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## The Guardian, Week of June 22, 2020

Wright State Student Body

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# The Wright State GUARDIAN

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Acknowledge, Engage, Educate: WSU's response to Juneteenth

Makenzie Hoeflerlin

June 22, 2020

Juneteenth, a day set aside to celebrate the freedom after the abolishment of slavery, has turned into a day to recognize and educate communities about the systemic racism and injustice that still exists in our country today.

Wright State University (WSU) used Juneteenth this year to acknowledge the actions that still need to be taken and to share the dedication of staff, faculty and students to fight injustice and move toward a more inclusive campus.

## **Diversity and resilience**

Juneteenth takes place on June 19 and is the anniversary of the day Texan slaves were told that they were free, two and a half years after the signing of the emancipation proclamation.

President Edwards sent a letter to the community in which she acknowledged Juneteenth and recognized that actions towards eradicating injustice are long overdue.

“As important as Juneteenth is in the annals of U.S. history, it is of far greater importance for us today as our country is embroiled, engaged, and empowered by a great national movement regarding racial inequality that is long overdue,” said Edwards in her letter to the community.

Edwards went on to say that the diversity of Wright State is something that makes the community stronger and more resilient, especially in the challenging times that the world is facing today.

“I believe our diversity of thought, culture, background, and experiences fuel our community's ability to thrive in uncertain times, consider thought-provoking opinions without incident, and nurture one another when confronted by great challenges,” said Edwards.

Part of the importance of Juneteenth is taking the time to recognize what still needs to be done and taking action to move closer towards a campus in which everyone feels represented, supported and welcome.

## **Student Leaders advocating for change**

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Leaders in the WSU community are fighting against the injustice and bringing to light issues that need to be resolved.

“Our efforts towards diversity and inclusion as a university are slim to none.” said Kevin Jones, president of Black Men on The Move and director of inclusive excellence for Student Government Association (SGA).

“Although we have had meetings and are making small strides to inclusion, equity and equality are important. We have no Chief Diversity Officer, ideally no Bolinga Center, [and] we have no department that ensures the quality of life of underrepresented minorities is the priority of this university,” said Jones.

Jones appreciates Dr. Edwards and her efforts as president of the university, but is ultimately advocating for support from the entire university.

Jones suggests hiring students to the president’s office or to the office of the chief diversity officer to ensure that work towards equity and inclusion is the top priority.

SGA President Ivan Mallett also made a statement at the beginning of the SGA meeting on June 7, stating that he is dedicated to advocating for change.

“We cannot change the entire country from the platform we have, but I am dedicated to ensuring that all members of our community are treated with the respect and dignity that they are born deserving,” said Mallett.

Members of the Black Student Union (BSU) took time to celebrate Juneteenth.

“Our Black Student Union is a fun and supportive family that cares very heavily for our community,” said Jeffrey Shehee, vice president of BSU. “This year for Juneteenth we asked our cabinet what they did to celebrate the commemorative holiday. A lot of our members had family get-togethers, cookouts, donated, and gave back to many Black-owned businesses/restaurants.”

In addition to this, they also wanted to take steps toward change by educating others on why Juneteenth is so important today.

“This year, we have also taken to the media to inform, educate and encourage the historical context behind Juneteenth and the current racial injustices surrounding us in this moment of hardship,” said Shehee. “Using this platform, we hope our voices are heard and begin to see a change where students, staff, and faculty of color are recognized for their accomplishments.”

## **Engage and educate**

The Bolinga Black Cultural Resource Center partnered with the combined programs of Sociology and Anthropology also released a statement regarding Juneteenth and the university's diversity and inclusion efforts.

In this statement, the faculty and staff announced their solidarity and support for the protests against disenfranchisement, systemic racism, and a reevaluation of and promotion of law enforcement reform.

"The impact of the tragic and unacceptable events in our nation is felt by every single member of the Wright State University community: every student, every staff member, and every faculty member," according to the statement. "We are called to mourn, to listen—and ultimately, to learn and change."

The Bolinga Center and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology assured the community they will remain committed to providing coursework, programming, panel discussions and community engagements that aim to educate the community and facilitate learning and growth.

