

# The Gonzaga Bulletin

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## GAMEDAY IS HERE

### GONZAGA vs. KENTUCKY

SPOKANE ARENA | NOV. 20 @ 4:30

	Kentucky	Gonzaga
points per game	17.4	18.4
assists per game	1.1	2.1
rebounds per game	15.2	6.4
field goal %	60.6%	61.9%

PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK WEAVER | KENTUCKY KERNEL

GRAPHIC BY MADDIE BUTZ

## Suspects arrested in connection with Patriot Front vandalism

The Patriot Front is an alt-right white nationalist group based out of Texas with ties in the Pacific Northwest

By SYDNEY FLUKER

Two acts of vandalism promoting anti-Indigenous messages by the far-right hate group Patriot Front occurred on Gonzaga University's campus, on Oct. 25 and Nov. 5. The vandalism has sparked campuswide conversations about the presence of hate groups and the attack on Indigenous voices.

"I've been here for 18 years and I don't think I've ever experienced anti-

Indian messaging like that," said Wendy Thompson, director of GU's Office of Tribal Relations (OTR).

At a time when large aspects of Native American rights are being decided by the Supreme Court, Thompson also acknowledged the increased presence of far-right hate groups and anti-Indigenous messaging.

Last year, OTR increased its staff size from one to three, hiring Leah Simeon and Jeremy Rouse as coordinators of Native

student accompaniment. Thompson said their growing presence on campus might have made the university more of a target for the hateful sentiments.

"They think that settler colonialism requires the elimination of the native, and it's important to name things like that so that people understand it," Thompson said.

Native people continue to exist, maintain relationships with their homelands and resist acts of settler colonialism, Thompson said.

Simeon and Rouse emphasized the intentionality and invisibility of settler colonialism in the U.S., recognizing systems in place that have continued the oppression of Native Americans. Rouse particularly highlighted the narrative of Native Americans being seen as conquered or needing the saving of white people. He said he believes this narrative has been perpetuated both by the overt rhetoric of Patriot Front and oppressive systems.

SEE VANDALISM PAGE 3

## International students find connection through ISU

By DOMINIC PE BENITO

Gonzaga University's International Student Union (ISU) is an inclusive group for international students and non-international students to bond over their cultural differences and experiences.

According to the ISU President, Kamil Maharramov, the main goal of ISU this year is to build community among students from almost 50 different cultural backgrounds.

"We're trying to build a community as a whole and combine different cultures, but sometimes it can be hard since we have members from around 47 different countries," Maharramov said. "It's really hard to make an informational session about each country in a meeting so it's easier to reflect on numerous cultures as a whole because people come from different cultures and there's unity through this."

Maharramov said that he was offered the position since he understood the feelings of being an international student in the past and having exposure to living in the United States with a

green card. Through this, he is able to lead the ISU community through two perspectives and help guide members through their needs.

Maharramov said that being a part of ISU is important to his personal life.

"ISU is a community where I can express my own thoughts and get to know more people from different cultures, get more knowledge and engage more with international students," Maharramov said. "I am able to help people understand that there is nothing for them to be afraid of and that the community in United States is welcoming."

Similarly, ISU Vice President, Michael Zhang said that ISU holds personal significance for him.

"ISU is an organization that unites all students, not just international students, but also American students so we can have a platform to express all our thoughts," Zhang said. "For me, it's more of a place where you have a great time and meet other people to make friends."



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

SEE ISU PAGE 2 International Student Union hosts an annual dinner to celebrate their cultures.

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# Servant leadership anthology features GU scholarship

By CONNOR CAMPBELL

The field of leadership studies has long been looked at through a white, male lens, but a new anthology featuring a multitude of contributors connected to Gonzaga University strives to change that.

“Servant-Leadership, Feminism, and Gender Well-Being: How Leaders Transcend Global Inequities through Hope, Unity, and Love” is a new anthology being published by SUNY Press. Out of its 26 chapters, 19 were written by either GU faculty, alumni or students in GU’s doctoral program in leadership studies.

According to Shann Ray Ferch, a professor of leadership studies at GU and a contributor and editor of the anthology, much of the writing done throughout western history has been dominated by white, male voices. But, in the last 50 or so years, there has been an attempt to try to shift and decenter that dominant culture.

“This anthology is ... trying to heal and repair an over-centering of the white male gaze into a centering of nondominant culture around one specific area of leadership called servant leadership, and servant leadership itself is fundamentally a decentering of the self and the centering of the beloved other,” Ferch said.

According to Ferch, servant leadership was founded by Robert K. Greenleaf, a former executive at AT&T. Greenleaf created a focus on diversity at the company and increased diversity at the company by hundreds of percentage points. He believed in the idea that true people look to serve others not themselves.

“I would say at this point it’s a very well-known way of

approaching leadership and it’s very different than other approaches,” Ferch said. “It’s not prescriptive, it’s not a one, two, three design.”

The leadership model focuses on creating an environment where leaders don’t see themselves as people with power but as servants to others through what Ferch called the best test of servant leadership.

“The best test is that others around you become more wise, more free, more autonomous, more healthy and better able to serve others, and the least privileged of society would be benefited, or at least not further deprived,” Ferch said.

Jennifer Tilghman-Havens is another one of the many contributors who are connected to GU. She is a doctoral candidate in GU’s leadership studies program and serves as the executive director for the Center for Jesuit Education at Seattle University.

Tilghman-Havens’ chapter, titled “The Will to (Share) Power: Privilege, Possibility, and the Servant-Leader” acknowledges the dominant lens through which leadership is looked at and the new ways we can conceive leadership.

“The chapter is an attempt to bring servant leadership into conversation with critical race theory, critical leadership studies and critical feminist theory in order to ... take servant leadership to the next level in terms of what it would mean as a vehicle for really a more liberatory way of leading,” Tilghman-Havens said.

According to Tilghman-Havens, this publication is an important contribution to servant leadership studies, especially because servant leadership was developed out of the white male lens.

“This book is trying to say, ‘Well, what if we look at

servant leadership from a variety of lenses, in particular through the lens of gender and feminism?’ And so, I think it’s new in terms of the lens and perspective,” Tilghman-Havens said.

While the anthology is a new collection of works, all the chapters in it were originally published in the International Journal of Servant-Leadership, a journal put together by GU.

“Over the years at Gonzaga we’ve housed the International Journal of Servant-Leadership and myself and Dr. Jiyong Song are the editors of that, along with the senior advisory editor Larry Spears, who is the most well-known kind of writer in servant leadership in the last 30 years and he’s also the Gonzaga servant leadership scholar,” Ferch said.

Both Ferch and Tilghman-Havens emphasized the wide-ranging effort and important contributions of all the writers who have chapters in the anthology. Chapters were written by people from all over the world. Many of the chapters were completed by people who received or are in the progress of receiving their doctorate from GU, some chapters were written by master’s students, and one was written while a student was an undergrad at GU.

“Dr. Shann Ferch was really the convener of the group of us that came together,” Tilghman-Havens said. “But our editor Jiyong Song and my other contributors were just phenomenal to work with. So, it was a rare opportunity to work with an excellent team, to create something together.”

*Connor Campbell is a copy editor.*

## ISU

Continued from Page 1

Zhang said that it is vital that ISU continues to embrace cultural differences and build connections among international students as well as American students. He also talked about how he hopes to expose other international students to these cultures.

“I’m from China so I know a lot of Chinese international students and most of them are shy with making friends,” Zhang said. “This is one of the reasons I wanted to get into ISU so I could try to get more Chinese students into the club and help them learn different cultures and experience more because I think that’s one of the main reasons you study abroad.”

ISU Treasurer Juan Orellana said that ISU helped him find connections at GU.

“I joined ISU last year to see if I could find any international students from different backgrounds like myself, who is an international student from El Salvador,” Orellana said. “I lived and went to school in Singapore and I remember diversifying myself in all these different cultures and all these people from different backgrounds which was a refreshing experience and it made me feel like I belong and ISU is the same vibe.”

Orellana further explained how the exposure to people who experienced

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**ISU is a community where I can express my own thoughts and get to know more people from different cultures, get more knowledge and engage more with international students.**

*Kamil Maharramov, ISU president*

similar situations as an international student helped facilitate making friendships and also helped people understand each other’s backgrounds. He said being a part of ISU feels like a bridge between all the different cultures and that people similarly are finding their place at a new school and country they are not from.

Maharramov said that ISU is also focusing on being a family to members in the club and how international students can feel stressed as some are homesick and not able to return home due to their visas. Many of them are worried about what to do with their futures of returning to their families or staying in the U.S., he said.

