Students can donate unwanted items in Kreischer ReStore room

PAGE 2

MOVING OUT?

PHOTO BY DAVID ESCOBEDO
Student donations, volunteer work wanted for WYMO

David Escobedo
Reporter

The semester has almost reached its conclusion, prompting a number of students on and off campus to prepare moving out. Over the course of an academic year, there are possessions students may not want to keep. Donating them to the When You Move Out program is a viable option instead of throwing those items out.

According to their website, the WYMO program is a campus-wide reuse and waste-reduction initiative run by the Office of Sustainability. It aims to collect unwanted or unneeded objects students have that may be reused by others in the community. The items people may donate range from books and clothing to non perishable food and electronics.

Nick Hennessy, sustainability manager for the Office of Sustainability, has noted that donations tend to pick up once students get into the mode of doing it more frequently. Knowledge on what can be donated and how easy it is to donate is essential in getting this process started. Donations also tumble in more frequently once finals week approaches, since students will be in the mindset of moving out.

Temporary stations are set up in the Kreischer ReStore room for the beginning stages of donations. Once more donations are received, they then expand into more spaces inside Kreischer. Donation boxes eventually need to be monitored instead of checked periodically due to larger intake of donations as well.

Hennessy encourages students to donate, as it’s a great deal for everyone involved. “It’s a triple, quadruple win. People who donate are doing something good. But it’s easy to do,” he says. “And it’s actually helping you (the students) because you have less stuff that you have to pack.”

WYMO Continued on page 8

An example of what some WYMO boxes look like. These are on display by the staircase next to Falcon Outfitters in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

PHOTO BY DAVID ESCOBEDO
How the BG News impacted my college career

Meredith Siegel
Forum Editor

Coming in to college I had no idea what the next four years would bring. I didn’t know any of my roommates (I picked essentially randomly), I had no idea what I wanted to study and I knew next to nothing about the area surrounding Bowling Green. I made friends with my roommates, but I rarely contributed meaningfully to conversations or plans because I was so nervous. I took a bunch of different classes to just see what I liked, including VCT and forensic science. I didn’t make any friends in my classes, I was just too nervous to put myself out there, so to speak. Journalism was in the back of my head, but I really wasn’t sure. It wasn’t until the very end of my freshman year that I decided to commit to journalism and see where it took me.

I had a terrible intro class, with too many people, a GA teaching and very little information on what being a journalist was actually like. But still, I stuck with it taking other journalism classes, a boring economics class and literally the worst class I have ever taken: a 1000 level computer science class about using Microsoft software that was somehow way too easy and way too hard.

I then started writing opinion columns for the BG News, talking about issues that were important to me. I was still too nervous to go to meetings, so I just turned them in through email and wasn’t actively involved.

It wasn’t until I had to get an on-campus internship the Fall semester of last year that I really started getting involved, and it finally convinced me that I really did like studying journalism. At this point I was much better at making conversation, but journalism is a field that really forces you to be to be able to talk to anyone at anytime.

You have to be able to just walk up to someone and get their name and opinion. You need to be able to bother someone until they get back to you about an interview. It forced me to learn more about the area we’re in. And, it gave me some direction. I think studying journalism really forced me out of my shell and I’m so grateful for that.

Through journalism and working with the BG News, I have learned so many things, met so many people and found a great place to hang out. Joining the BG News was one of the best decisions I ever made in my college career, along with continuing to live with one of my freshman year roommates and applying for a job at the Center for Women and Gender Equity.

While I have learned a lot from my friends (who I love more than anything), my jobs at the desk and at the Center and my classes, I think I have learned the most from the BG News. It has given me more confidence and the ability to talk to anyone at anytime. I owe a special thank you to all the friends I made in the newsroom.

So, if you’re on the fence about getting involved with any organization, but especially the BG News, I definitely recommend putting yourself out there.
May 13, 2019 | PAGE 4

10 ways to be productive this summer

Mary Ross
Columnist

With school coming to an end, there are endless possibilities for how to spend summer. While many students opt to work a job or internship, there are also many other productive ways to spend free time during the summer. Here are some ways to be productive this summer.

1. Work a job.
What's better than a little extra cash to spend or save? Although it's probably too late to find an internship, there are most likely local places always looking for an extra hand.