"This social movement illustrates why interdisciplinary, diversity-focused programs and centers which teach students to identify systemic oppressions are more important than ever," according to the statement. "We must fight injustice wherever and whenever we see it, both on our campus and in our community."

The University Libraries is also taking part in educating the community by putting together an anti-racism research guide which can be found [here >>>](#) and encouraging community-wide book discussions.

"As we face our challenges of today and recall those of our past, I encourage our community to engage on this Juneteenth," said Edwards. "Engage in growing your knowledge of the Juneteenth holiday. Engage in growing your compassion and attitudes of respect and appreciation toward each other. Engage in acquiring new skills to effect the changes you want to see in your communities. Engage in actively creating a society that promotes inclusiveness, equity, and justice for all."

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Festival of Flight 2020 cancelled  
Makenzie Hoeflerlin  
June 23, 2020

Festival of Flight, scheduled for its second appearance in 2020, is now canceled, due to health concerns surrounding the event.

The first ever Festival of Flight was held in October of 2019, celebrating the rich aviation history of the Miami Valley.

The event was held at the Wright State Nutter Center and hosted more than 4,000 people. It was scheduled to take place on Wright States campus this year.

The organizers of the event cancelled due to several reasons, one of the biggest being that hands on education would simply not be possible.

“The most impactful areas of the Festival of Flight last year were the ‘hands-on’ educational areas for children,” said Greg Scharer, executive director of alumni relations for Wright State and co-founder of the Festival of Flight. “Our staff, sponsors and volunteers all agree that they wanted to protect the health of all the K–12 students who attended and engaged in such things as flight simulators, wind tunnels, balsa wood gliders, virtual reality, parachutes and drones.”

The organizers also canceled out of respect for struggling businesses that usually support the festival financially, according to the University press release.

The second Festival of Flight is scheduled to resume in the fall of 2021.

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Retro Rewind: “Appetite for Destruction” by Guns N’ Roses  
Maxwell Patton  
June 24, 2020

One of the most rebellious bands of the hard-rocking 1980s, Guns N’ Roses, jolted out of the gate on July 21, 1987, when they released their debut album “Appetite for Destruction.”

The record reached the top spot on the Billboard 200 chart a year after it was released, and has sold more than 18 million copies in the United States, making it the best-selling debut album in America.

“Appetite for Destruction” was supported by the singles “Nightrain” and “It’s So Easy” in addition to (arguably) three of the most iconic singles ever created: “Welcome to the Jungle,” “Paradise City” and “Sweet Child O’ Mine.”

Though many critics at the time of release didn’t enjoy the album, reviewers today find it more appealing.

## **The band**

Founded in 1985, Guns N’ Roses gets their name from two separate bands: Hollywood Rose and L.A. Guns.

The original lineup consisted of vocalist Axl Rose (who also sang for Hollywood Rose), lead guitarist Tracii Guns (a member of L.A. Guns), rhythm guitarist Izzy Stradlin (another member of Hollywood Rose), bass player OleBeich and drummer Rob Gardner. The band has gone through a few major lineup changes over the years, with the most famous including Rose, Stradlin, lead guitarist Slash, bassist Duff McKagan and drummer Steven Adler.

This lineup, as well as future GNR members Dizzy Reed and Matt Sorum, were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012. Guns N’ Roses have earned the nickname “the most dangerous band in the world” during their decades-long career.

In total, the band has recorded six albums together and have embarked on eight concert tours (including one that is currently on pause due to the pandemic). They have also sold more than 100 million albums across the globe.

## **The tracklist**

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Opening the album's first side is the iconic riffs of "Welcome to the Jungle," a song that has become synonymous with the Cincinnati Bengals. According to Rose, some of the lyrics to the tune were inspired by an encounter with a homeless person in New York City, while Stradlin mentions that it is "about Hollywood streets; true to life."

After this is "It's So Easy," a McKagan composition about how simple it was for the band members to get groupies. "Nightrain" is a song written about the inexpensive California wine Night Train Express, while "Out Ta Get Me" deals with Rose's run-ins with the law growing up.