He also said that this semester is mostly built around giving a family to ISU members, while next semester will be focused on finding alumni who used to be international students to help advise current students with finding which visa is best for them, their experience studying abroad and provide any guidance that members may need.

It is through these values of building a community through similar experiences and presenting different cultures among members that the club strives to lead by to bring unity among the members of ISU.

Maharramov, Zhang and Orellana said they hope for ISU’s population to grow

to represent international students and also help them with their adjustment to a new environment. They also want people to understand that ISU is an inclusive club and that they welcome people of all cultures, as they are open to learning more about different cultures and helping create friendships.

ISU’s International Education Week began Monday and ends on Friday. The week will end with an ISU Thanksgiving Food Fest. Students from ISU will be tabling throughout the week to share a piece of their different cultures to the GU community.

The ISU Thanksgiving Food Fest is sponsored by International Student and Scholar Services and will consist of numerous performances from ISU members and other cultural clubs. Dinner will also have multiple cultures represented as the club hopes to share all cultures that impact GU.

ISU meets on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the Center for Global Engagement in the John J. Hemmingson Center. For information on ISU events refer to their Instagram page @gonzaga.isu.

*Dominic Pe Benito is a diversity editor.*



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# SACNAS president presents gene research

Emiliano Soto-Romero went to the National Diversity in STEM Conference — a multidisciplinary and multicultural event featuring research, professional developmental sessions, keynote speakers and more

By SYDNEY FLUKER

After two years of working in biology professor Laura Diaz-Martinez's lab, Emiliano Soto-Romero presented his findings at the National Diversity in STEM Conference (NDiSTEM) hosted by the Society for the Advancements of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS).

Soto-Romero, a senior biology major and president of Gonzaga University's SACNAS chapter, traveled to Puerto Rico under a full travel scholarship granted by SACNAS with Diaz-Martinez to present at the conference, which had over 6,000 registrants.

"It was really impactful to see just people who look like me or have the same background as me having Ph.Ds or getting Ph.Ds in cell biology at very good institutions," Soto-Romero said. "Just getting to see that was inspiring because if they can do it, I can also do it."

Diaz-Martinez also presented the innovations in teaching she has been implementing in her classes and labs.

"One of the most energizing things for me was that it was probably 75% people from marginalized communities..." Diaz-Martinez said. "It was just very empowering to be in a place where you see that it is possible that there is a force of scientists from a diversity of communities that already exist, and we can definitely make science more diverse if we want to."

Soto-Romero said he talked to at least 10 colleges about graduate programs during an exhibition with over 100 graduate program representatives.

"Getting exposure to a lot of different people from different backgrounds in STEM was really the most important part," Soto-Romero said. "Before this conference, I was set on finding a job after college and then studying on my own for the MCAT and all that, but now I think I'm going to do a postdoc program after graduation, do one or two years of research and preparation."

Soto-Romero joined Diaz-Martinez's lab in fall of 2020 and has worked year-round researching since. According to Diaz-Martinez, the lab examines the functions of three selected genes that the researchers believe are working together. So far, the results suggest that some of these genes might be involved in how cells respond to lesions in their DNA.

Soto-Romero presented the lab's research, which included work done by the other biology students working in the lab. The researchers are still doing experiments to corroborate the current results as well as to test for other potential functions for these genes.

"It's a team effort, but he's definitely been working really hard on that," Diaz-Martinez said.

Soto-Romero hopes to be an oncologist or a scientist working in cancer cell research and cancer biology, which aligns



NICO LOPEZ IG: nlopezphotography

SACNAS president Emiliano Soto-Romero presented cell biology research at NDiSTEM.

well with the work being done in Diaz-Martinez's lab.

"It's been a good experience because graduate and medical schools are looking for that," Soto-Romero said. "This research in particular, biology and human genes, is very focused on what I want to do in the future... This is one of the most important experiences I've had at Gonzaga, if not the most important."

Soto-Romero is one of the founding members of GU's SACNAS chapter, which started in spring of 2021. Diaz-Martinez emailed him asking if he would be interested in taking part in forming a chapter of SACNAS at GU at the end of fall 2020, kickstarting his time in SACNAS. The other original advisors, Carla Bonilla and Amanda Braley, are no longer at GU.

Soto-Romero assumed the position as president at the end of last semester after the previous president, Andrew Jimenez, graduated.

"This is one of the first leadership experiences I've had, so I think getting into that position of leadership is good," Soto-Romero said. "You learn how to manage people and be responsible for an organization, and that's important to have."

Soto-Romero participated in a pre-

conference retreat for SACNAS chapter leaders where they discussed their successes and struggles as chapters. He said the retreat was beneficial because it gave chapter leaders ideas of how to improve and what to avoid from others' experiences.

Hailing from San Jose, California, Soto-Romero attended Bellarmine College Preparatory for high school, where he found his interest in science. He said he loves science and he enjoys exploring the mechanisms that allow for life to exist.

"That really kind of solidified my interests for science and how I want to use it to better people's lives and use it for the better good, for the common good," Soto-Romero said.

He was accepted to GU as a biochemistry major but switched to biology after realizing more of his interests lie within biology's realm.

As a first-generation student, Soto-Romero is setting the path for his two little brothers to attend college. His little brothers don't seem to be interested in STEM, he said, but they do want to pursue their passions in college.

Now in his final year at GU, Soto-Romero is used to the colder weather

and being away from home. Aside from Thanksgiving break in 2020, where students had to stay home through Christmas break if they went home, Soto-Romero has not been able to go home for Thanksgiving.

"My mom says I'm the role model..." Soto-Romero said.

He said she says he's doing pretty good at it.

Soto-Romero credits Diaz-Martinez's mentorship as a big reason why he has continued pursuing cell biology.

"Just having Dr. Diaz-Martinez here because we're both Mexican-Americans, so having a role model that's like you is very helpful," Soto-Romero said. "It's made the transition to college here easier."

Soto-Romero will continue working in Diaz-Martinez's lab through the spring. By the time he graduates, he will have presented at least six research conferences on behalf of the lab.

Sydney Fluker is a news editor. Follow them on Twitter: @sydneyfluker.

## VANDALISM

Continued from Page 1

Patriot Front is an American white nationalist and neo-fascist hate group that split off from the neo-Nazi organization Vanguard America in the aftermath of the Unite the Right rally in 2017. According to The Guardian, as of late 2021 the organization has between 200 and 300 members nationwide.

While Patriot Front is a relatively new movement, The Guardian reported that 82% of reported incidents of racist, antisemitic and other hateful propaganda distributed during 2021 came from the Patriot Front. In 2020, that number was 80%.

Kate Bitz is a program manager at Western States Center (WSC), an organization with a goal of promoting inclusive democracy and countering white nationalism who has done research into the Patriot Front.

According to Bitz, Thomas Rousseau, Patriot Front's founder and leader, has a history of organizing violence with multiple organizations. Rousseau was one of those arrested at the Coeur d'Alene LGBT Pride event, along with one man from Birmingham, Alabama who, according to KREM, told police "we go where we are needed."

Ryan Joshua Plotner, one of the two men arrested by the Spokane Police Department for the vandalism found on campus, also paid the bail for many of the 31 Patriot Front members arrested in Coeur d'Alene in June, according to Bitz.

"What we also know is that the charges that were laid on Patriot Front members including Rousseau in Coeur d'Alene have not slowed down their activities very much," Bitz said.

About one month after their arrest in Coeur d'Alene, about 100 masked members with shields and a banner marched through Boston during a Fourth of July celebration, leaving a Black man injured after members beat him for filming the march.

"As Patriot Front continues intimidating and targeting historically marginalized communities, that need for intervention is becoming more and more clear and more urgent," Bitz said.

WSC wrote a letter to the Department of Justice (DOJ), cosigned by 17 organizations in the civil rights and racial justice space, asking the DOJ to investigate the Patriot Front for potential federal crimes.

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law (LCCRUL) claims that an investigation into Patriot Front is warranted for a potential violation of 18 USC paragraph 241, which makes it unlawful for "two or more persons to conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any person in any State... in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same."

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**I've been here for 18 years and I don't think I've ever experienced anti-Indian messaging like that.**

Wendy Thompson, director of GU's Office of Tribal Relation

LCCRUL argued in its federal court filing that Patriot Front targeted a predominantly Black area of Richmond, Virginia and vandalized public areas with the intent to intimidate, thus violating the law.

"These are laws that address what happens when people are intimidated out of being able to make equitable use of their right to education, their right to use public spaces, in the same way as folks of other races might," Bitz said. "In the end, this is what the Patriot Front vandalism campaign is potentially threatening."