2. Read a book.
Books are a great way to engage your mind.

3. Download a Duolingo and begin to learn a language.
One of my all-time favorite quotes is “The sum of all knowledge is not contained in any one language.” By learning another language, you not only can communicate with more people in the world, but you can also impress people by knowing another language.

4. Workout a little.
While many of the items on this list will help with a mental glow-up, a physical glow-up is something many people strive for during the summer as well. Getting a run in or simple stretching everyday can benefit anyone. Just find the routine or workout that works best for you.

5. Volunteer for a cause.
Not only is volunteering a great remedy for the soul, but it also looks great on resumes. Look for places in your area looking for volunteers, such as food donation centers and rescue shelters.

6. Create a bullet journal.
If you aren't artistically challenged or are incredibly patient with yourself, creating a bullet journal to keep track of your plans, goals, assignments—when school gets back in session—and more may be a great option for you.

7. Start a podcast or listen to a podcast.
Podcasts are a great way to share ideas, whether by sharing your own ideas or hearing those of others. Listening to a podcast can be done while doing a myriad of other activities. If you find one you like, it can become a daily habit. If you decide to create your own podcast, it can build your online presence and portfolio—if you need a portfolio—as well as connect you with other people.

8. Call a family member or friend.
While you may not be that close to relatives, calling them and talking to them can build a relationship, which most likely will be more beneficial to you at some point. And if you don't feel like calling a relative, staying connected with college friends by calling them is never a bad way to go.

9. Explore your hometown or wherever you may be.
If you are interested in getting out and about while finding the best kept secrets of your hometown or wherever you may be, this one could be for you. Grab your camera, some snacks and become a tourist in your summer home by exploring local parks, restaurants and fun places you may have not known of before.

10. Watch a documentary.
Documentaries are a great way to become educated in a subject area while relaxing in the comfort of a bed, couch or other comfy places.
Mary Ross
Reporter

In celebration of the end of the school year and the graduating seniors, University Activities Organization worked with BGSU to host the Falcon Finale on Wednesday night. Throughout the Bowen-Thompson Student Union, as well as outside and in Olscamp, a variety of activities took place, including caricature artists, “Pancakes with the President” and fireworks.

“It was something fun for students to do with finals coming up; it was a nice stress reliever,” Niles Haibach, freshman criminal justice major, said.

Not only was it a stress reliever, but it was a night of fun that many students enjoyed. Joshua Wilson, freshman media productions major, was one of these students.

“It was really fun. The fireworks were fun; the pancakes were alright. Definitely liked the fireworks the most,” Wilson said.

Haibach agreed with Wilson that the fireworks were the best part of the night.

“The fireworks were especially really well organized, but the rest was good too,” Haibach said.

While the fireworks were a crowd favorite and took place outside, many of the activities took place inside the student union. These activities were karaoke, drag bingo, crafts, caricatures, glitter tattoos, video games and balloon animals.

The caricature artists and glitter tattoos were indoor crowd favorites, often having a line winding around the room and out the door.

“My favorite part was the glitter tattoos. I got a red shark and it is amazing,” freshman aviation studies major Jill Petrie said.

More than just hosting activities, UAO provided food throughout the night, including wings, French toast sticks and donuts. They also decided to surprise attendees with free Starbucks drinks, adding to the enjoyment of the event.

“The free Starbucks was a great surprise. Everyone really enjoyed that,” Petrie said enthusiastically.

The event also featured a performance by Next Town Down and inflatables courses in Olscamp. Overall, BGSU and UAO organized an event many students deemed lots of fun and worth their time.

Despite this, Wilson believes it should have taken place on a different day, so more students could enjoy it without having to worry about classes in the morning.

“I just wish they had it on a Friday instead of the middle of the week because people have class in the morning,” Wilson said.

Nonetheless, Wilson believes it was a good event for senior send-off that was able to incorporate the rest of the student body.

“It was for the seniors, but I think it was a good event for all students to enjoy,” Wilson additionally stated.

Hunter Huffman contributed to reporting.
Video game soundtracks to listen to

David Escobedo
Reporter

Most people listen to normal music like pop, hip-hop, rock and country. And while I'm just as big a fan of "Old Town Road" as the next person, I mostly listen to the soothing sounds of final boss music from Kirby games.

