

The Gonzaga Bulletin

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COVID-19 testing required for unvaccinated students after Thanksgiving break

By ALISE HARTZ

All unvaccinated undergraduate students must be tested for COVID-19 after returning to campus from Thanksgiving break, according to an email sent to the Gonzaga student body on Nov. 9 by Kent Porterfield, vice provost of student affairs.

“There is always slightly more concern when people are traveling, and we want to make sure that no one is bringing

something home to family or back to campus,” Porterfield said.

Prior to Thanksgiving break, students who are unvaccinated, have been exposed to COVID-19 or are experiencing symptoms are encouraged to get tested before heading home to family and friends.

Vaccinated individuals with no symptoms do not need to be tested prior to break or following break as long as they do not develop new symptoms.

Unvaccinated undergraduate students are required to be tested following Thanksgiving break between Nov. 28 and Dec. 4. This requirement does not apply to graduate students.

On-campus testing is available at Health and Counseling Services at 704 E. Sharp Ave. between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointments can be made by calling (509) 313-4052 during the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:40 p.m.

According to the email, failure to comply with post-Thanksgiving testing may impact a student's enrollment status.

Unvaccinated individuals will receive more information through email about COVID-19 testing requirements.

“We are trying to make it as easy as possible for students to get tested, there's a lot of options,” said Taylor Jordan,

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Over 183 tents were set up on Herak Quad, breaking previous records for Tent City.

CHIANA MCINNELLY IG: @picsbychiana

The long-awaited return of Tent City

By VINCENT SAGLIMBENI

For the first time in over a year and a half, Tent City made its return to Gonzaga University for the No. 1 ranked GU men's basketball team's matchup against the then No. 5 ranked Texas Longhorns.

After the hiatus of the university's tradition due to the pandemic, students gathered with their friends and tented overnight in the Herak Quad waiting in anticipation for one of the biggest games in school history. The tradition is done with a select few games every year, only picking the biggest non conference and conference games of the season.

With over 183 tents set up in Herak Quad, shattering previous records of past Tent City events, Tent City Coordinator Jason Siegle was thrilled to see the number of students who participated in this coveted tradition.

“We had such a great turnout from the students, and I think the student population really needed something

to rally behind after a tough year of COVID and a lot of uncertainty,” Siegle said. “I think this is just what the school needed, and I think the students showed that by destroying the previous record for total tents in Tent City.”

Locking up tent No. 1 was sophomore Alex Cohen. With this being his first time participating in the classic school tradition, it came as a rush for Cohen. Cohen saw the Twitter notification from the Kennel Club Twitter account releasing the location of where the Kennel Club was stationed, which happened to be the Robinson House. Standing right outside of the location, Cohen ran right up and made sure that he was the one getting Tent No. 1.

As this was his first time tenting, Cohen said it still hasn't fully hit him yet, saying he was shaking when he got the first tent number. Getting the best position possible in his first time around, Cohen said this would be something he would always remember.

“I don't think I'm ever going to get as good of a spot as

I did this time, so I think I have to enjoy it while I'm here,” Cohen said.

From the first tent to the last, fans wanted to get every chance they could to be inside the Kennel Saturday night. Maria Rogan, a sophomore, and her friends got tent 173.

This was Rogan and her friends' first time tenting also, and even being that far back in the tenting line, Rogan and her group didn't want to miss out.

“Everyone is so excited, and this might be one of the only opportunities we get [to go to games] this year with how difficult it is to get tickets,” Rogan said. “So we were thinking [we] might as well take advantage while we do have tickets, and we did get a tent spot.”

From those who were tenting for the first time to those more experienced, all were excited for this unique tradition. For senior Rachel Bauman, this was her fifth time participating in Tent City, and with that, she got her

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Knitting together a new community

By MAUREEN PARKS

A college student might not often fit the stereotype of a knitter, but people who knit and crochet can be found across all demographics. There is actually a surprisingly robust knitting culture on Gonzaga's campus, if you know where to look.

This inspired two juniors, Nikki Snyder and Lilly LeBlanc to start a knitting and crochet club at GU last spring. This is the first year that the club is in full operation, with meetings held on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in College Hall room 245. The club has attracted many Zags interested in learning to knit or crochet, as well as those looking for a space to work on projects and share a hobby with friends.

Knitting and crochet club welcomes beginners and seasoned fiber artists alike.

“I've talked to a lot of people who

knit but don't know anyone else who knits,” LeBlanc said at a club meeting in November. “There's actually a lot of people who have this hobby but I think it's all in pockets. That's a goal of the club to bring all these people who have this interest together in one space so that we can share it.”

While many of GU's knitters may have been stitching in solitude until now, LeBlanc and Snyder talked about the benefits of crafting in community.

“I think that Nikki and I have discovered is that knitting is a surprisingly social activity because it's really easy to just talk while you're working on it,” LeBlanc said. “I knit nearly every day now and it's because I have people to do it with.”

“For people who have their projects and like working on them it can be nice to

SEE KNITTING PAGE 7



ALYSSA HUGHES IG: @alyssahughesphoto

Knitting and crochet club meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. in College Hall room 245.

New partnership brings solar power to local nonprofits

By CLAIRE TOLLAN

Gonzaga Sustainable Energy (GSE) has partnered with RE-volv, a climate justice nonprofit, to bring solar power to nonprofits in Spokane.

Around 1.5 million nonprofits in the U.S. face significant barriers to getting solar projects financed because nonprofits cannot access traditional solar financing, according to the RE-volv website.

“The reason why RE-volv focuses on nonprofits is that nonprofits don't get that tax incentive for having solar on their

buildings that normal people do,” said GSE President Theo Labay. “If you install solar on your home, you get a certain tax deduction by having solar and also get certain benefits from utility for that too, and nonprofits don't get that.”