As of 2021, there are 19 key groups including three nationwide neo-Nazi groups that have been identified in Washington and over 700 groups known to exist across the country, said Kristine Hoover, previous director of GU's Center for the Study of Hate, at the "Opposition Research and Countering Hate" event.

Joan Braune, a lecturer in the philosophy department and the School of Leadership Studies, researches fascism and has been active in the Gonzaga Center for the Study of Hate for six years.

The Northwest has a long history with white supremacy that moves beyond the laws in place in the Oregon Territory, which banned Black people from moving to the area, enforced anti-Asian exclusion acts and heavily oppressed the Native American community, Braune said. These efforts from the mid 1800s have kept the Northwest very white proportionally when compared to other parts of the country.

According to Braune, there was a mass emigration to this part of the country starting in the 1980s by white supremacists who wanted to create a white homeland in an effort formally known as the Northwest Territorial Imperative. It has since morphed into the American Redoubt, an effort that began in 2011 that claims Eastern Washington and Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming as a "safe space" for conservative Christians.

According to Bitz, Patriot Front vandalism was first found in the Spokane area in 2018 on the Centennial Trail near the state line. Stickers and stencils of Patriot Front messages have been found in the area on numerous

occasions since then.

Vandalism was also found on bridges on Maple Street, Monroe Street and Division Street at the same time as the vandalism was found on GU's wall.

"If I were to speculate about what they were doing there, I mean, they're choosing a highly visible location to place this stuff and they're putting anti-Indigenous messages out right at the beginning of Native American Heritage Month," Bitz said.

Bitz and Braune agree that the motive behind the vandalism was based in intimidation and recruitment. Due to the second vandalism incident, Bitz believes it is more of an intimidation effort.

"It's a genocidal social movement," Braune said. "They want people of color, Jews, Muslims, LGBTQ folks, other populations basically dead, and it's important to be sort of upfront about that."

According to Braune, the Patriot Front vandalism is not just offensive, but is explicitly designed to intimidate and to make people feel like they are not safe. Patriot Front is more than people blindly hating others, rather, it's a terrible worldview, Braune said.

"It's a death threat," Braune said. "In this case, it was very explicitly targeting the Native community, but really, it's a threat to any of the populations that they see as less deserving of life and influence in society."

Leaked online Patriot Front chats show that the group is hierarchical and requires members to hit a weekly quota of vandalism, through stickers, stencils or flyers, to remain in "good standing," Bitz said.

"If they're showing up to do this, it's not just an attack like 'we hate Gonzaga,'" Braune said. "It's also a little bit of them hoping there's someone here they can recruit, and we would like to be a little bit less like the kind of place they can recruit from."

Sydney Fluker is a news editor. Follow them on Twitter: @sydneyfluker.

# GU to adjust current housing blocks

With the hire of new residence directors, the six housing blocks will be reconfigured into eight separate blocks

By MARY SHERDEN

This spring, the addition of two Residence Directors (RD) to the Gonzaga Housing and Residence team will adjust current housing blocks to create tighter communities and manageable staff workloads.

The current six housing blocks — Coughlin, Southeast, East Central, Midwest, Northeast and Northwest — will be reconfigured from six to eight blocks. The Kennedy Apartments, located in the Northwest block, and Catherine Monica Hall, located in the Southeast block, will make their own blocks complete with individual RDs and staff.

The change comes after a Washington state law officially categorized RDs as hourly staff members with 40-hour work weeks. Previously, those in the position could work 45-50 hours per week as salaried employees.

GU Housing and Residence Life (HRL) has also been short two RDs since August, making a 40-hour work week nearly impossible for residence directors responding to their large staff of resident assistants (RA) and an increasing number of undergrad residents.

HRL has been actively recruiting for the vacant RD positions, as well as providing student support to residents this semester.

Director of Residence Life, Jon Wheeler, said he sees a light at the end of the tunnel in the form of two promising RD hires who will start mid-November.

"The two RDs that we've hired are alumni of Gonzaga," Wheeler said. "The fact that they're coming back and have a deep knowledge of the university and the traditions and have a passion for being Zags is an important piece for us as well. We like seeing that desire to serve again."

The two new hires will bring the official total of RDs to eight in the spring 2023 semester. With the reconfiguration of the housing blocks also increasing to eight, each RD will be responsible for one block of undergraduate residents and the management of a staff of RAs and assistant resident directors (ARDs).

Current graduate student and Kennedy RA Aubree Silva said the reorganization in housing blocks will benefit the HRL staff and the students.

"We'll have smaller ecosystems that can thrive and then come together and make the whole working organism," Silva said.

Wheeler said he is also looking forward to the reallocated workload.

"By bringing on eight RDs, that shrinks the size of staff that they're responsible for [and] the number of students that they have to support and be responsive to, which makes it possible for them to get their work done in 40 hours," Wheeler said.

One of the most notable changes in the reconfiguring of housing blocks is the first-year dormitory, Catherine Monica Hall (CM), receiving its own respective staff.

"With first year-students, it's just a very dynamic environment that requires a lot of support from the residence director to be responsive to student needs and the parent outreach, and things along that line," Wheeler said.



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

Catherine Monica Hall will become its own housing block in the 2023 spring semester.

Silva also said she agrees that CM residents and staff would benefit from this change.

"CM is its own rowdy thing, and the freshmen need that community," Silva said. "The RAs in CM work hard for that. I really commend the first year RAs and so having CM be its own block, I think it is going to be great because then it'll just be focused on CM. Each block has its own vibe."

Wheeler also said smaller housing blocks allowed for each block to create an individual and unique community with its staff and undergraduate residents. He referenced the HRL mission statement as a driving force in the decision.

"It's in our mission statement to create safe, inclusive, dynamic learning communities," Wheeler said. "Most of the students who come to Gonzaga cite the community as being one of the major reasons why they chose to come here. All of the plans that we make are aimed at creating that kind of community in all of our buildings across campus."

As a third-year RA, Silva elaborated on how the increase of undergraduate students also necessitated a change in the housing structure.

"Campus is getting bigger," Silva said. "We are taking in more students and it's important to accommodate those needs in a way that's still thought provoking and still tailored to the students."

Silva said she believes this change will allow RAs to be present and spend more time creating intentional bonds with their residents, while still maintaining their workload, as many of them are undergraduate students themselves.

"RAs do a lot for their residents," Silva said. "I think they're the unsung heroes of campus. RAs build community. It's all about being there for your residents in the rough times and making sure they're living up to the Gonzaga mission statement and being well rounded and nice individuals."

Mary Sherden is a staff writer.

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# Letter to the Editor: A reconception of love

Human beings are obsessed with love. We have holidays, books, movies, songs, businesses, destinations, foods, etc. dedicated to love. We crave genuine connection and acceptance from our friends, peers, mentors and especially from our romantic partners. “Missed Connections” social media pages are designed to assist us in this very thing. But no matter what, that cup never seems to get filled, so we turn to media to tell us what we’re missing. For all its proliferation in our culture, most people haven’t the slightest idea of what love is.

If you look into most entertainment, you can identify some narrative that is sold to us, convincing us that we are not happy and teaching us that everything, including ourselves, our loved ones and our happiness, can be bought and sold. Sex sells, but narratives of love control us.

We are sold a certain narrative about love as an unattainable perfection that deludes us into a perpetual search for more. We’re told to have fun, so we chase the highs of infatuation. We’re told to find someone who complements you — maybe even completes you — so we try on person after person like a coat. We’re told we deserve better, so we keep swiping left until we find perfection. We’re told that aloneness means loneliness, so we’re desperate to find someone.

The desires inculcated in us by fictionalized notions of love inevitably make love in real life feel unfulfilling. Our cravings are never satisfied as we



By OLIVIA ROLLMAN

constantly ask more and more from our partner, some ideal in our head that we try to mold them around.

So we keep consuming media and consuming partners as we treat everything around us as objects of our own pleasure and status. Don’t deal with your feelings of loneliness, just watch another rom-com. Don’t work on your lack of confidence, just fantasize that you’re conquering beautiful women by watching porn.

We invest ourselves into finding perfection in another human being while we neglect investment in ourselves. We look for someone who can be a conduit of our happiness instead of cultivating it internally.

But you see, the entertainment industry doesn’t want you to feel fulfilled, they simply want you to keep spending. So they fabricate this picture-perfect concept of love — romantic profundity, soulmates, grand gestures and most importantly, a happy ending.