Video game music is what I'm talking about here. It's an art form that mostly goes unnoticed due to players keeping busy with the actual gameplay of games or getting caught up in their narratives. There's nothing wrong with. Both of those are huge components of video games. But often times, video game scores are pushed to the background of the medium.

I listen to video game music on a regular basis, and it really is one of the few genres I listen to on my own. So, here are some soundtracks that I wholeheartedly recommend that people give a try, and also a few of my favorite songs from the albums.

**‘Transistor’**

In terms of indie developers, Supergiant Games always packs a punch in the soundtrack category. This is due to composer Darren Korb's fantastic work with the handling of most of the music. Supergiant's first game, "Bastion," had a great soundtrack developed entirely by Korb. The album evoked a rough fantasy setting which paired well with the game, given that was its setting.

Transistor, however, could not be more different. Most of the soundtrack provides an electronic beat that eludes to a futuristic setting. In between though, there are patches of serene solitude that evoke an untapped, old world setting. Then there are some feel-good tunes mixed in for good measure.

The huge draw for me though, were the vocals provided by Ashley Lynn Barrett. In one of the trailers for the indie title, the song "We All Become" plays interlaced with the fantastic visuals of the game racing by. With the song alone, I knew it was a game I had to check out. "Transistor" remains one of the most memorable games for me, and I know it's soundtrack has had a large part in this.

Top Picks: "We All Become," "Stained Glass," "The Spine"

**‘Super Mario Odyssey’**

Much like the game itself, the soundtrack to "Super Mario Odyssey" inspires joy, adventure and fun. Each area in the game has its own unique tunes that are memorable even after completing the game.

The initial area, Bonneton, has a Danny Elfman-inspired theme and would not feel out of place in a Tim Burton movie. From there, things only get better. We're introduced to a dinosaur world with a tune that keeps grand sense of feat. Then later, a large desert area with a Mesoamerican twist featuring similarly stylized music. There are also some outer space levels with songs harkening back to the "Super Mario Galaxy" games, which I adore.

The crowning jewel in "Super Mario Odyssey" has to be anything relating to the New Donk City area of the game. Big city sites to see accompanied with jazzy band performances make the area feel so grand. So much of the soundtrack to Odyssey sounds fresh, young and vibrant. To boot, many of the main areas have eight bit versions of them as well, satisfying the chiptune enthusiast in many of us.


**‘Shovel Knight’**

Though Yacht Club Games only game thus far that they've developed, almost every aspect of Shovel Knight stands out, including its amazing, chiptune-inspired soundtrack.

Also worth mentioning, this is another indie title with mostly one guy, Jake Kaufman, composing its music.

If I'm in the mood for chiptune, this is one of the few albums I could just play all the way through or put on shuffle and be satisfied with almost every song that pops up. The songs are varied enough that the soundtrack never feels stale, but not so different from each other that songs feel out of place. There is a level of cohesiveness that the album achieves that I have not seen in many others.

Themes throughout "Shovel Knight" are quick, memorable and crisp, mimicking it's tough but fair level design. Every level has its own unique track, but blends into the next quite well, never bogging down players with an awkward change of pace. The soundtrack to "Shovel Knight" is something I'm sure almost everyone will "dig."

Top Picks: "Strike the Earth!," "High Above the Land," "Watch Me Dance!"

**‘Xenoblade Chronicles’**

One of the Wii consoles' hidden gems, "Xenoblade Chronicles” came to America after fans started the Operation Rainfall initiative to bring this and two other JRPGs stateside. The aging Wii console was not anticipated to have the three titles come out in America at all, but the campaign for the games worked and Nintendo eventually brought all three here.

I had no idea what I was getting into with this game. I got it at GameStop because 15-year-old me was easily influenced by adults who wore collared shirts. But I’ll always be happy about picking this title up for the memories and playlists it has provided. The tracks range from grand and exhilarating to tranquil and melancholy. The only hindrance to the soundtrack is that I vastly prefer the third and fourth CDs in the album. It contains most of the overworld music and battle themes, both of which are unmissable. I actually gave a listen to the first CD when I initially bought the album many years ago and haven’t touched it since. Whoops.