RE-volv works to address those barriers by providing an innovative solution to solar financing for nonprofits in low-to-moderate income communities, BIPOC communities and areas of the U.S. where solar power is less prevalent.

They train volunteer college students

and community members across the U.S. to identify small to medium sized nonprofits in the community that could benefit from solar energy. This is where GSE comes in.

GSE participates in RE-volv's Solar Ambassador program, a yearlong fellowship for college students to work together in teams to bring solar energy to a local nonprofit. RE-volv provides educational training on solar energy, and then Solar Ambassadors identify a nonprofit in their community that has demonstrated a track record of serving

their community, owns their building or has a long-term lease and has a roof in good shape.

GSE chose Transitions, a nonprofit that works to end poverty and homelessness for women and children in Spokane.

The process begins when the nonprofit signs up for a free energy quote. From there, RE-volv works with local solar installers to determine the appropriate solar system. RE-volv covers all the upfront

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A blast from the past

Students in Greta Turnbull's philosophy classes are embarking on a semesterlong role-playing journey where they re-examine historical events

By CATHERINE BROWN

Finding the balance between having both a fun and productive learning environment can be a challenge, although Greta Turnbull, an assistant professor of philosophy at GU, is able to do just that through a learning strategy called "Reacting to the Past."

This strategy is similar to a role playing game such as "Mafia" or "Dungeons and Dragons." Turnbull assigns each student with a character to research and later play in the class.

Students spend a month preparing for their role, learning tactics and strategies to become the character they play throughout the class. When enrolled in the course, students learn the core skills taught in philosophy while studying a specific role and giving presentations.

"The thing that Gonzaga does so well, that I love, is that every faculty member I know, we are always trying to think through 'how do I make this information I'm giving, especially in the core, valuable to my students?'" Turnbull said. "How do I help them see that it helps them in their real life and I think reacting is an absolutely fantastic way to do that because becoming these people helps in ways to see in which...these issues relate to you."

While teaching at Boston College, Turnbull became aware of this learning technique and began implementing it into her lessons.

Turnbull began to build her own games for her classes. As more games were created, Turnbull found herself researching how 'Reacting to the Past' is connected throughout the nation. With time, she has been able to build a community both within her students, as well as other professors and philosophers who use this technique.

"I was teaching a logic class, and I started falling in love with the way games really helped motivate my students to participate in class or engage in the material in a way that was creative," Turnbull said. "You want them to be able to have the opportunity to interact with the material, not because I said they should but because they want to."

The course is mainly student-led, promoting students to work skillfully with others. Turnbull hopes the course will help students overcome any issues they may have with public speaking. Students are required to work with peers in order to convince one another to pass certain laws.

Students receive grade points by achieving their character's objectives, such as certain laws being passed. In order to "win," a student's character must get what they would have wanted in history.

"We rewind the clock, pretend that whatever happened in that movement in history never happened, and you get to decide and work out with people what happens," Turnbull said.



Greta Turnbull's philosophy classes participate in "Reacting to the Past," a learning style that incorporates acting and role playing.

Overall, the course has been positively accepted by students. Time in class is spent enjoying the learning environment on top of a deep understanding of the material.

"It gives you the understanding that you need to have prepared in order to succeed as opposed to sitting and being passive," said senior Caroline Hamm. "You have to actively be a part of the learning experience. You have to be prepared, you have to be ready. People will take advantage of you if you don't know what you're talking about. It can get intense."

Hamm felt the excitement in preparing for the course and was happy to recommend the class to any student looking for a philosophy class.

"I like how it's competitive, and you have to do a lot of detailed research," Hamm said. "It makes you want to understand the material, as a different motivation. That really pushes you to learn [the material] for the competition as opposed to a test."

Catherine Brown is a staff writer.



A student, adorned in a top hat, speaks to the class in character.



Unvaccinated undergraduate students will be required to take a COVID-19 test upon returning to campus following Thanksgiving break.

TESTING

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COVID-19 Action Response Team coordinator.

Post-Thanksgiving testing through Health and Counseling Services is reserved for students who are unvaccinated, have been exposed or are experiencing symptoms.

There are at-home tests and local COVID-19 testing sites available for students if they would like to be tested but do not qualify for the on-campus testing through the health center.

Spokane Falls Community College is offering free drive up testing on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 3410 W. Whistlers Way.

For a full list of at-home testing kits, students can visit the Spokane Regional Health District's website.

While students are home, Porterfield and Jordan said that practicing good hygiene will be key.

"Wear your mask, wash your hands, and try to gather safely with family and friends to limit exposure," Jordan said.

Many students see older family members and relatives around the Thanksgiving holiday, so the school's goal is to create accessible resources for students to stay safe and keep their family healthy.

The GU COVID-19 hotline will be available for students who have questions about the testing options around Thanksgiving break. The hotline phone number is (509) 313-7070 and can be reached from Nov. 15 through Dec. 4.

More information can be found at <https://www.gonzaga.edu/zagon/testing>.

Alise Hartz is a contributor.

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Put on your dancing shoes: Zagathon returns in 2022

In March, Zagathon will host its first fully in-person marathon event since 2019

By ALISE HARTZ

Gonzaga's favorite marathon is back. But don't worry, this marathon doesn't involve any running.

Almost three years after its last in-person fundraiser, Zagathon is ready to dance and raise money for Sacred Heart Children's Hospital on March 19 next semester from 4 p.m. to midnight in the Cataldo Globe Room.

Zagathon was held on a small scale in 2021 and didn't happen in 2020 due to COVID-19. Because this event hasn't been at full capacity in over three years, first-year, sophomore and junior students have yet to experience Zagathon's impact.