Meanwhile, in real life, relationships become transactional. In an attempt to play out those perfect narratives in your life, you present yourself as a sellable object, worthy of purchase. In return, you purchase someone else who can be the object of your love story. Maybe they simply provide some amenity to you, whether that be sex, attention, validation or something else. And if they no longer serve that purpose, they become disposable.

Certainly, this cannot be love.

The problem as I see it lies in the conceptualization of love as something to obtain, something to be acquired — simply, love as a commodity.

On a college campus, where we are practically cheek to cheek with a plethora of human beings our age, in roughly our same boat, love as capital can quickly become an epidemic. Our infected understanding of love leads us to use and abuse one another, a hurt that spreads person to person as we want more from others than we give ourselves.

There needs to be a reconceptualization of love as a process of giving selflessly and without expectations; to express compassion and kindness in

the face of benevolence, passivity, or cruelty. To give up control and judgment, and merely love friends, family, lovers, partners, even strangers, for who they are in that moment; to forgive readily; to demonstrate vulnerability even in the face of discomfort and fear; to give yourself, wholly.

In order to enact selfless love, one must step outside of oneself. Though it seems counterintuitive, this is predicated on self-love. When you accept and respect yourself, when you foster your own growth, when your skin feels good and you’re thankful for every inhale filling your lungs, then, and only then, is there no need to commodify love because others are not the conduits for your happiness. You deserve all the good in the world, but that good begins and ends with you, my dear, not anyone else.

It’s a daunting task, and it’s hard and it hurts sometimes, but this is love, and it’s a far more rewarding experience than anything the movies can sell you. Love is not grandiose and clamorous. Love does not lie in reciprocity.

My friends — love quietly — and often.

*Olivia Rollman is a student at Gonzaga University.*

## Relationships at Gonzaga tend to last ... and it's really not hard to see why

Gonzaga University is a well-known and prestigious university, renowned for excellent academics, competitive athletic programs and a thriving community. Perhaps the most interesting social phenomenon at GU, however, is the culture of dating and relationships. The adage “Zags marry Zags” is a telling description of the usual quantity and quality of romantic relationships that form among students at GU.

Many relationships that are formed are usually both stronger and longer lasting than the average college relationship. Since this phenomenon is rather rare compared to most young students, one wonders why it is so different here compared to elsewhere. I see two major reasons to explain it. The consistent promotion of the idea of a strong community, as well as the small size and associated close-knit social circles of the university, contribute to the strength and length of romantic relationships.

The small size of our college is one of the largest contributors to the pervasiveness of this phenomenon. Because there is a smaller pool of people to choose from, people who are looking for relationships have a higher chance of dating someone they spend a lot of time with, which is a prerequisite for a healthy relationship. In addition (as cynical as this might sound), people who are already in relationships have a higher incentive to remain with their significant other, since there are fewer options to look for if the relationship falls apart. This may lead to, in some cases, a higher amount of effort being put into relationships,



By JACKSON HUDGINS

which may contribute to future strength.

The small size of the college also results in smaller and closer friend groups, and the memories that these friend groups create are perhaps more potent than those at other colleges. Memories create an opportunity to reminisce, and nostalgia allows for a consistent source of positive emotion to be added to a relationship.

The emphasis on community also contributes to a significant portion of long-lasting relationships. The proximity to others that the university promotes leads to more social interactions, and thus more

opportunities to get to know a person better. Personal social skills that cannot be taught in a classroom are also emphasized through the campus culture, and these social skills may improve the quality of dates within the pool.

On another note, the significant Christian influence at the university through its Jesuit roots contributes positively as well. Christianity (as well as many other religious faiths) places significance on strong, monogamous relationships that ultimately result in marriage, and a portion of the GU community resonates with this message as religious individuals.

The dating culture of GU may be different from the average college, but different does not always mean bad. While as a transfer student I have not really experienced the dating culture within GU for myself, the relationships I’ve seen form among the many friends I have in the community indicate that our dating culture is a good thing. The length and strength of these relationships highlight that the people forming them are motivated by each other. The strength of a relationship is ultimately determined just like any other event in life — you get results equivalent to the effort you put in. At GU, relationships are a clear example of effort being a force for good.

*Jackson Hudgins is a staff writer. Follow him on Twitter: @judge\_hudge3.*

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## Affirmative action is a vital path toward a more equitable society

After causing major controversies this past summer, the Supreme Court is yet again poised to take on more contentious cases, with one legal battle beginning now on a divisive subject — affirmative action. The Supreme Court heard a pair of cases recently that both have to do with affirmative action and the college admission process.

There have been several legal challenges to this admission policy in court, but the Supreme Court has consistently upheld the constitutionality of affirmative action since 1978 by allowing race to be one of several factors during the decision process for schools. While quotas for racial groups were ruled to be unconstitutional, the Supreme Court Justices have continued to rule in favor of universities even as recently as 2016.

This is not to say there have not been controversies during this period. In the Grutter v. Bollinger case in 2003, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor made the bold prediction that “25 years from now, the use of racial preferences will no longer be necessary”. As the 25th anniversary of that statement grows closer, the U.S. government has not put forward significant legislation to make Justice O’Connor’s prediction a reality.

A vital issue in the United States education system is public schools’ reliance on local property taxes for funding. Wealth inequality has substantially increased in recent years, especially regarding the wealth racial



By ANTHONY MAUCIONE

gap. Furthermore, a long history of redlining and modern racial segregation such as highway constructions cutting through poor and primarily Black neighborhoods (among other techniques) has plagued the U.S. These problems fuse together to create an environment that allows for wider disparities in educational resources and quality. As wealth disparities between neighborhoods remain a problem, educational disparities continue to grow.

Decades of precedent regarding affirmative action are now under threat from a conservative majority, who have shown that they do not care about past rulings such as cases affirming Roe v. Wade. Three of the current Supreme Court Justices, Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr., Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justice Clarence Thomas, have all ruled against affirmative action in the past, and there are no signs that would imply they have changed their minds since the last case in 2016.

Affirmative action is an essential policy for admission processes that has helped out so

many individuals and families get the quality education which they deserve. Education as well as critical thinking skills should be a bedrock of a just society where intellectualism and reason are highly valued. Colleges’ policies involving affirmative action serve as a bandage to the systemic issues entrenched in the education system. However, these policies don’t address the core problems, rather they merely try to alleviate the effects of such issues.

Affirmative action is necessary while these systemic issues are still prevalent, but it should not be the endpoint in the fight for justice. Truly transforming the education system to allow for quality access for all to education from preschool through high school must be strived for. It is hard to figure out what would be the best way to tackle this massive problem facing us but ending the inequality of school funding through property taxes could be a good starting point.

Though the rulings for the pair of new court cases might not be decided on until the summer of next year, it remains an important issue to follow over the coming months as the hearings continue. The results of these two cases could radically transform how our education system functions and cause greater educational disparities in a country already facing such an issue.

*Anthony Maucione is a staff writer.*

# GU 'Dance Presents' program hosts Utah-based dance company

By BAILEY WHITE

When plans to build the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center were announced, professor Suzanne Ostersmith realized that for the first time ever, Gonzaga University would have the ability to present professional dance companies. She found a donor, championed an endowment fund and began the Dance Presents program. Six years later, the GU dance department is bringing its fourth professional company to campus — on Saturday, GU will host the nationally renowned Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company.

The Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company is a Utah-based institution for contemporary dance. The company employs six dancers who perform year round, primarily in Salt Lake City, Utah, but also on tours like the one coming to GU.

“One of our mottos is that dance is for everybody, and we want to show as many people as possible that dance is accessible and approachable,” said Severin Sargent-Catterton, the company’s events manager. “It’s not elitist, it’s not unintelligible. It’s understandable. We go on tour to reach as many people as possible and show them the infinite possibilities of movement celebration.”

The company will be performing three pieces at GU — “Everything That Changes,” “Bodystorm” and “I See Myself”.

This year’s program will also include the Gonzaga Repertory Dance Company (GURDC). GURDC is an audition-only dance company that has been working on the piece they will perform, “A Strange Familiarity,” since September. Ostersmith said this is a special opportunity for GURDC, as most collegiate dancers never get the opportunity to share the stage with a professional company.

“It’s unlike anything I’ve ever done before and a whole different caliber of professional experience,” said Gillian Wittstock, a member of GURDC. “As someone who hopes to continue dancing in the future, this is a great opportunity for me to see what that looks like firsthand.”

Ostersmith said when they are not performing, members of Ririe-Woodbury will be teaching and visiting other dance classes. One such class is GU’s Dance for Parkinson’s program. Every Saturday, Spokane community members with



COURTESY OF THE RIRIE-WOODBURY DANCE COMPANY

The Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company is a Utah-based contemporary dance institution.