The music from “Xenoblade Chronicles,” for me anyways, is tied heavily to it's world, more so than any other game. From its vast, open fields riddled with dangerous monsters and neck-craning mountain tops to its smaller, intimate sequences, the music was always a constant companion that still transports me to a different world.

Top Picks: "Gaur Plain," "Mechanical Rhythm," “Satori Marsh (Night)"

Read the rest online @ bgfalconmedia.com
“Pokémon Detective Pikachu” raises bar for video game movies

Jacob Clary
Sports Editor

You probably know this, but I’m a mega fan of Pokémon. I’ve been a fan of it for as long as I can remember. Because of that, I have been waiting for a live-action movie or a movie that uses the real world to combine with the Pokémon world.

Enter “Pokémon Detective Pikachu,” a movie that combines the real world with the Pokémon world. This movie, which stars Ryan Reynolds as Pikachu and Justice Smith as Pikachu’s crime-fighting partner, Tim Goodman, takes those worlds and does a good job combining them to make a good movie. They don’t just use the Pokémon world by itself. It was a good movie apart from the translation of the property, the Pokémon world and characteristics, which I loved.

I’ll be honest, most of the movie was just me fanboying about seeing each and every Pokémon translated into their live-action counterpart. It is easy to tell the makers of the film know the property and how things should look. Pikachu looks cute and fluffy, Psyduck looks creepy and Charizard looks like a lizard. These are only a couple of examples of the Pokémon in the movie, and I loved every single one. There wasn’t a single Pokémon where I thought they should have made them look different. They were perfectly designed. This movie was the perfect translation from the video game world to the movie world in terms of the Pokémon designs.

The world is also one of the more interesting parts of the movie. There is a lot of subtext about aspects of the world that aren’t mentioned at all in the story of the actual movie. I liked this aspect a lot just because it makes the world feel more real. The hints for fans of the series were also really neat. The main character has posters with legendary Pokémon on them, like Rayquaza and Articuno, which means people know about them. Overall, the world was so much fun to watch exist.

Although the most important parts of the movie were the world and the translation of the video game characters into live-action, it’s important to note the plot. I’ll be honest, the plot is one of a basic detective movie. There’s not really anything special in that aspect of the movie. The addition of the Pokémon and the Pokémon world does change the detective movie plotline to make it a little bit more interesting.

At its heart, the movie is one a lot of us have seen before. It has the typical characters going around the world looking for clues, asking people questions and finding the twists. That stuff is clichéd, but because of the addition of the Pokémon world, it makes the movie much more interesting and makes the typical detective movie unique.

This might be a hyperbole, having only seen the movie once, but I think “Pokémon Detective Pikachu” is the best movie based on a video game property ever. That’s not a high bar, but I think with the foundation set in this movie, there is a lot of potential for different movies that could be made with the property. I can say I am excited to see what might be done with the Pokémon property now that it has successfully been translated to the silver screen.

Jordan Peele cements legacy in film, television

Andrew Bailey
Pulse Reporter

Back in 2012, Jordan Peele, along with his friend Keegan-Michael Key, debuted the hit sketch comedy show “Key and Peele.” After a three-year run on Comedy Central, the show ended, and the pair went on to produce and star in “Keanu,” with Peele receiving a writing credit as well.

With “Key and Peele” alone, the two had achieved their place among the greats of sketch comedy, but this was just a launching point for what Peele was capable of. His masterful blend of horror, absurd comedy and social commentary creates marvels that can connect with all kinds of audience members.

Since his childhood, Peele has been fascinated with the genre of horror. His horror influences run from the absurd “Gremlins” to the chilling “Jaws.” These classic horror and thriller movies set the stage for the kind of atmosphere Peele tries to achieve, with bits of his classic humor sprinkled in for levity.

To paraphrase Peele in an interview with Jimmy Fallon on “The Tonight Show,” “The audience’s suspense toward what they don’t know is the perfect place to get a laugh.”

The humorous moments in his films are expertly placed for maximum laughter or meant to portray a relatable concept to the audience, such as the character of Rod from “Get Out.” This approach to horror sets his two critically and commercially lauded films, “Get Out” and “Us” apart from the pack.

However, Peele is not content with his films just standing out; his films make statements.

His directorial debut, “Get Out,” was not only horrifying but also tackled the tough topics of subtle racism and the larger issues in interactions between black and white people.