"Zagathon is a student-led organization that is working to raise money for Sacred Heart hospital and 100% of the proceeds go directly to kids being treated there," said Serena Hua, co-director of Zagathon and GU senior.

The Zagathon team has high hopes for this year's fundraiser, setting out to raise over \$100,000 and have 700 students attend the event.

"Every hour of the event has a different theme," said Zack Dwyer, senior at GU and co-director of the event. "There are different dances and decorations to go with each theme."

Attendees can expect dancing, games, decorations, snacks and a lot of fundraising for Zagathon. The executive team is working on partnerships with popular Spokane vendors such as Sweet Frostings, Donut Parade and Brick West Brewing.

At the end of the night the grand total for donations is added and announced. Some families who have benefited from Zagathon's fundraising have come to the event in years past to share their stories. This is one of the most powerful parts of the event for attendees.

"These families really put it into perspective when they talk," Hua said. "In a way, it is putting a name and face to the work we do, and it makes everything worth it."

Students' fundraising throughout the year has a large impact on the Spokane community. Money raised by Zagathon is distributed by the hospital where they see fit, such as premie equipment, diapers and larger medical machines.

The dance marathon and fundraising for the local children's hospital is a nation-wide phenomenon and part of the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMNH), that colleges across the country participate in. All colleges that participate are also fundraising to support their local children's hospitals.

"Gonzaga is actually the only college to be raising



HAYATO TSUJII IG: @whoishayato

Serena Hua (left) and Zack Dwyer are Zagathon co-directors.

money for Sacred Heart," Hua said.

Zagathon is looking for underclassmen to get involved with the organization. There are 14 people on the executive team, which will open up in the spring for applications, and 40 people are part of the morale squad.

Dwyer said as a member of the morale squad, students are in charge of keeping Zagathon participants energized and maintaining a lively event atmosphere. For students considering getting involved with Zagathon longterm, Dwyer said that morale squad can be a good way for students to get their foot in the door for future positions.

As for participating in this year's event and donating, registration is now open. Registering means people will be attending the event. It costs \$15 to register and people can join and create teams with their friends and have funding competitions.

Participants can raise money by talking to professors,

friends, family and promoting Zagathon on social media.

"The best part of Zagathon in my opinion is getting to see students come together for a cause far greater than themselves," Dwyer said.

Zagathon also brings together GU alumni and the Spokane community in support of Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, Hua said.

Zagathon is a collective movement, as it thrives off the passion and excitement in the room of the participants. Everyone is thrilled to be serving the Spokane community.

You can follow Zagathon updates on Instagram @guzagathon and register for its dance marathon event in March through Linktree.

Alise Hartz is a contributor.

“

[GSE's] main goal is to be a place on campus for people to learn more about sustainable energy [and] to explore that passion for sustainability in more of a technical engineering base.

Theo Labay, Gonzaga Sustainable Energy (GSE) president

POWER

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costs, installs the solar panels and provides all the maintenance for the system. This allows nonprofits to save about 15% on their electricity bills, according to the RE-volv website.

"Since energy cost is a lot lower, that money that they're saving can be put towards their own programs," said Jess Vazquez, one of the vice presidents of GSE and designated coordinator with RE-volv. "They become more sufficient and not as dependent on raising money for just bills. They spend more on people."

Through a solar lease or power purchase agreement, the nonprofits pay back RE-volv. These payments are then invested in the Solar Seed Fund, which helps pay for the next nonprofit's solar system. At the end of the lease, at no cost, RE-volv transfers the ownership of the solar system to the nonprofit.

"They want to make a revolving system

so that eventually they won't ever have to have an investor in the system to help pay those upfront costs," Vazquez said. "It'll be kind of like nonprofits giving back to the next nonprofit."

After the 20-year solar lease, Transitions will own its system. The switch to clean energy will prevent more than 2,050,000 pounds of emission from entering the atmosphere, according to the RE-volv website.

Additionally, Transitions will save more than \$116,000 through the process. This allows it to reinvest this money into services for women experiencing homelessness and trauma, as well as provide additional housing options for women and children experiencing homelessness.

According to Labay, this partnership aligns with GSE's mission for social justice and energy equity.

"[GSE] also [does] a lot of focus on energy equity, especially around sustainable energy," Labay said. "This was a really good project because it was not only reaching out to the community in the area,



PHOTO COURTESY OF GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

An aerial view of the solar panels at Transitions, a nonprofit that works to end poverty and homelessness for women and children in Spokane.

but also how to deal with solar. We got that experience with sustainable energy, and energy equity in the Spokane community."

So far, RE-volv has funded 46 solar projects, saving \$18.7 million for nonprofits and avoiding 91,000 tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere.

GU is the first university in Washington state to partner with RE-volv, making Transitions the first nonprofit in Washington state to participate in the process.

A ribbon cutting event is set to take place at the end of January. The public is invited to attend and celebrate the

leadership of GU students, the important work being done by Transitions and the newest addition of clean, renewable energy in Spokane.

Claire Tollan is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @clairetollan.

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Daniel Cook (left) and Henry Barber find it imperative that their new club practice meditation in a peaceful space.

Meetings of mindfulness and meditation

Two GU seniors, Daniel Cook and Henry Barber, piloted the GU meditation club along with advisor Gloria Chien to create a welcoming and peaceful environment

By GABE MCDONALD

This month, Gonzaga welcomed a new addition to its extensive list of existing clubs on campus — meditation club, providing students with all levels of experience. It gives students the space and community to participate and explore new meditation techniques.