Parkinson’s disease and their caregivers come to the GU studios to participate in a dance class led by faculty and students.

The Ririe-Woodbury Company has taught classes like this one in the past, and their piece “Bodystorm” was created in collaboration with people with Parkinson’s.

“We developed this piece in collaboration with people with Parkinson’s disease because dance has shown, in many studies, to be something that helps with dexterity and cognitive ability for people who have neurodegenerative conditions,” Sargent-Catterton said.

Ririe-Woodbury visited the class on Zoom and collected movement and stories inspired by the class to use in their

Saturday performance. Both groups are especially proud of the collaboration.

On Saturday, the show will last about an hour and 550 seats are available.

Ostersmith said she hopes all students will consider attending.

“I’m amazed at how many students can get to be a junior or senior and have never set foot in that gorgeous performing arts center,” Ostersmith said. “Every single student sets foot in The Kennel, and that’s awesome, and they should, but they should also go see shows in that performing arts center. It’s state of the art, and to see a professional dance company in that kind of setting is huge.”

Tickets are available on the GU dance

department’s page on the GU website.

“I don’t think I can overstate how much I think students should take advantage of this,” Ostersmith said. “The fact that they can see this kind of show without having to drive to San Francisco, Portland or Seattle – it’s right here on our campus.”

Bailey White is a staff writer.

# Spokane's gluten free eateries offer people safe eats and community

By GABRIELLE GARCIA

Whether it is a feel-good choice or a serious allergy, being gluten-free can make it difficult to eat at restaurants with peace of mind. Despite this, gluten-free eaters can find some safety in knowing Spokane has options for them.

Here are some local favorites that promise good food and no gluten:

### Boots Bakery

24 W. Main Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99201  
Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Boots Bakery, located less than a mile from GU’s campus, is a family-owned vegan and gluten-free bakery that promises a safe environment for those with dietary restrictions.

Boots has a wide array of options, including baked sweet treats, savory dishes, a coffee bar and a full cocktail bar. The only thing you can’t find is premade mixes and ingredients.

Owner Alison Collins says this sets them apart from a lot of other places offering vegan and gluten-free items. “Everything we serve is made here from scratch,” Collins said.

Not only is Boots inclusive to dietary restrictions, but they also pride themselves on being an inclusive stop for all people. They welcome every customer in with open arms and invite them to stay as long as they want.

“We’re not the kind of coffee shop that says ‘hey, you got to move along,’” Collins said. “You could stay here eight hours. We don’t care, that’s great. We’ll encourage it.”

Boots will also be releasing a cookbook in early 2023 with some of their favorite recipes.

### Cole’s Bakery & Cafe

521 E. Holland Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99218  
Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday-Sunday 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Cole’s Bakery & Café is another option that offers an exclusively gluten-free and peanut-free menu. Owner Jeanine Smith said they are committed to offering options for a wide range of dietary needs.

“The five things we focus on are gluten-free, peanut-free, dairy free, vegan and keto,” Smith said. Cole’s has breakfast, lunch and dinner options alongside bakery items. Smith said she grew up cooking with her family, so she wanted to create a place to offer family-friendly meals to the community.

“I decided to start this to give people who have multiple different food allergies, a place where they can gather with their family and friends, where their families would also enjoy the food regardless of a food allergy,” Smith said. “It’s my family recipes.”

Smith said it’s been amazing to see people who fear cross-contamination in other kitchens be able to eat freely in Cole’s.

Cole’s is expanding to add a new location in the Catalyst



ANDREW LOF IG: andrewlof\_photography

Cole’s Bakery and Cafe, located on 521 E. Holland Ave., offers an exclusively gluten and peanut-free menu.

“

**I decided to start this to give people who have multiple different food allergies a place where they can gather with their family and friends.**

Jeanine Smith, owner of Cole’s Bakery & Cafe

building by the end of the year. The Catalyst building is located at 601 E Riverside Ave, Spokane, WA 99202.

### Wiley’s Bistro

115 N. Washington St. #1  
Spokane, WA 99201  
Hours: Monday 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., 5-8 p.m., Tuesday-Friday 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., 5-9 p.m., Saturday 5-9 p.m.

Wiley’s Bistro, located downtown, offers an extensive menu that is almost entirely gluten-free. Despite having a

few items that contain gluten, they assure customers they take allergens seriously.

They have recently posted about their commitment on Facebook stating:

“Good morning Spokane! We saw a post recently about someone struggling to find a place to dine out safely with Celiac disease,” Wiley’s posted on Facebook. “So we wanted to remind those of you who know us, and inform any new followers, we take ALL allergies seriously! You can count on us to create a meal you can enjoy no matter what your restrictions are ... because everyone deserves to be able to enjoy a night out! Got some wild allergies? We love a challenge. Let us serve you!”

Wiley’s takes lunch and dinner reservations and offers pickup and take-out.

### RÛT Bar

901 W. 14th Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99204  
Hours: Saturday- Sunday 11 a.m.- 9 p.m.

RÛT Bar recently came to Spokane’s South Hill neighborhood in 2019, offering a vegan menu inspired by the Pacific Northwest.

While their menu is specifically tailored toward vegan foods, they also offer gluten-free options. Their menu outlines specific gluten-free, gluten-free available and nut-free foods for easy choosing.

RÛT, pronounced “root,” outlines its commitment to displaying the best of the local area through its food and ambiance. The restaurant is filled with plants and natural lighting with art by local artist Hazel Miller on display.

Gabrielle Garcia is a contributor.

# Jack and Dan's: The rite of passage for generations of Zags

By TOMMY CONMY

Standing stoically on the corner of Sinto and Hamilton sits the brick stronghold of Jack and Dan's. For nearly 50 years, this tavern turned bar and grill has catered to the Logan Neighborhood and Gonzaga University communities, serving as a meeting place for intellectuals, students, Irish Catholics and anyone in between.

Built in 1909, the building that now exclusively hosts Jack and Dan's and two upstairs apartments was home to a grocery store, pharmacy and beer parlor before former GU boxing coach Joey August opened Joey's Tavern in 1947. August coached GU to an NCAA National Championship three years later in 1950 before the university dropped the program in 1952 and August purchased a beer distributorship.

It wasn't until 1961 that Dan Crowley and Jack Stockton, the father of NBA Hall of Fame point guard John Stockton, bought the bar. The duo waited 14 years before renaming it "Jack and Dan's."

Despite the building remaining largely the same, the businesses inside have varied as recently as 2004. That was when University Pharmacy, which took up the south half of the current bar area, vacated and allowed Jack and Dan's to expand and include the back room and other half of the bar.

"It was funny, some of the first shifts I would work when the expansion happened, people would all come in and still just stay on that side," said manager "Big" Ed Eschenbacher. "They were like, 'I don't stand over there, this is where I stand when I have a beer at Jack and Dan's.'"

Since its conception, Jack and Dan's has largely maintained its label as the bar for senior students. Business professor Donald Hackney was a student in the late 60s when the legal age for drinking beer was 20 in Idaho. Juniors would flock there before returning to the confines of Jack and Dan's as seniors.

One of the few changes Jack and Dan's has undergone is its transition from tavern to bar and grill. Legally, a tavern can't sell hard alcohol, and Jack and Dan's didn't until 2007.

"When I was here as a senior, Jack and Dan's was just a tavern," Hackney said. "It was friendly, but there were a lot of locals in there. It was pool tables and pinball machines and you drank beer."

Eschenbacher was brought in for his experience serving hard liquor by owner and former GU men's basketball player Jeff Condill. Management wanted to amplify the subtle bar and grill rebrand and landed on merchandise as the best option.

The change to a bar and grill gave way to the Jack and Dan's sweatshirt. The original was sold only in green and yellow to reflect the bar's Irish roots, but management added colors as popularity of the garment skyrocketed.

"It's pretty fun right?" Eschenbacher said. "Everybody wants to buy every color, I mean people buy them for their parents for Christmas even though their parents have never been here. They've just heard stories or are seeing their kid's credit card bill and going, 'What's this Jack and Dan's all about?'"

As the fortunes of GU and its men's basketball team ascended, so did Jack and Dan's. To go even further back is to recognize John Stockton and his role in spurring his



JOE O'HAGAN IG: ohagandaz

Located on the corner of Sinto Avenue and Hamilton Street, Jack and Dan's has been cherished by Zags since the 1960s.

father's bar to a No. 6 ranking in Sports Illustrated's "25 Best Sports Bars in America" list in 2005.