"Mr. Brownstone" details an addiction to heroin, with "brownstone" being a slang term for the drug. The first side of the album ends with "Paradise City," a song that talks about the titular locale "where the grass is green and the girls are pretty." Slash cites this as his favorite GNR song.

The second side of the album begins with "My Michelle," a song about a friend of the band (the real-life Michelle enjoyed the song and loved its honesty about her life). "Think About You" was written by Stradlin about falling in love.

After this is "Sweet Child O' Mine," which is an inescapable staple of rock radio with its astounding opening guitar riff and Rose's soaring vocals. "You're Crazy" is a hard rock anthem that has an acoustic version featured on the band's next album "G N' R Lies."

"Anything Goes" details a sexual encounter between the narrator and their lover, while "Rocket Queen" features an ecstatic drum introduction, distorted vocals, and a recorded act of intimacy to close out the record.

## **The production**

Most of the songs featured on "Appetite for Destruction," according to Rose, were written while Guns N' Roses were playing various clubs in the Los Angeles area.

The band recorded nine songs in 1986, including "Shadow of Your Love" and "Welcome to the Jungle," with producer Spencer Proffer. Later, they settled on creating the album with producer Mike Clink.

Recording sessions at the Rumbo Recorders studio began in January of 1987, with the band recording basic tracks for two weeks as Clink brought the best takes together by utilizing a razor blade. T

The following month saw their producer spending 18 hours a day working on the album while Slash worked on its guitar melodies and Rose recorded the vocals.

Slash had a difficult time trying to find the right tone for his guitars but eventually used a Gibson Les Paul replica that was wired through a Marshall amplifier.

Rose's vocals took an unusually long time to record, as he wanted to sing them one line at a time. Meanwhile, Steven Adler's percussion work on the album was finished in six days.

The rest of the overdubs and mixing were finished at New York City's Mediasound Studios, while mastering was completed at Sterling Sound (also located in NYC).

### **What critics thought of "Appetite for Destruction"**

At the time of its release in 1987, the record wasn't well received by many American critics, with Dave Ling from the hard rock magazine Metal Hammer calling it second-rate in comparison to similar hard rock artists like Aerosmith, AC/DC and Hanoi Rocks.

However, critics in England were more open to the album. The magazine Kerrang mentioned in their review of "Appetite for Destruction" that "rock is at last being wrestled from the hands of the bland, the weak, the jaded, the tired, the worn, and being thrust back into the hands of the real raunch rebels." Meanwhile, music journalist Robert Christgau praised Rose's "effortless, convincing vocal abilities" but was critical of the album's lyrics.

Recent reviews of "Appetite for Destruction" have been more positive. Billboard magazine's Christa Titus explained that the album was able to reach a wide audience due to its inclusion of "metal's forceful playing, punk rock's rebellious themes, glammetal's aesthetic, and bluesy guitar riffs that appealed to purists."

Gibson's Russell Hall mentioned that it "injected a much-needed dose of '70s-style rebellion into the frothy pop metal of the '80s" as it brought together the "swagger of late '60s Stones and vintage Aerosmith with the menace of punk and a trash-glam aesthetic".

Finally, Maura Johnston, writing for Pitchfork, explained that "Appetite for Destruction" was a "watershed moment in '80s rock that chronicled every vice of Los Angeles led by the-voiced Axl Rose and a legendary, switchblade-sharp band."

Rolling Stone placed "Appetite for Destruction" at number 62 on their list of the 500 greatest albums. Kerrang! ranked the record as the best ever rock album, while the magazine Guitar World ranked it at number two on their 100 Greatest Guitar Albums of all time list in 2006.

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In addition to these accolades, the album was listed in the 2006 edition of “1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die.”

## **What I think of the album**

I’ve been a fan of Guns N’ Roses for a while, and I will say that “Appetite for Destruction” is a very good debut record for a rock band. Personally, I love the way they mess around with the structure and tone throughout the album’s tracklist and it pleases me that there’s not a droning monotone throughout.

All of the members gel together so well on this record (even if tension drove them apart later). Some of the deep cuts on here (like “It’s So Easy” and “Anything Goes”) help to make “Appetite for Destruction” a quality record when combined with the well-known hits, and I feel that anyone who listens to this album should turn the volume level of their speakers up as high as they can go and feel the rock in their soul.