The first official meeting of GU’s meditation club was Thursday, Nov. 4, and according to the club coordinators, seniors Daniel Cook and Henry Barber, it was a success.

“We really had no idea what to expect from the first meeting turnout wise, especially since we did not get much of a chance to advertise before it,” Barber said.

According to Cook, even without widespread advertisement, he and Barber were happy with the turnout because it gave them the chance to meet and share their passion for meditation with new students.

“We ended up having five new people join us, so there were seven of us in total,” Cook said. “We were happy with this turn out, especially since there was a quick turnaround from the time we advertised until the meeting itself.”

The process of developing this new club began as Cook and Barber thought that this would be a great inclusion to campus culture here at GU. Their goal was to offer the community a safe and accessible space to learn and participate in the art of meditation.

“Whether you are trying meditation for the first time or are looking to deepen your practice, we hope to provide a safe and positive space for students to gather and to practice and learn together,” Cook said.

Barber says that meditation has always been an effective

method for himself, and because of this, it seemed natural that something similar should be offered at GU.

According to Cook, he feels that meditation is important because it has the potential to benefit everyone.

“People are pursuing various meditative practices for many reasons, and there are students on campus who are looking for ways to implement meditation practices into their lives and meet others who share this interest,” Cook said. “Having a meditation club on campus is crucial to creating a space and community for students who have this interest in meditation.”

Assistant professor in the Religious Studies Department, Gloria Chien, said she decided to become the meditation club advisor after Cook took her Religions of Asia course that focused on meditation retreats in Buddhist monastic settings.

Cook, being so engaged with the topics taught in the course, decided to initiate a plan to develop a space for meditation practice to occur on campus.

“Before Daniel and Henry submitted their club proposal to GSBA, we had a productive meeting to discuss the club’s parameters and the goals,” Chien said. “We discussed how various types of meditation could promote the participants’ emotional and spiritual growth.”

Chien says she is delighted to accept Cook and Barber’s invitation to be their club advisor because she admires the strong interest and passion that they both have for meditation.

“I’m inspired by their passion which also resonates with my own meditation experience that started when I was in college in Taiwan,” Chien said.

According to Chien, those looking to take a break from the normal stress that arises during the end of the semester can join in on a session of meditation on Thursday’s starting at 5 p.m.

Meetings last about 40 minutes and will take place weekly on the third floor of College Hall inside the Hearth Room behind the chapel.

Those interested in practicing meditation do not need to bring any additional materials with them to meetings.

“We have cushions and mats, which I purchased with the funding awarded by the Office of the Dean at the College of Arts and Sciences in the spring of 2018,” Chien said. “The grant supported my research and teaching project for a course I taught, ‘Compassion Meditation and Happiness’ at Emory University, and I’m happy that we can keep sharing and using these resources in addition to my current course to expand the meditation practice at GU.”

Sign-ups are not required, so students are welcome to bring friends and take some time to reset before the end of the semester final projects and study sessions kick in.

If students have any questions about the club or about attending a meeting, they can contact Henry Barber at hbarber@zagmail.gonzaga.edu and Daniel Cook at dcook2@zagmail.gonzaga.edu.

Gabe McDonald is a contributor.

TENT CITY

Continued from Page 1

best tent city number yet with tent No. 5.

Bauman got to be in the front row for Saturday night at one of the biggest games the Kennel has seen, and she said this was the biggest game she ever attended.

“I’m super excited,” Bauman said before the game. “My family is really hoping that I will be on TV, or I’ve always seen people rush the floor to do the high-fives, so I’m really hoping I get to do that this year.”

Compared to past years, this year’s Tent City had its own theme — country. Country-themed games, activities and even a mechanical bull made an appearance at Tent City. The first 72 Tent City participants received GU cowboy hats, which later went on sale for \$15.

Friday night events consisted of dinner provided by the Old Spaghetti Factory and Spike Night’s ‘Country Nite’ from 7:30 p.m. till 11:30 p.m. GU alumni provided hot chocolate and burritos Saturday morning prior to tent teardown

at 3 p.m.

Siegle said going forward, people can expect Tent City to be even bigger and better. With the remaining Tent City games being the University of Washington, BYU and Saint Mary’s, Siegle said there is much to look forward to.

“We’ve got some awesome stuff planned for the rest of this year, some very unique ideas [and] Tent Cities that have never been done before,” Siegle said. “I just think we’re going to keep aiming for bigger and bigger and bigger. We’ve got a board that’s willing to take risks. We’ve got a board that’s willing to put ourselves on the line and sacrifice our time and energy to really give this student population something to be excited about.”

Vincent Saglimbeni is the managing editor. Follow him on Twitter: @vinnysaglimbeni.



A group of students pose in front of their tent at the Texas Tent City event.

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Letter to the Editor:

Professor remembers roommate who died by suicide

The year 2001 was the hardest of my life. As I tell my students, 9/11 was a national tragedy, but its effects would be felt on my life later. In March of that year, my friend Kristine Noonan took her life by combining several antidepressants, and her death shattered me.

Like most of my peers in West Lafayette, Indiana, I turned to alcohol for solace, not realizing that the more I drank, the sadder I felt, which caught me in a terrible negative feedback loop. I was depressed even before Kristine died, but I did not have the vocabulary to describe how I felt. Soon, even getting buzzed would make me feel suicidal, with my immature brain associating sadness with alcohol. It would take over a decade to rewire the way I thought.

Eight months later, my physical and emotional health still a disaster, my roommate, Blair Tyree Smith, took his own life in the room next to mine on Nov. 9, 2001. Losing anyone to suicide is challenging, but when Blair died, I lost who I was for a long time. Breaking his door down, seeing that he had hanged himself while listening to “Circles” by Incubus, calling 911, talking to the police ... Was I dreaming? Did it happen?