"I was here before John ever bounced a ball in the pros," Jack Stockton told Sports Illustrated in 2005.

Jack may be right, but the bar didn't have TVs until John was drafted to the Utah Jazz in 1984. Jack installed satellite dishes on the roof so patrons could watch every one of his son's games.

"I think what saved Jack and Dan's was basketball," Hackney said. "Jack and Dan's reached a point where if you came from out of town or your kid was at Gonzaga and you came to a basketball game, part of your weekend was to go to Jack and Dan's. One of the sports broadcasters was talking about what a great neighborhood bar and atmosphere it is. Everybody's always looking for local color."

Eschenbacher noted one of the primary improvements the bar has made is food. Higher quality technology in the kitchen and fresh baked bread every day have allowed the bar and grill to churn out over 100 lunches in an afternoon.

"We're going to do it the Jack and Dan's way," Eschenbacher said. "Number one is customer service. We take care of people... we don't have a bottle of Miller Lite that's better than somebody else's bottle of Miller Lite. We just try and take care of people."

Employed at the bar for nearly 18 years, Eschenbacher has had a front row seat for many of its biggest days. Besides Fall Family Weekend or graduation, his short list of craziest days includes the Zags' appearance in the National Championship in 2017.

Eschenbacher received a call at 7:30 that morning that patrons were already lining up outside with camp stoves and lawn chairs to guarantee a spot inside for the game despite tip off scheduled for 6:20 p.m. One woman left a stuffed animal in line at each of the bar's entrances because

she wasn't sure which door people would be let through.

"Everybody is in here jumping to the Zag nation song before the game as an intro to get everybody hyped up," Eschenbacher said. "I grabbed the wall because I thought we might go in the basement. It was pretty intense."

Eschenbacher has been able to cultivate friendships with several students.

"I'll meet a kid in September and take care of them all year and then all of a sudden I get to meet mom and dad on graduation," Eschenbacher said. "You meet more parents at the end of it and you're saying goodbye to them because they're going to move home. Next fall, you meet a new kid and they're with you for the next two years."

Originally a neighborhood bar that Jack Stockton walked two blocks from his home in the Logan to open for business every day, students have adopted the bar and its history with respect, not just debauchery.

"[Students] are proud of Jack and Dan's, they don't come in and trash it and wreck it like other schools I've been to down in Pullman," Eschenbacher said. "They have some bars down there and they basically rebuild it when the students leave because they throw beer on the ground and wreck everything. Here, [students] take care of the place. They spill something and go 'Hey I'll clean that up.' They love that Jack and Dan's is their bar."

Many seniors today spend their Friday and Saturday nights much the same as Hackney did in the late '60s — grabbing a pitcher and a table and commiserating with friends.

"[Students] are thinking about graduation four years out and it's not walking across the stage," Eschenbacher said. "It's 'I get to party at Jack and Dan's that last weekend.'"

Tommy Conmy is a sports editor. Follow him on Twitter: @tommyconmy.

## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level 1 2 3 4

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Solution to Last Week's puzzle 11/27/22

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2	4	9	3	6	5	7	8	1	
1	7	6	4	3	8	5	2	9	
8	3	2	7	5	9	1	4	6	
9	5	4	2	1	6	8	7	3	

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk)

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## Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
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116									117				118			119			
120									121				122			123			

### WINE PAIRINGS

By Ed Sessa

- ACROSS**
  - 1 Asparagus piece
  - 6 For the ages
  - 10 Open pages in a browser
  - 14 Channel with Supreme Court coverage
  - 19 Childish comeback
  - 20 Biblical wedding location
  - 21 Writer's block cure
  - 22 Troubling signs
  - 23 Very dangerous red?
  - 26 Vatican City masterpiece
  - 27 First novel in Cather's "Great Plains" trilogy
  - 28 Coral formation
  - 29 How one must win in volleyball
  - 30 Violinist Leopold
  - 31 "Te \_\_\_\_": Rihanna song
  - 32 "Just watch me!"
  - 34 Email folder
  - 36 "Invisibilia" ailer
  - 37 Wine on tap?
  - 40 Look at
  - 41 Actor Mendelssohn
  - 42 Datebook col.
  - 43 Painting, cinema, ballet, etc.
  - 45 Formal talk
  - 53 \_\_\_\_ setter
  - 54 Steer clear of
  - 55 Kimono sash
  - 57 Proverb ending?
  - 58 Game that begins with the murder of Mr. Boddy
  - 59 Remains unsettled
  - 60 Sequel to Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath"?
  - 64 Moo \_\_\_\_ pork
- DOWN**
  - 1 South Pacific islander
  - 2 Keep from falling
  - 3 More ghoulish
  - 4 Mary of "The Maltese Falcon"
  - 5 Dappled horse
  - 6 Dermatology concern
  - 7 Create couples
  - 8 Cozy retreats
  - 9 Half-\_\_\_\_ latte spec
  - 10 Unfortunate quality in a karaoke singer
  - 11 Arithmetic figure
  - 12 Meat-flavored broths
  - 13 Kid-lit girl with a blueberry pail
  - 14 \_\_\_\_ and paste
  - 15 "In the Heights" actor Jimmy
  - 16 Wine that comes in tiny bottles?
  - 17 Lost and found, e.g.
  - 18 Govt. cybersecurity scale
  - 24 Picks up
  - 25 With the bow, in music
  - 29 Ring event
  - 32 Footnote kin of op. cit.
  - 33 Couple in a boat
  - 35 Radio host John
  - 37 Acts
  - 38 Get in shape
  - 39 Case for Mulder and Scully
  - 41 Back of a hit 45 record
  - 44 Tulsa sch.
  - 45 Family guys
  - 46 In plain view
  - 47 Tale about one Corleone's love of fortified wine?
  - 48 L.A.'s region
- 50** Some calorie counters
- 51** Less common
- 52** Historic Nevada city
- 56** Rock group
- 58** Forensic series starring Paula Newsome, familiarly
- 61** Ben and Jerry
- 62** Car top
- 63** "\_\_\_\_ my way!"
- 65** Oscar winner
- 66** Icon tappers
- 68** "Hello, ewel!"
- 71** Once more
- 73** Hebrew prophet
- 74** Federal org. with a flower logo
- 75** Sauce dispenser
- 76** Portfolio part
- 78** Small drink
- 82** Buttoned-up
- 83** Ford's first minivan
- 84** Score after deuce, perhaps
- 85** Hogwash
- 86** Flows back, as the tide
- 88** "You gotta be kidding!"
- 90** Zip
- 92** City near Disney World
- 96** Sci-fi invaders
- 97** "Heads or tails?"
- 98** Equal to the task
- 99** Nephews' sisters
- 100** Taken care of
- 101** Jabbers
- 102** Wind up
- 104** Thin openings
- 107** Hiking path
- 109** Sloop pole
- 111** "Order up!" shouter
- 112** Goals
- 113** Play a role
- 114** Great Basin cap.
- 115** Blast letters

# Women's soccer bids farewell to seniors, reflects on historic 2022 season

By ZACH WHITE

The Gonzaga University women's soccer team wrapped up its 2022 season with a 2-0 win over the University of Portland on Nov. 5.

It was Senior Night for the Zags, whose 10 graduating players represent the winningest class in program history.

Following the game, GU head coach Chris Watkins spoke about the class of 2023.

"This is a super talented group that has battled," Watkins said. "They've mostly played big-time opponents on the road and ... they've gotten results more often than not. Ultimately, they have proven to be winners. They switched the culture from a bottom half of the table program ... [to] third place in the conference, our highest ever finish."

One of the most notable seniors is Erin Healy, who helped transform the program from a bottom-half team in the West Coast Conference (WCC) to a conference competitor. Healy started all 18 games of the season, while also playing the most minutes of any forward on the team.

Healy led the Zags in scoring with six goals, and her five assists were the second-highest total on the team.

"We came in as freshmen here and we graduate with pretty much the same amount of numbers," Healy said of the seniors' experience at GU. "We've been a super tight-knit group and it's just awesome sharing the field with your best friends and it's super sad being the last, but good to come out with a win with our last time on Luger."

GU freshman forward Hannah Gray said she was grateful to play with Healy, along with senior Sophia Braun, who added three goals in 2022.

"Sophia Braun and Erin Healy are absolute beasts," Gray said. "They've got me through the whole season and they've told me just to have confidence in myself as a freshman ... Playing around them has made me better and they've totally mentored me. They push me to be better."