Universities return to campus: How some are making it happen

Kyle Jackson

June 24, 2020

Many universities in Ohio are planning to return to their campuses this fall by implementing safe practices and modifying their fall semester schedule.

### **Ending in-person classes early**

With the fear of students and faculty potentially contracting the virus during Thanksgiving break, many universities are deciding to end in-person classes right before Thanksgiving break.

Most students and faculty will travel and gather in big groups during Thanksgiving break, which poses a risk to everyone when they return to campus.

Miami University in Oxford, OH, is planning to start its fall semester a week earlier than expected. This will allow one more week of in-person classes before their long break.

“We are planning to begin the fall semester one week early on Monday, August 17, 2020 and to complete all classes before Thanksgiving break, eliminating the need for students to return to complete the semester,” said President Gregory P. Crawford in a letter to the Miami community. “Following Thanksgiving, all final examinations will be completed remotely.”

The Ohio State University also announced that their fall semester would end differently.

“With the last day of in-person, on campus instruction taking place Wednesday, Nov. 25,” according to an article on Ohio State’s website highlighting President Michael V. Drake’s message. “Instruction in the last week of the semester, Nov. 30 to Dec. 4, and final exams from Dec. 7 to 11, will be accomplished through distance methods.”

The University of Dayton also announced a very similar plan for their fall semester.

“Undergraduate students will begin classes Monday, Aug. 24, depart campus at Thanksgiving, and complete the semester online, without the typical fall break,” according to a statement released on The University of Dayton’s website.

### **Flexible courses**

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With the uncertainty of the pandemic, universities that plan to return to their campuses in the fall are making sure that their courses remain flexible.

This means that their courses can easily switch back to an online format if needed. They are also finding new ways to combine both in-person courses with online formats.

The Ohio State University is working on a new approach to learning.

“A teaching and learning approach that combines in-person and distance methods is also being developed,” according to an article on Ohio State’s website highlighting President Michael V. Drake’s message.

The University of Dayton has prepared its courses so that they are flexible for both in-person learning or virtual learning.

“Campus will be open and many classes will meet in person to the extent possible; however all courses will be prepared for flexible course instruction to ensure student learning continues no matter the state of the pandemic and the expectations of public health officials,” according to a statement released on The University of Dayton’s website.

Miami University is also keeping its courses flexible by keeping some classes completely online to give more classroom space to courses that need more in-person interaction.

“In some cases, we may need to have courses online due to social distancing and space limitations,” said President Gregory P. Crawford in a letter to the Miami community.

## **Face coverings and social distancing**

Many universities are requiring their staff to wear face masks whenever they are not alone or are eating. They are also urging all students to wear face masks and practice social distancing.

“While our primary emphasis will always be on in-person, personal interaction, we must be creative and adaptable to meet public health measures such as face-coverings and physical distancing requirements,” said President Gregory P. Crawford in a letter to the Miami community.

Both Dayton University and Ohio State University share similar guidelines regarding face coverings and social distancing.

“Faculty, staff, students and visitors will be expected to wear face coverings in shared indoor environments and will be expected to maintain 6-foot physical distancing requirements across

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campus, except when students are in their residential household groups,” according to a statement released on The University of Dayton’s website.

“The resumption of full operations on Ohio State campuses will include a combination of the use of appropriate face coverings, physical distancing...” according to an article on Ohio State’s website highlighting President Michael V. Drake’s message.

## Testing

As the virus spreads, some colleges are planning to use testing to help contain the virus and limit the spread.

The University of Dayton is one university working on a plan to help stop the spread of the virus.

“A robust plan to test, monitor and contain cases of COVID-19 will be put into place,” according to a statement released on The University of Dayton’s website. “This will include testing all faculty, staff and students initially on campus and as symptoms warrant during the semester.”

Miami University is also working on a plan to limit the spread of the virus while still allowing exposed or potentially exposed students to continue their courses.

“We are also working with TriHealth, our local hospital and healthcare provider, to develop a plan for testing and have set up a system to isolate and/or quarantine residential students who may be exposed to the virus so they can continue their studies in place while protecting our students, faculty, and staff,” said President Gregory P. Crawford in a letter to the Miami community.