I became, what Charles Bukowski called, “a museum of fear.” I would carry not only Blair’s death, but the emotional weight of his life with me all the way to graduate school in California. After Robin Williams died by hanging in 2014, I was overcome with grief and Blair’s death came roaring back into my life till my therapist, Dr. Keith Higginbotham, had me write a letter to Blair forgiving him. Keith pointed out that Blair would always and forever be a confused, scared 19-year-old kid and I had to let him go.

After Madison Holleran, a student-athlete at the



By SHYAM K. SRIRAM

University of Pennsylvania died by suicide, Kate Fagan wrote a beautiful essay for ESPN in May 2015 titled, “Split Image.” In it, Fagan wrote of the intense pressures that Madison felt due to social media:

“She seemed acutely aware that the life she was curating online was distinctly different from the one she was actually living.”

But it was not just about Instagram and Snapchat; the transition from high school to college was more than Madison had expected.

I never knew Madison or her family, but this story has also stayed with me, especially as those dual 2001 suicides curated a life for me that I did not expect as

an educator-turned-mental-health-ally. As I navigate Gonzaga's campus, especially when I eat at the COG – you have seen me, the South Asian American usually wearing a suit and reading while eating – I am also absorbing everything around me. I see you, the undergraduate, “full of hormones” (as Robin Williams said), basking in the freedom of college, but also the bravado that comes with the not knowing.

“Freshman year of college can be like running an obstacle course wearing a blindfold,” Fagan wrote. “Nothing prepares you for how hard the workouts will be, how long they last, what each class will be like, which events are fun and which should be avoided.”

This is my first semester teaching at GU, but I believe students see my passion for what it is – a life shaped by tragedy and empathy. Every generation struggles with depression and loneliness, but I am so proud of you, Gen Z, for naming what you need to thrive, and asking for help.

We should all be grateful to work and attend a school like GU that is committed to the idea of cura personalis. I hope that the students who read this know they are not alone; that seeking help is not a sign of defeat, but the first step in the journey of healing. I pray that our students know they will find love and be loved in return; and that they are the answer to someone’s prayers.

Shyam K. Sriram is a lecturer in the Department of Political Science.

The blame is shared in the Astroworld Festival tragedy

In the rapid-fire world of social media, jumping to conclusions as a collective is something that we see quite a bit of. Mixed with the unequivocally dystopian nature of the past 18 months, no theory, accusation or claim is too far-fetched to be at least marginally believable. This phenomenon has been brought to the forefront by the tragic events and discourse surrounding Astroworld Fest 2021, which left hundreds injured and 10 dead at the time of this article's writing.

As the news surrounding the festival slowly began to surface, speculation as to what really occurred began to spread like wildfire on various social media platforms.

“There are several accounts that claim the local news in #Houston is LYING. It's not just '8' it's close to hundreds,” reads an Instagram post published the day after the festival.

TikTok took things in a different direction, with multiple creators claiming that the festival doubled as a satanic ritual and the deceased acting as sacrifices.

Finally, countless posts pinned the responsibility on the festival’s host, Travis Scott, who was performing at the time of the reported crowd surge which led to the injuries and deaths.

Sadly for Scott, he’s been the recipient of the bulk of the criticism of the tragedy, although he had next to no control of the situation.

Many claim that Scott neglected a moral responsibility to stop the show after seeing a fan pass out. This claim would be plausible, if Scott actually had the ability to stop the show.

“This notion that Travis had the ability to stop the



By LUKE MODUGNO

concert is ludicrous,” former Baltimore Mayor and spokesperson for Scott Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said in an interview on CBS Mornings. “They have a 59-page operations plan, and it clearly says the only two people that have the authority to stop the concert were the executive producer and the concert producer... [Travis] was not responsible for this, but he wants to be responsible for the solution.”

That executive producer and concert producer Scott’s attorney is referring to is the multibillion dollar conglomerate Live Nation. Live Nation is the world’s

largest events company and one that happens to be at the center of tragedies like this quite often.

The company has been linked to over 200 deaths and 750 injuries at its events since 2006, according to a report by the Houston Chronicle. Live Nation has been cited for a plethora of safety violations in the past, paying out hundreds of millions in settlements over the past 10 years.

Another failure of the event was the clearly understaffed security, which would also happen to fall on the shoulders of Live Nation. Several videos were shared of thousands of people breaking into the festival, as security watched idly by.

Speaking of security, the Houston Police Department has been outspoken in its criticism of Scott and his team. Chief of the department Troy Finner initially defended his decision not to shut down the festival. The next day, Finner ripped Scott for making the same decision (although Finner had the authority to shut the event down and Scott did not). Additionally, HPD has failed to explain various videos of their officers seemingly unaware of the tragedies occurring in front of them.

From an unbothered conglomerate to a police department more interested in shifting blame than taking accountability, Astroworld Festival was clearly doomed no matter what Scott did. Rest in peace to those who lost their lives.

Luke Modugno is the digital editor. Follow him on Twitter: @lmodugno5.

The Gonzaga Bulletin

Editor-in-Chief

Asher Ali

Managing Editor

Vincent Saglimbeni

News Editors

Devan Iyomasa

Natalie Rieth

Lillian Piel

Arts & Entertainment Editors

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Contact Info:

Email: bulletin@zagmail.gonzaga.edu

Office phone: 509-313-6826

Advertising: 509-313-6839 or adoffice@gonzaga.edu

www.gonzagabulletin.com

Giving thanks in 2021

In a year still filled with struggle, what can we say 'thank you' for?

Recently, as per the season, I’ve been reflecting on what I have to be thankful for in this crazy day and age that we’re living in.