The Zags (10-3-5, 5-1-3 WCC) needed to regain ground early on in the season as they had just one win after five games. Following the cancellation of their match against Baylor due to poor air quality, the Zags were able to shift their momentum and earn three straight road victories against Weber State, Idaho State and Temple.

GU continued its dominance in conference play, going undefeated in its first five games against WCC teams before losing to the BYU on Oct. 22.

The remainder of the season saw the Zags pick up two wins out of their next three games, as they beat Saint Mary's and Portland. GU also earned a creditable tie against a tournament team, as they kept a clean sheet in a 0-0 game against Santa Clara.

As the season wrapped up, the Zags narrowly missed



DYLAN SMITH IG: d.smithphotos

The Zags' third-place finish in the West Coast Conference was tied for the best league standing in program history.

out on a NCAA Tournament berth. Despite missing the tournament, the Zags' third-place finish in the WCC was tied for the best league standing in program history.

A number of Zags also earned all-conference honors. Lyza Bosselmann was named the WCC Goalkeeper of the Year and was placed on the All-WCC First Team, where she was accompanied by midfielder Sophia Braun. The other GU players recognized were Erin Healy, All-

WCC Second Team; Kate Doyle and Kelsey Oyler, All-WCC Honorable Mention; and Hannah Gray and Giana Riley, All-WCC Freshman Team.

Zach White is a staff writer.

# Zags to face Oklahoma, Tennessee, 17 others in 2023

By HENRY KRUEGER

After putting together a top-10 nonconference schedule last season according to several metrics from D1Baseball.com, Gonzaga University head baseball coach Mark Machtolf may have outdone himself with the slate he assembled for 2023.

The Zags, who finished 36-17 in 2022 and reached a second-straight NCAA Regional, will play eight teams from last year's tournament in a 52-game schedule that was released on Nov. 4.

Of GU's 19 scheduled opponents, 13 finished top-150 in the NCAA's final RPI rankings, including No. 1 Tennessee and second-ranked Oregon State. The Zags will also host College World Series runner-up Oklahoma and visit Oregon in Eugene.

"Coach Mac and Coach [Brandon] Harmon have done an awesome job of putting together maybe the best nonconference schedule that we've ever had arguably," said assistant coach Sean Winston.

GU begins the season with a four-game series at Texas Tech that runs from Feb. 17-20. The Red Raiders went 29-22 last year, reaching Game Four of the Statesboro Regional as a No. 2 seed.

Facing Texas Tech marks the beginning of a grueling stretch of games for the Zags, who travel to Phoenix afterward to play two games each against Grand Canyon and Ohio State (Feb. 24-26).

The Zags' season-opening road trip concludes with a three-game series at



DYLAN SMITH IG: d.smithphotos

Enzo Apodaca finished last season with a .279 batting average, three home runs, 45 RBIs, 47 runs scored and eight stolen bases.

Tennessee in Knoxville (March 3-5). The Volunteers finished 57-9 overall last year and are the reigning SEC champions.

GU outfielder Enzo Apodaca acknowledged the strength of his team's early-season opponents, but said it's a challenge they're ready for.

"I think it provides an opportunity to show the world of college baseball what the Zags can do and that we can compete at that level," Apodaca said of GU's first

few matchups. "It also just creates exciting energy and gets us more eager to start this season."

A three-game series against UC Irvine from March 10-12 will be the Zags' home opener before they go back on the road for two games at Minnesota on March 14 and 15.

GU will remain at home to open conference play as San Francisco visits Spokane from March 17-19.

Following a road trip to Pepperdine (March 24-26), the Zags have their first multi-series homestand when rival BYU (March 30-April 1) and reigning West Coast Conference (WCC) Tournament champions San Diego (April 6-8) come to town.

GU hits the road again for two midweek games at Oregon State on April 10 and 11, marking the 13th and 14th time the schools have faced off in the last five years.

The Zags went 1-3 against the Beavers in 2022, losing a pair of neutral site games in Surprise, Arizona, but splitting two contests in Corvallis, Oregon.

A single game with Washington State in Spokane on April 15 is wedged in between a pair of conference road series at LMU (April 14-16) and Portland (April 21-23).

GU will remain in Oregon for a two-game series with the Ducks (April 25-26) before returning home later that week to play Pacific (April 28-30).

After the Zags visit Pullman for another one-game meeting with WSU on May 2, they come back to the Patterson Baseball Complex to host Saint Mary's (May 5-7) and Oklahoma (May 12-14).

A series at Santa Clara (May 19-21) wraps up GU's regular season, with the WCC Tournament set to follow.

The conference champion will be decided at Banner Island Park in Stockton, California, but dates for the games have yet to be announced.

Henry Krueger is a sports editor. Follow him on Twitter: @henrykrueger.

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## Andrew Nembhard shines off bench for Indiana Pacers in rookie season

### COMMENTARY

By BRADLEY SAUVE

As anyone with basketball experience in the United States will tell you, an enormous learning curve exists for young players transitioning from the college game to the NBA. Even highly drafted players often struggle to adapt to a faster-paced game.

This is why Andrew Nembhard's accomplishments in year one of his professional career are already impressive.

The 6-foot-3 rookie from Aurora, Ontario, is achieving very similar results to those that helped lead Gonzaga University back to the Sweet Sixteen in 2022. Through 11 games, he is averaging 6.6 points, 2.3 rebounds and 3.4 assists per game, while only committing 1.1 turnovers per game. All of these numbers are adjusted for his decrease in playing time, almost identical to his season averages from his senior season at GU.

"I think playing four years in college allowed me the time to kind of mature, grow my game and understand kind of who I am," Nembhard said to USA Today.

This remarkable consistency is part of what distinguished Nembhard in the NCAA ranks, as he was one of five finalists for the Bob Cousy Point Guard of the Year Award. His stellar play drew praise from analysts and coaches from across the college basketball scene, but none were as ardent in their praise as his own head coach, Mark Few.

"It's unbelievable how comforting and reassuring it is ... knowing you have the best point guard in the country," Few said to the Spokesman-Review last March.

Nembhard's collegiate play was certainly spectacular, but he may not have even made it to his current situation without a 26-point, 11-assist outing in an NBA Draft Combine scrimmage that significantly boosted his draft stock.

Having once again proven himself, he was drafted by the Indiana Pacers with the 31st overall pick, just outside of the first round. Within a month, the Pacers signed him to a four-year, \$8.6-million deal that shows the organization sees him as an integral part of their future plans, at least in the short term. Nembhard's contract is the largest ever signed by a collegiate second-round pick.

For a franchise experiencing a great deal of turmoil, a steadying force like Nembhard is needed. Having traded away two of its stars in point guard Malcolm Brogdon and ex-Zag Domantas Sabonis, the Pacers are going all-in on a youth



COURTESY OF INDIANA PACERS' TWITTER

As of Nov. 15, Nembhard averages 6.6 points, 3.4 assists and 2.3 rebounds in 20.1 minutes per game this season.

movement. Having a young player like Nembhard who can step in and command the offense is invaluable for the team, both on and off the court.

"I don't think he's phased one bit by any big moment, any big matchup," said Rick Carlisle, head coach of the Pacers, to the Indianapolis Star. "This guy just goes out there and plays the game. His poise is one of his really impressive attributes."

That poise has served Nembhard particularly well in recent games, as he has stepped into a starting role while fellow guard Chris Duarte deals with a left ankle sprain that will sideline him for four to six

weeks.

In his first career start, he posted 15 points, three rebounds and five assists while adding two steals against the New Orleans Pelicans.

Though a rebuild is certainly underway for the Pacers (6-6), there is absolutely no doubt that Nembhard is already in a position to succeed. The Pacers feature athletic big men in Myles Turner and lob threat Isaiah Jackson, as well as a proven shooter in Buddy Hield. Throw in burgeoning stars Tyrese Haliburton and Benedict Mathurin, and Nembhard has a fantastic opportunity to do what he does

best — create for his teammates and for himself.

"I think I do a good job of just playing within myself as well as being aggressive to kind of get loose every so often," Nembhard said to USA Today.

The Pacers will play the Houston Rockets on the road on Friday before returning home to host a reunion matchup between Nembhard and Jalen Suggs' Orlando Magic. The two-game series takes place on Saturday and Sunday.

Bradley Sauve is a staff writer.

# Tiegan Aitken puts English spin on GU women's tennis

By TOMMY CONNOLLY

Put in the work, and you will see the results. This is a saying as old as time, and it has proven true for Gonzaga University women's tennis player Tiegan Aitken, who is looking to build off a stellar sophomore campaign for the Zags this upcoming spring season.

