her to take on the endless media formats there are today.

Apple says there is no such thing as a perfectly normal day at work.

“Digital is the one platform that is truly 24/7, and since I lead that department, my work is truly 24/7 and unpredictable, especially in times such as these.”

Currently, as she is expecting her first child, Apple must only work from home, as coronavirus continues to spread. Prior to the outbreak, her “normal day” would run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., consisting of meetings with various staff, the delegation of work, and planning.

Technically, she considers herself always on-call, as some news breaks happen overnight. Her days are now full of coverage for the pandemic. This means listening to many press conferences, constantly trying to acquire accurate information and keeping the community well-informed.

Trust and passion

Apple said one of the most difficult things is keeping the public’s trust.

“Many blame the media for blowing coronavirus out of proportion, and we don’t want to perpetuate that feeling,” she said. “We have conversations daily around how best to present the information, while providing context and balance.”

Her advice to aspiring journalists is to first have a passion for the field, as journalism is an all-consuming field for one’s life.

“My biggest piece of advice is to welcome challenges, and take as much as you can from every experience,” Apple said.

Volunteering, interning and speaking in meetings are all things that will prepare one for the journalism field.

The Wright State
GUARDIAN
MEDIA GROUP

“It all sounds so cliché and obvious, but in a field like journalism where things move so fast, you can’t afford to not be proactive,” said Apple. “The metaphoric train is going to keep moving at high speed, as the industry continues to evolve — so if you want to evolve with it, jump on.”

The Wright State GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Breaking: WSU allowing temporary, limited access to campus
Makenzie Hoeflerlin
May 14, 2020

Wright State University (WSU) will be providing a restricted time and area to allow the community to retrieve items left on campus, according to a communication email.

Temporary access

“Wright State University has your safety and well-being as a top concern,” according to the email. “However, we recognize that you may have a need to retrieve items from campus before we are able to allow all employees and students back on campus.”

The **Dayton Campus** is providing a restricted time of two weeks and restricting “A and B” areas to reduce heavy traffic.

Area A includes: Student Success Center, University Hall, Rike, Allyn, Millett, Math & Microbiology, Brehm Lab/Oelman, Fawcett, Tom Hanks, and Dunbar Library/Library Annex

Area B includes: Student Union, Medical Sciences, Health Sciences, Bio Science I, Bio Science II, Diggs, Creative Arts Center, Joshi, Russ, NEC, and White Hall

Time blocks

Two time blocks per day have been scheduled for employees and students to come back to campus: 9 am – 11:00 am. and 1 to 3 p.m.

To access the **Dayton Campus** employees and students must complete the following [survey](#) and sign up for a time slot.

Time blocks for Area A are available May 18, 19, 20, and 21.

Time blocks for Area B are available May 25, 26, 27, and 28.

“**Lake Campus** faculty, staff, and students can continue to seek permission for a coordinating, non-overlapping time block to access their offices by emailing interim Dean Dan Krane at dan.krane@wright.edu,” according to the email.

Anyone coming to WSU’s campus must wear a face mask that covers the nose and mouth.

The Wright State
GUARDIAN

MEDIA GROUP

Students and employees should stay home if feeling sick and should not gather in groups on campus.