Though this year has been fraught with so much, this time provides the perfect moment to step back and analyze for what we should all be grateful. From the throes of a global pandemic to domestic unrest, many have been stranded with meager means or without loved ones this year. But while we have lost, we must remember what we have.

Yes, mourn the world that we lost where in crowded areas the biggest fear was claustrophobia, but keep an eye on the future. There’s a light at the end of the tunnel. We’re moving toward an open world, though at a slow pace.

This alone is enough to rejoice. Remember waking up five minutes before class and rolling on to a black screen Zoom? While that had its perks, the held-up mentality of last year is finally loosening its grip.

Places are opening, restaurants and cinemas are back to the business of keeping us well fed and entertained. That feeling of the theater dimming as trailers are projected on screen or sitting down to a good meal with company other than the people you were locked up with has returned.

Of course, it’s important to acknowledge that many businesses sadly failed during the pandemic, and many people were affected financially throughout its course.

Sympathy and kindness must be at the forefront of what



By DAWSON NEELY

we think about when enjoying our newly renovated society.

In a roundabout way, COVID-19 allowed for people to truly reach new heights in the way we treat people. The pandemic was one of few occurrences in the course of human history that has been felt by everyone, and in that sense, it brought people together even though we were physically separate.

The vast human capability for care and kindness was demonstrated by each person choosing to do the best for their community and loved ones. Whether from businesses taking action by modifying to fit changing regulations or from everyday folks wearing masks and trying to social distance, we have all wrought the present in which we now live.

And this is something to be immensely thankful for.

We can do more than go on walks and congregate in small numbers outside, and the threat to the health and safety of our families has greatly diminished

thanks to the vaccine.

The year of 2021 saw a rocky start and continues to march through new trials each day, but we can hope for the future once again.

From this vantage point we can say thank you for the friends and family we have and can gather to ourselves for this holiday season. Not everyone is as fortunate to wake up on Thanksgiving morning with the people they miss, but if you are, then it is your duty to truly be grateful for that luxury.

This year had untold pains and sorrows, but what can we learn from the lives we’ve led?

We’ve learned to hope, to pick ourselves up and, most of all, to help one another through the struggles each of us has labored through. Why not say thank you for all the people who carried us through the emotional roller coaster that was 2021?

As we move further through this year, that same spirit of thankfulness should carry on with us. Each day presents new gifts as well as challenges. With each new moment there lies a potential for happiness, whether that be your own or someone else’s. Be a person that someone says “thank you” for on Nov. 25, because you certainly have people to thank.

So, as the season of gratitude falls upon us, remember this, the trials of 2021 have left us with enough for which to smile and say “thank you” for.

Dawson Neely is the opinion editor. Follow him on Twitter: @DawsonNeely.



ANDREW LOF IG: @andrewlof_photography

While a day on the slopes can seem expensive, there are cheaper options locally that help ease the costs of skiing and snowboarding.

Tips and tricks: Starting up and sticking to skiing and snowboarding

By NATHAN OMODT

As the winter season quickly approaches and snow makes its way to the mountains surrounding Spokane, the Gonzaga ski and snowboard communities are ready to hit the slopes. Attending a university a mere hour from multiple quality ski and snowboard hills offers many possibilities for students whose passions are the slopes. However, there is one thing separating all GU students from hitting the hills knowing how to ski.

Xavier Bellay, a sophomore at GU, explains that while he would be interested in trying skiing or snowboarding, he has never done so before because of the barriers separating him from the ski and snowboard life.

"I have definitely thought about it and I think they would be cool to do, but I feel like they are kind of a commitment to get into," Bellay said. "Transportation is kind of complicated to get to the sites for skiing and the equipment is really expensive. They also both require skill, and the closest thing I have done to them is tubing."

Many financial, transportation and knowledge based resources separate non-skiers and snowboarders from trying to get into the sports. However, GU based clubs like GU Outdoors and the ski and snowboard club have many resources and pieces of knowledge to help those interested in learning.

Mark Riegel, marketing officer for the GU ski and snowboard club, and Paal Bredal, vice president of the ski and snowboard club, understand there are many barriers that make it difficult to get into skiing and snowboarding, especially cost.

"Skiing and snowboarding are hard sports to get into just because they are so expensive," Bredal said. "If you want to rent skis at Schweitzer [Mountain], it can be like \$100. Renting skis, buying a lift ticket and getting ski lessons can be very expensive."

Both Riegel and Bredal have identified many different ways GU students can save money during their ski experience.

"The biggest thing people do to save money is to take advantage of Mount Spokane's night skiing because it is a lot cheaper," Riegel said. "People also rent snowboards from GU Outdoors because rentals are \$10 per day which is way less than anywhere else."

Riegel also recommends looking into borrowing a friend's pass or ski equipment.

Another money saving tip is to not pay for lessons. While lessons can be helpful, both Riegel and Bredal believe a better strategy for learning is through trial and error, the help of friends and friendly skiers and snowboarders.

"If you're a Gonzaga student and you go to Schweitzer or Mount Spokane on a Friday, you're gonna see people you know," Bredal said. "You can tell them 'it's my first time up here' and they're going [to] want to teach you something new."

Most people that ski and snowboard on the mountain are going to be more than willing to offer tips and tricks, according to Riegel.

When it comes to actually learning how to ski, Bredal and Riegel believe repetition, determination and a good attitude are necessary for improving.

"You just have to be willing to fall down," Bredal said. "It's part of the fun. You get to be with your friends, going really fast down a hill and every once in a while you fall down. If you want to get better you have to take risks."

Personal progress and sticking to the sport are important parts of the learning curve.