Aitken finished last season with the best winning percentage for the Zags at .632 and ended with a 12-7 record in singles, including an 8-4 record on court No. 5 to help pace the Zags' singles roster.

This experience bodes well for the Zags, who are returning multiple pieces from a team that is looking to make their mark in the West Coast Conference (WCC) this season, after multiple close matches last season.

For Aitken, GU is a long way from home. Some 4,500 miles from Spokane, is the town of Canterbury, England, a small town in the far southeastern corner.

"I knew I wanted to come to America to play tennis," Aitken said. "In England the funding is not as strong for women's sports so that's when I turned my focus to talking to schools and coaches in the U.S."

After deciding she wanted to come to America to play tennis, the arduous process of picking the right school began. Following a talk with the coaches for GU, Aitken scheduled a visit to campus and knew once she met the team, saw the facilities and got to learn more about the school, that GU was the place for her.

In Aitken's first season on campus for GU, she competed in two matches, with her match against Eastern Washington going unfinished, but staying the course and being ready helped her take a leap going into her sophomore year.

"Tiegan is an extremely hard worker, and a joy to coach," said GU women's tennis head coach Natalie Pluskota-Hamberg. "Since she stepped on campus, she has been all in for our program."

Off the court, Aitken also is an exemplary student in the classroom, having to balance a busy schedule of classes, practices, homework and everything else a college student goes through during an average day, but it is a challenge she has learned to become accustomed with.

"As a freshman, I found it a bit of a challenge having so much to do, but once you get a routine, it gets easier," Aitken said. "We also have student athlete planners that help a lot with time management and knowing when you can fit in 10 minutes of work here, or an hour there."

Back on the court, Aitken is continuing to improve her attacking play and ground strokes from the baseline to take the next step forward as a tennis player. Aitken



EMMA PATENODE IG: emmapatenode

Aitken ended the fall season with a 12-7 record, winning her last match against Cal Poly.

possesses a strong forehand and good transition play, making her an effective singles player for GU.

"Tiegan is athletic which gives her the ability to play a variety of ways if needed," Pluskota-Hamberg said. "She is at her best when she is looking to transition forward and finish points at the net."

Aitken has also been working side-by-side with GU strength coach Michael Taylor to make some necessary gains to help her be more physical on court.

During Aitken's three years at GU, she has gone through a coaching overhaul, with Pluskota-Hamberg not being the first head coach that she has played for as a Zag. When Aitken originally committed to GU, current men's head coach D.J. Gurule was the women's coach but left the women's team to take over for the men in 2021.

Despite the change in coaching staff during Aitken's three years at GU, she has found positives from all the coaches she has encountered during her time as a Zag.

"Each individual coach that we have had here has been able to bring something to my game," Aitken said. "It can be seen as a challenge having a lot of coaches, but I have found it helpful being able to learn something from all of them."

To round out the fall season, Aitken was able to end on a high note, winning her last consolation in singles and doubles play. Aitken dispatched Cal Poly's Delanie Dunkel, 6-2, 6-4 to earn a resounding victory. In doubles, she partnered with Kianna Oda, and the pairing bounced back from a round of 32 defeat to win 8-2.

Turning the page to the spring season, Aitken is excited to get back on the court with her teammates and continue to keep

## GU SPORTS CALENDAR

**Thursday, Nov. 17**  
 ▶▶ Volleyball at Saint Mary's, Moraga, CA, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, Nov. 19**  
 ▶▶ Cross Country at NCAA Championships, Stillwater, OK, 8 a.m.  
 ▶▶ Volleyball at Pacific, Stockton, CA, Noon  
 ▶▶ Women's basketball vs. Louisville, Paradise Island, Bahamas, 4:30 p.m.

**Sunday, Nov. 20**  
 ▶▶ Women's basketball vs. TBD, Paradise Island, Bahamas, TBD  
 ▶▶ Men's basketball vs. Kentucky, Spokane Arena, 4:30 p.m.

**Monday, Nov. 21**  
 ▶▶ Women's basketball vs. TBD, Paradise Island, Bahamas, TBD

**Tuesday, Nov. 22**  
 ▶▶ Volleyball at Loyola Marymount, Los Angeles, CA, 6 p.m.

**\*Home games in bold\***

putting in the work and seeing the results. "Tiegan keeps gaining more experience every season in singles and doubles," Pluskota-Hamberg said. "This experience is good for Tiegan, and we expect it will help be an asset us for us come the spring season."

Tommy Connolly is a staff writer.

## Gonzaga's potential move to the Big 12 makes financial, not geographic sense

COMMENTARY

By TOMMY CONNOMY

Two weeks ago, ESPN's Pete Thamel reported that Gonzaga University Athletic Director Chris Standiford met with Big 12 Commissioner Brett Yorkmark to discuss moving to the conference in the future.

The move comes amid a changing landscape in college athletics as schools like USC and UCLA eschewed the Pac-12 for TV money promised by the Big 10. Texas and Oklahoma fled for the SEC last year for the same promise of gaudy payouts from TV contracts.

USC and UCLA were reported to make nearly \$60 million more annually by joining the Big 10 while Texas and Oklahoma stand to make almost \$30 million more annually in the SEC.

These moves have been chiefly motivated by football revenue. It's no secret that football is the driving force in college athletics, which makes GU's potential move all the more interesting.

Although the Zags have been rumored to jump from the West Coast Conference (WCC) in the past, something about these rumors feels more real. GU is the first school in this shifting landscape to potentially jump conferences as a basketball only school.

Thamel also reported that the Pac-12 and the Big East are engaged with GU but the extent of the discussions remains unclear.

Many of the Catholic institutions that make up the WCC and the Big East either don't have football programs or are not primarily motivated by acting in its interests. Villanova's football team competes in the second tier of Division I for football, despite winning two National Championships in basketball in 2016 and 2018.

The Wildcats have expressed no interest in moving from the basketball-centric Big East, making it an

intriguing option should GU up and leave the WCC. The intrigue ends when geography is considered. The closest opponent is Creighton in Omaha, Nebraska, a mere 1,300 miles away. The next two closest opponents are Marquette and DePaul at approximately 1,700 miles away. Every other school in the league is decidedly on the East Coast and would prevent travel challenges for any team traveling for a conference road game.

Still, no conference can offer the Zags the financial incentive the Big 12 can. With its new media rights agreement, the Big 12 stands to receive \$380 million annually (an increase from \$220 million) beginning in 2025-26, distributed among member schools.

That revenue would be split between the league's current eight teams and the additional four teams joining the conference in BYU, UCF, Houston and Cincinnati. The Zags would be the 13th member of the Big 12 and would likely receive a smaller payout than other member schools due to the lack of football.

Geography in the Big 12 is as much of an issue as the Big 12, particularly considering outlier trips to Morgantown, West Virginia and Orlando, Florida. With the closest trips still over 1,400 miles away, the league is no more geographically desirable than the Big East.

Where is geography not an issue? The Pac-12. The conference of champions would make the most sense for all of GU's sports to join from a competitive standpoint. The Zags already regularly face off against Pac-12 opponents and carry similar Olympic sports like rowing and would create natural geographic rivalries with Washington State, Washington and Oregon and Oregon State.

However, the Pac-12 doesn't provide nearly the same financial incentive of the Big 12. As one of the leagues that has seen teams flea the once proud

conference, former commissioner Larry Scott failed to boost the Pac-12's footprint nationally and didn't lock down the TV revenue that is the life blood of intercollegiate athletics.

The conference's current TV deal carries an average annual value of \$250 million, a far cry from the nearly billion dollar deal the Big Ten just negotiated. ESPN reports that the Pac-12 and media partners are hundreds of millions apart on a potential deal, indicating the Pac-12 may not have near the same power as its geographical counterparts.

All three conferences would be marked improvements for on-court competition. The Big 12 has won the last two National Championships and played for a third when Texas Tech lost to Virginia in 2019. The Big East has won three National Championships in the last decade with two from Villanova and one from UConn.

West Virginia head coach Bob Huggins had strong feelings on GU's chance at success should they join the Big 12.

"I would think it would be a tremendous awakening for Gonzaga [to join the Big 12]," Huggins told ESPN.

Any move to a superior conference would be the true test for head coach Mark Few's carefully constructed program. The Zags have gone 169-14 in the WCC over the last decade, an otherworldly 92.3% winning percentage.

That would certainly drop if the Zags moved to any other conference, although that may finally silence the doubters who question GU's strength of schedule year-in and year-out. For tortured Zags fans, that alone may be worth the geographic inconvenience.

Tommy Conmy is a sports editor. Follow him on Twitter: @tommyconmy.

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