Peele depicted the “white liberal” in the Armitage family. One of the standout moments in the movie is when Dean Armitage, the father, tells the main character he would’ve voted for Obama for a third time. This line, while on the surface a humorous attempt by one person to relate to another, is also poking fun at how easy it is to be unintentionally patronizing. Lines like these and others also assist in building up the horrific revelation of what the Armites truly intend to do with the main character, Chris Washington.

Following up the masterpiece of horror and social commentary that was “Get Out” seemed to be a daunting task, but Peele arguably one-upped himself with “Us.” Tackling prevalent social issues again, but on a larger scale, “Us” shows the audience the consequences of our inherent fear of the “Other,” said Peele at the post-premiere Q&A at SXSW. By having the home invaders in the film be doppelgängers of the main characters, Peele said, we come to understand that the evil may not lie in the outsiders we don’t understand but in ourselves.

Peele’s presence as a director is strong and the anticipation for his third film will be awaited with bated breath, but the other projects he is at the helm of further supplement his legacy.

As a producer for the reboot of “The Twilight Zone,” he pays homage to a television show that captivated his childhood. While certain episodes certainly outshine others, the pilot episode, “The Comedian,” tells a mesmerizing tale of the loss of humanity that can come with immense power. The second episode, “Nightmare at 30,000 Feet,” tackles the apprehensiveness many Americans have toward foreigners present in air transport. While none of the subsequent episodes have hit the high marks of the first two, the show’s renewal for a second season provides hope for Peele’s faithful tribute to the classic television show.

Aside from the second season renewal of “The Twilight Zone,” Peele is set to produce a remake of the horror classic “Candyman” and a television adaptation of the novel “Lovecraft Country.” With these two screenplays on the horizon and a catalog of thought-provoking movies and television shows in the books, Peele has more than earned his spot as a revered master of entertainment and will continue to do so.
WYMO Continued from page 2

So, you can do something good for yourself and for somebody else at the same time.”

All donations try to get reused by those who run WYMO, enforcing their zero-waste guideline. The donations go to a number of places. Food donated to WYMO first goes to local food pantries and is never sold. Local organizations in need are also considered for some donations as well, such as the Cocoon Shelter. All other donations are considered for the WYMO ReStore event where all proceeds go to Campus Sustainability, which go towards events to promote education for sustainability, such as tree planting.

Adam Smith, WYMO program volunteer, wants to stress the importance of off-campus students having the option to donate their possessions as well. Any sort of eligible items are welcome from them.

Donations began to be accepted around late April and will be taken until the Monday after commencement. Any donations can be put in a WYMO box located in different spots around campus. There are boxes in every residence hall lobby, including the off-campus apartments, the entry lobby by the stairs in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union, in every Outtakes store and every Greek townhouse.

If students wish to help out with the effort but do not have anything they want to donate, they may also volunteer their time to the WYMO program. Volunteers are needed to pick up donations from their allocated areas and also to go through donations and make sure they are in good shape for reusability.

On volunteering time, Smith stated, “If you have the opportunity to volunteer with WYMO, it’s an eye-opening experience because you really start see how much would get thrown out and probably go to the landfills if we didn’t have this program.”

For students wanting to volunteer, visit WYMO’s website or email greenbg@bgsu.edu for more information about scheduling. Volunteers will be needed after graduation if students are willing to give their time.

Some of the clothing donations that are temporarily stored in the ReStore portion of Kreischer.
Baseball takes one of three against Kent State in final home series

Zane Miller
Sports Reporter

The Falcon baseball team lost two of three games against the Kent State Golden Flashes, falling 18-9 on Friday afternoon and 4-3 in the first game of a Saturday afternoon doubleheader before claiming the second game of the doubleheader 6-2.

The first game of the series Friday saw Kent State take the lead in the second inning, with senior shortstop Pavin Parks hitting a solo home run. He was followed up by sophomore first baseman Alex Ronnebaum getting a 2 RBI double to make it a 3-0 game.

However, the Falcons fought back in the bottom of the inning, with freshman catcher Tyler Haas taking advantage of an error to bring in two runs. The team then tied the game back up in the third as junior center fielder Jake Wilson drove in a run with an RBI single. He was followed up by senior right fielder RJ Williams, which also brought in another RBI single courtesy of senior right fielder Anthony Smith, but it would be too late, as Kent State claimed the 18-9 victory.