"My freshman year, I knew a few people who went up to the mountain at the start of the year with no experience," Riegel said. "But they kept going every week and I knew they were improving. By the end of the year I ran into them at the top of the mountain and they were at my level. If you do something consistently and you enjoy it, you're going to get good at it."

GU Outdoors offers shuttle services to Mount Spokane night skiing along with equipment rentals, such as helmets, boots and snowboards. Students can join ski

“

You just have to be willing to fall down. It's part of the fun.

Paal Bredal, vice president of GU ski and snowboard club

and snowboard club for \$40 and have access to discounted lift tickets, access to ski trips, rides to the mountains and additional perks.

The GU ski and snowboard club has extended their sign up deadline to Nov. 26. The club is also looking into getting scholarships to help students afford to go on trips that they could not normally afford.

Nathan Omodt is a staff writer.

Hello Sugar enchants customers with Wizard Week

By KAYLA FRIEDRICH

Hello Sugar has always been a place that feels a little but more special than other donut shops with their fun, innovative approach to donuts flavors and overall ambience. Recently, there was something in the air that added a little extra spice to the quirky little donut shop.

Last week, Hello Sugar locations were decked out in everything "Harry Potter" for the annual Wizard Week, where wizards, muggles and goblins were all welcome to enjoy some magical sweets.

All three Hello Sugar locations changed their regular menus to encapsulate all things Potter with donut flavors such as "Fizzing Whizbee," "Nimbus 2000" and "Butterbeer." Oh, and themed drinks to match with equally clever names like "Polyjuice Potion," "Dark Mark" and "Unicorn Blood."

Amy Staton, co-owner of Hello Sugar, knew that the "Harry Potter" theme was something that she wanted to integrate in the mini donut shops before any stores even opened and said this annual tradition started all because the Wizard Week was aligning perfectly with a Harry Potter movie release a few years back.

"We've stuck with the fall as it fits the vibe," Staton said. "Everything that we create here is around what we as the consumer would wish a business would do, and a wizard theme was top priority."

The location at Kendall Yards was nowhere short of decorations. A themed soundtrack was playing the moment the doors open to transport customers right into the wizarding world, a "Wanted Wizard" cut out for fun photos and banners to represent the noble histories of Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin houses were posted along the walls.

All week, customers were taking their Hello Sugar visits to Instagram, and posting content praising not just the treats but the new setting of the donut shop saying things like "@hellosugar you guys are the best" and "I found my happy place."

GU sophomore and Hello Sugar employee Logan Kinnard is a Harry Potter fan and was in love with the week long theme of the donut shop. Their favorite donut is the "Nimbus 2000."

"It's fun to see how much the community gets excited during this week, especially the little kids," Kinnard said. "It's our busiest week of the year and it's a lot of fun."

Wizard Week will come back around the same time next year, and in the meantime, there will be other themed weeks to be a part of that might not be every Harry Potter fans' dream, but it'll snap you away from reality for just



ALYSSA HUGHES IG: @alysahughesphoto

Hello Sugar is popular with GU students because of the creative donut and drink creations.

long enough.

Previous themes have included the Seattle Seahawks, the Olympics, the Fourth of July, Star Wars and many more.

Hello Sugar has plenty of locations to satisfy a sweet tooth. There are locations at 419 N. Nettleton St. in Kendall Yards, 11205 E. Dishman Mica Rd. in Spokane Valley and 1950 N. Harvest Parkway in Liberty Lake.

Kayla Friedrich is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @friedrich_kayla.

Vintage takeover with 'Shop & Awe'

By GEORGIA COSOLA

For the first time since 2019, Boulevard Mercantile will be holding its annual “Shop & Awe” event this Saturday, Nov. 20.

Starting at 5 p.m. and continuing through 9 p.m., the doors of the vintage and second hand goods shop will be open to the public offering live music, free food and free beverages.

“We really see [Shop & Awe] as an event that we can give back to our customers a little bit,” said Dan Webb, owner of Boulevard Mercantile. “We go all out with it.”

A tradition that started during their first Christmas six years ago, Boulevard Mercantile will be closed during the day in order to set up and display their unique holiday inventory.

“We’ve done it every year and it’s gotten bigger and better and more well attended,” Webb said.

In fact, now that this event is being held once more, patrons of Boulevard Mercantile have expressed their excitement and gratitude for “Shop & Awe.”

“People are very excited about it,” Webb said. “They’re eager to shop and eager to see what kind of Christmas stuff we put out.”

While only time will tell for the turn-out on Saturday, in the past, people have lined up outside the store in anticipation for this festive event.

Boulevard Mercantile is excited to welcome even more people this year than ever due to their new and larger storefront located at 1012 N. Washington St.

“Our opening party last March had 900 and some people that night,” said Toby Ferris, an employee at Boulevard Mercantile.

While not expecting those high pre-

COVID-19 numbers, Ferris and Webb still expect for it to be lively and exciting due to the history behind this event.

This year, singer-songwriter Hannah Siglin will be playing live music in the store during the event.

There will also be free beverages from Spokane local Bellwether Brewery for attendees during the event.

In addition to these free offerings, there will also be a plethora of pre-portioned food plates. By doing this, Boulevard is still able to serve food and stay as COVID-19-safe as possible throughout the event.

While it is not necessary for attendees to purchase anything in order to enjoy the free music and food, much of the store’s holiday inventory will be out on display.

This event is the starting point for the holiday season at Boulevard Mercantile as this is the first time during the year that holiday items will be put out for sale.

“There is a different collection of dealers, vender, and curators,” Ferris said. “People who like Christmas things and want Christmas things know the best selection is right then.”

Boulevard Mercantile will be closed on Nov. 19 in order to set up, Webb and Ferris said. People will have to wait until 5 p.m. to enter the store in order to see the inventory.