Following these procedures, many universities in Ohio are prepared to return to their campuses in the fall and operate as safely as possible against this unpredictable virus.

Book review: Beasts of Extraordinary Circumstance

Roxanne Roessner

June 25, 2020

Ruth Emmie Lang's novel, "Beasts of Extraordinary Circumstance", takes readers on a journey that follows Weylyn Grey.

Weylyn's parents were killed when he was little, and he was taken in by a pack of wolves. His story is told by those that interacted with him throughout his life.

Weylyn never does anything to be extraordinary, but it always finds him. His childhood dream was to be a man with a job while children in his class wanted to be astronauts and wizards.

The thing is, Weylyn has an interesting connection to the weather and nature. If he is upset, it rains. If he is happy, rainbows appear. However, much like any other person, Weylyn can have big emotions which lead to big problems.

He goes through his life finding one niche after another, all in search of a balance between his feral upbringing and the civilization that he yearns to fit into.

Throughout his life, Weylyn meets new and interesting people that he, in some way or another, is able to help without even realizing it.

When he was still living with his wolf pack, Weylyn met Mary. They find an understanding between them that they spend the rest of their lives trying to experience again. It is a tale of lost selves and lost love.

However, the things we deem lost are usually the exact pieces of our lives that find their way back in the end.

### **About the author**

The novel was published on December 4, 2018 and is the first novel that Ruth Emmie Lang has had published.

Her mix of the modern with the magical is a perfect balance that captivates readers and sparks the imagination. It is not hard for characters to appreciate the magic of everyday life after they meet Weylyn Grey, likewise with the readers.

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This novel is available everywhere books are sold and is available at various libraries as well.

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WSU seeking waiver to remain Division I  
William Baptist  
June 26, 2020

Wright State University is seeking a waiver from the NCAA to remain in Division I, despite falling under the required amount of sports programs.

WSU had to cut the softball team, and men's and women's tennis teams due to budget restructuring. This left WSU with only 11 sports programs, which falls short of the required 14 programs to be a member of Division I.

"NCAA Division I member institutions are required to sponsor at least seven sports for men and seven for women (or six for men and eight for women) with two team sports for each gender," according to a press release from the University on June 3.

The coronavirus pandemic forced WSU to make tough decisions on where exactly to restructure the budget.

"There is no ideal time to make decisions such as eliminating sports...the decision was made to allow the student-athletes as much time as possible to find a new school where they can continue in their sports," according to the press release.

## **Next step for WSU**

As of now, there has been no further indication whether WSU will or will not be approved to receive the waiver from the NCAA.

"Once the waiver application is submitted and the NCAA has received any follow-up information they might request, Wright State will wait for a decision...Nothing has changed regarding Wright State's status as a NCAA Division I member," according to the press release.

Throughout the waiver process, the NCAA will allow WSU to remain in Division I. They will continue to compete in the Horizon League for the 2020-2021 academic year.

"If approved, the waiver would allow Wright State up to two years to operate below the minimum sport sponsorship before they are required to bring the total number of sports back up to compliance," according to the press release.

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The decision to cut the three sports programs affected 39 student-athletes and six coaches. If WSU gets approved for the waiver, they can potentially add back those same three sports.

## **Impact across the country**

The coronavirus pandemic forcing budget restructuring isn't specific to WSU, it is happening to schools around the country.

"Universities around the country have announced plans to eliminate positions, freeze or reduce athletics personnel salaries, and cut entire athletic programs," according to the press release.

The fact that other schools have already been approved for the waiver, after facing similar situations, is a positive for WSU.

"A similar waiver was recently approved for Central Michigan University, giving them two years to operate below the minimum before they are required to get back into compliance," according to the press release.

The student-athletes affected by the cuts can enter the transfer portal and explore other options. WSU will help these student-athletes navigate through this process.

"Members of the athletics compliance staff, academic staff and leadership team are available to discuss scholarship, transfer information, academic advisement and counseling resources," according to the press release.

WSU will fully comply with the NCAA to attempt to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.