“Staked back in the seventh, retaking the lead with sophomore catcher Michael Turner knocking in a grand slam home run to put Kent State back in front 9-8. Freshman left fielder Collin Mathews doubled the lead on an RBI single for a 10-8 lead. They would pull away in the late innings, scoring two more in the eighth and six in the ninth. The Falcons added a run in the ninth on an RBI single from senior first baseman Anthony Smith, but it would be too late, as Kent State claimed the 18-9 victory.

“We were down multiple runs on two occasions, and our guys battled back against a really good pitcher to take a three-run lead,” Falcons head coach Danny Schmitz said. “That seventh inning was the big inning. We just scored five runs in the sixth, and they came back the next half inning and got them all back. That’s a huge momentum swing late in the game, and it’s tough to overcome that.”

Kent State sophomore relief pitcher Tyler Drabick took the win, going two and two-thirds innings while allowing no earned runs on four hits and a walk. Falcons senior reliever Daniel Buratto took the loss, allowing three earned runs on one hit and a pair of walks over three batters faced.

Sunday’s game was pushed back to Saturday for a doubleheader due to impending rain. The first game of the doubleheader got started with Kent State taking the lead as Turner got an RBI groundout for a 1-0 advantage in the first inning. Kent State again doubled the advantage as O’Brien added an RBI single, but the Falcons quickly got the run back as Minori grabbed an RBI single in the bottom of the inning.

However, Kent State returned in the fifth with a solo homer courtesy of freshman designated hitter Justin Kirby, but the Falcons again came back in the bottom of the inning with senior designated hitter Gama Martinez scoring on a throwing error to make it 3-2. Kent State restored the advantage in the seventh with another O’Brien RBI single, and while Williams added an RBI single for the Falcons in the bottom of the inning, they would be unable to complete the comeback as Kent State took the 4-3 victory to win the series.

“We put some pressure on their defense, they made some mistakes and we capitalized on that,” Schmitz said. “Hopefully that’ll give us a confidence booster going into the last week of the season.”

The series was also the final home matchup for 11 senior Falcon players, with Williams, designated hitter Brad Croy, Jeff Scott, Lambert, Martinez, Cam Daugherty, Junior pitcher John Matthews earned the win for Kent State, going four and two-thirds innings in relief while giving up one earned run on one hit and one walk, while Falcons freshman pitcher Tyler Hays was hit with the loss, giving up two earned runs on six hits and a pair of walks over six innings pitched.

In the second game of the doubleheader, the Falcons offense got on the board first with sophomore first baseman Adam Furnas hitting an RBI sacrifice fly and freshman third baseman Ryan Johnston adding an RBI double for a 2-0 second inning lead. The team then doubled the lead in the third inning with senior shortstop Neil Lambert getting an RBI fielder’s choice and sophomore left fielder Dylan dohano scoring a run on an error.

The team tacked on two more runs with a 2 RBI single from Williams in the sixth, but Kent State had some momentum late as sophomore catcher Kevin Dobos and Turner each had an RBI double in the seventh and eighth innings respectively. It wouldn’t be enough, though, as the Falcons took the 6-2 win to finish out their final home series of the season.

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I told the assistant coaches to make the lineups, so I have to give (hitting coach) Ryan Shay credit for that one,” Schmitz said. “That was his idea and I thought it was a nice touch to senior day.”

The team will next play on Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons on the road against the Northern Illinois Huskies to close out the regular season.
The Houston Rockets have recently been voicing their frustrations to the NBA about how they believe they were robbed in last year’s playoffs. They have claimed that there was a total of 81 missed calls in Game 7 of last year’s series against the Golden State Warriors in a memo that they intended to send to the league. Within the memo, they also claimed that “Referees likely changed the eventual NBA champion,” in which the league disagreed with. The memo also stated how they believe that the league should add a fourth ref on the court and that the league make full-game reports available to every team. The Rockets truly believe that they would have won the 2018 NBA Finals had they gotten a few more calls to go their way, which I do not think is entirely true.

In Game 7 of the series, the Rockets missed an NBA record 37 threes on 44 attempts, with 27 of those misses being in a row. James Harden himself went 2-13 from behind the arc and had also missed 18 consecutive threes from Game 6 and 7 combined. Despite the terrible display of second-half shooting, they also surrendered a 15-point lead. It is kind of hard to argue that you would have won the game, let alone a championship if you had received a couple of more foul calls when you are shooting that poorly as a team from three. Every team loves to start blaming the officials when they are playing badly and basically trying to force the refs into giving them some pity calls. Just because you aren’t hitting shots does not mean that the refs should be more generous with their foul calls, they are just going to call the game as fairly as they can. Having said that, I can see where the Rockets are coming from in terms of the Warriors getting some favorable calls throughout this year’s playoffs.

The NBA refs have been terribly inconsistent in this year’s playoffs with fouls on three-pointers. In this year’s rematch between the Rockets and Warriors, there has been a lot of controversy with the Warriors getting more fouls on three-pointers than the Rockets. In Game 1 alone there seemed to have been at least four missed calls on three-point attempts between James Harden and Chris Paul along. James Harden takes a lot of contested three-pointers, and nearly almost every time it looked like Klay Thompson or Draymond Green fell in his landing area on their closeouts. Sure, Harden loves to be overly dramatic to get some extra calls but in this situation, he has a valid argument. Also, in Game 1, Chris Paul clearly got fouled on a straight away three by Shaun Livingston and did not receive a call which resulted in CP3 and Mike D’Antoni receiving technical fouls. A potential four-point play turned into two free throws for the Warriors and their eventual victory in that game.

The inconsistency on these calls have left players and coaches very confused on what is actually a foul on the jump shooter. This has been an issue for the last couple of years, but it has been magnified in this year’s playoffs. The rule states that you must let the shooter land and is entitled to space to land without obstruction. This was looked at more closely when Kawhi Leonard landed on Zaza Pachulia’s foot and was out for the rest of the series against the Warriors. Half of the time someone takes a three the shooter is getting knocked over or lands on someone’s foot. The Rockets do have a somewhat valid argument when it comes to lack of fouls on three-pointers and the efforts to improve on those calls need to get better. A portion of their memo stated that “the efforts made to improve the referees have been too slow, not extensive enough and have been held back by entrenched referees who are resisting reform.” I agree with this statement; it seems like the league is telling everyone that they are working to “improve” on making these calls but really not making any changes. If this continues it will just lead to more controversy and player frustration that the league just does not need any more of.

At the end of the day, nobody is perfect and NBA refs will miss calls, which has always been a part of the game and always will be. Players just want to see an effort being made in trying to improve on the consistency of the calls and to just make the game as even as possible. The Rockets are probably very accurate in their report, and they do have a valid argument. However, just because you did not receive a few more foul calls, does not mean that they would have won the NBA Finals. Hopefully, we see some improvement next season on the consistency of these calls, and also receive a clearer definition of what constitutes a foul.
Domestic abuse survivor shares advocacy story

Brianna Blackburn
Reporter

Domestic abuse survivor and 73-year-old widow, Sheila Jones, has experienced a variety of abuse throughout her life but along the way helped others find their own survivor skills. When Jones was 5 years old, she experienced her first encounter with sexual abuse by the hands of her alcoholic father, but it was not until age 11 she ran away from home.

“The first time I ran away, I got picked up by the police and was brought to the station. I remember wanting to stay there because I felt safe, but of course, I was picked up by my dad, not my mom,” she said.

According to Jones, the sexual abuse continued throughout her childhood, which led her to run away again.

“The second time I ran away I was 13. This time the police came to our apartment, and they searched my belongings because they could tell something was wrong since this was the second time I ran away. I told the police about my dad, and they told my mother. She said she would never forgive me for telling the police what my dad had done,” Jones said. Jones and her mother did not have a close relationship, and she got little help from the police to get out of the situation.

“Growing up, child abuse was pretty much kept under the roof. It had to be really severe for the police to step in and do anything,” Jones said.

Jones explained that circumstances were so bad at home, she moved out at age 16 and later got married. She and her husband had two children, but the marriage did not end well when Jones discovered his multiple adulteries and confronted him on it.

“A few times he tried to get violent with me, so I faked a seizure. He didn’t try again,” Jones said.

As time went on and the infidelity continued, Jones said she decided she wanted a divorce, which intensified the situation.

“He came to my doorstep drunk and put a gun to my face,” Jones said. “I told him he better make the shot count because that was the only one he would get. He never fired the gun.”

Jones attributed her little knowledge of how to get out of the abuse as a child and young adult to her passion for helping people out of abusive relationships and situations.

“Going forward in my adult life, I knew I wanted to get involved with domestic abuse. I opened my home up to be a safe house (an emergency shelter) for women and families who were abused with the domestic violence shelter, LACASA, in Howell, Michigan.”

Even when Jones began to get involved helping families in the 1980s, she witnessed a lack of assistance from the police.

“A lot of times we would be asked to sit in the courtroom. I heard officers tell men to make sure to take the woman or child to the basement next time, so the neighbors wouldn’t call the police.”

Although she experienced setbacks from the legal system, Jones learned a lot about abusive relationships as a safe house host.

“It takes a domestic violence survivor seven times before they will leave their partner,” Jones said. “I had one woman leave my house and not tell me, but she left a note. Everyone who stayed with me were picked up by state police, brought to my house and knew they weren’t supposed to tell anyone who I was or where they were, but this woman called her husband and had him pick her up,” Jones said. “Her brother was an escaped convict who had murdered someone, so at this point my immunity was broken, and I could no longer have my home as a safe house.”

At this point, Jones was a single mother of two teenage sons, worked a full-time job

Domestic abuse survivor Continued on page 12
Domestic abuse survivor Continued from page 11

and was taking college classes, but she didn't want to quit helping people. She started small groups for women she knew, who were abused and helped them process their emotions by talking openly together about their experiences. Jones also worked at a domestic abuse hotline called HelpLine in Marion, Ohio, as a sexual assault first responder.

“I would go to the hospital and process what happened with the survivor. I would introduce myself, ask them if I could enter the room, ask them if I could sit down and ask them if I could stay. Asking questions about permission would help the survivor regain the power they lost and help them feel safe. If they accepted the help, I would stay with them through the police interview and the forensic examination,” Jones said.

Jones explained first responders like herself were thoroughly trained to help the survivor, file a report about what they observed and communicate to HelpLine what steps the survivor wanted to take next. They were also trained to be wary of human trafficking situations because sometimes the “handler” would enter the hospital room posing as a family member.

“You had to discern whether or not a family member was who they said they were,” Jones said.

While many of these situations were dangerous, she said it felt normal to her to help. Despite her past, Jones remarried. After a couple years of a happy marriage, her second husband was diagnosed with cancer and dementia. She said the sickness affected his mental health, and he began to be verbally abusive. When her second husband died, she said she wanted to focus on caring for herself and continuing to help other survivors.

“I’ve always been a survivor. To me, that’s important when you’re trying to help someone else find their own survivor skills. Once you find that, you’re not going to be defeated. You might be broke physically, emotionally and financially, but you’re not going to be defeated,” Jones said.

Jones doesn’t volunteer at HelpLine anymore but still considers herself to be an advocate and likes to remain educated on how she can help survivors.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline defines domestic abuse on their website as “a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship.”

There are many domestic abuse shelters and hotlines throughout Ohio for those experiencing verbal, physical or sexual abuse. The Cocoon in Bowling Green offers a 24-hour hotline for those experiencing abuse seven days a week. They also offer emergency safe shelters, safety planning support, support groups and medical advocacy, including rape kit exams, court advocacy, emergency food, clothing and care items.

Nicole Cater, BGSU student and advocate at the Cocoon, said working in the advocacy community for the last three months has opened her eyes to how often domestic abuse occurs.

“I wanted to have a job that I knew would make a difference and not just a job that doesn’t change anything. I know my job is helping change people’s lives for the better,” Cater said.

The Cocoon appears to have not only made an impact in the lives of the survivors they help but also the lives of its volunteers.

“Every day I see the Cocoon helping people who have nowhere else to turn or anyone else to go to, and we get to provide them with life-changing and lifesaving resources. Pretty much every time you interact with someone, you can just tell you are making a difference,” Cater said.

BGSU students can also seek help at the on-campus Counseling Center. Pre-doctoral psychology intern and counselor Shannon Henry said students can receive individualized or group therapy, including a group for sexual assault survivors.

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