Boulevard Mercantile is located at 1012 N. Washington St. in Spokane.

Georgia Cosola is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @georgiacosola.



COURTESY OF BOULEVARD MERCANTILE FACEBOOK

"Shop & Awe" is a free event for the community, featuring vintage clothes, drinks and food.

KNITTING

Continued from Page 1

both remember how to do it and to have other people who understand what you’re doing and get excited when you finish something, too,” LeBlanc said.

In addition to providing a social atmosphere in which to knit and crochet, Snyder and LeBlanc are available at club meetings to help fellow Zags learn the craft.

“People want to learn how to knit, but we don’t want them to have to teach themselves,” Snyder said.

Club members who have been consistent in their efforts to learn have seen success at knitting and crochet club.

“There have been a lot of people who make good progress by coming,” LeBlanc said.

The club also has materials available for members to

use, which is intended to provide an opportunity for Zags to try something new without investing in supplies.

Snyder and LeBlanc found a passion for knitting at a local business, The Hook and Needle Nook, when they took a sock knitting class together last October. The shop is owned and managed by Esther Wheeler, a retired biochemist who has found a second career in the fiber world.

The Hook and Needle Nook, located on 1508 N. Monroe St., can be of great help to anyone in Spokane looking to pick up knitting or crochet. The shop offers a wide array of classes, including a sweater knitting class and a beginning crochet class.

“I’m a teacher by trade, so part of my commitment with the shop is to pass some of this knowledge of fiber arts on to people so they can enjoy it too,” Wheeler said. “Because it’s been a great joy for me.”

The store also has a wide variety of yarn and other supplies available for purchase, and its staff are always

prepared to help customers with projects. Snyder and LeBlanc both spoke about going into the store for advice with their own projects.

“If somebody’s having trouble with a project, they can come in here and find help at any time,” Wheeler said.

Wheeler described coming up with the idea for her shop after connecting with the local knitting community when she moved to Spokane after finishing her career as a professor of biochemistry. Her success is evidence of the strength of the fiber community in the city.

Like in the greater Spokane area, the knitting and crochet culture is alive and well on GU’s campus. With the new forum of knitting and crochet club, there has never been a better time to pick up some knitting needles or a crochet hook and to spend some time crafting with fellow Zags.

Maureen Parks is a staff writer.

ACROSS

1 Parachute

5 Grating noises

10 Millionaire start

15 Indian weight

19 Location

20 Put far away

21 From Formosa

22 Author Leon

23 Canine from Cardigan

25 Edam, e.g.

27 New South Wales cap.

28 Hebrides isle

29 Military chaplain

31 Verdi opera

32 Regarding

33 Spread out awkwardly

34 Plait maker

35 Hankered after

38 Popular shirts

39 Refreshing

40 Leather flasks

41 Campbell's soup

44 Aliens

47 RR stops

48 Bangkok native

49 Sturdy trees

50 Alphabet series

51 Sea bird

52 Dijon departure

56 Wood: comb. form

57 Most like April

59 Tidal bore

60 Cereal grass

61 Blade of "Mortal Kombat"

62 Unit of capacitance

63 Post position, perhaps

64 Unstressed vowels

66 Savage

67 Forceful restraints

70 Of sound

71 Like Uncle Sam

73 Lamar, Mo. favorite son

74 "It's _____": bargain

75 Role for Liz

76 Roosted

77 Shindig

78 Alphabetical run

79 Taper for Titus

83 Martinique's spewer

84 Mystiques

85 French possessive

86 German port

87 Alberta city

90 Barrio buddy

91 Lamentation

92 Pied—

93 In existence

94 Appraise

95 Certain little piggy

98 X for Zorba

100 Dublin dithers

103 Ireland

104 Funny lady Fields

105 Nary a soul

106 Standstill

107 Points of time

108 Roebuck's partner

DOWN

1 Benchley best seller

2 Chemistry Nobel

3 Put together

4 Pops

5 Tape

6 On one's own

7 Rail in the marsh

8 Farm dweller

9 Brief passage

10 Rapid departure

11 Illegal loans

12 Calorie counter's choice

13 Air Force Gp.

14 Falls heir to

15 Rutabaga

16 Mountain nymph

17 NPR's Hansen

18 Up and about

19 Jazz pianist "Fatha"

20 Rubbish

26 Rubbish

30 Writer Waugh

109 Methods: abbr.

110 "Or _____!"

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

11/14/21

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JUMP RASPS MULTI TOLA
AREA ELOIN ASTIAN URIS
WELSH GORGI DUTCH TREAT
SYD TONIA P ADRE BERNANI
ST INRE SPLAY BRAIDER
LUSTED TEES GRISP
OLPES SCOTCH BROTH ETS
STAS THAI OAKS MNOP
ERN FRENCH LEAVE LIGNI
RAINYA FEA GRE MILLET
SONIYA FEA GRE MILLET
SCHWAS FEA GRE MILLET
TONAL ALL AMERICAIN HST
ABUW GLEO CALIT PETE
RST ROMANCA NOL PELEE
AURAS AMOL BREMEN
CALTARY AMIO WAIL
ATERRE BEING RATE TOE
GREEK CROSS IRISH STEWS
ETRE TOTIE NOONE HALT
DAYS SEARS SYSTS ELSE

11/14/2021

Sudoku By The Mephram Group

Level

1

2

3

4

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

Solution to last Sunday's puzzle11/14/21

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

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](https://www.sudoku.org.uk).

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Birds In The Coast is flying high

By SYDNEY FLUKER

Local Spokane luxury brand Birds In The Coast is flying high. Fueled by their love for Spokane, business owners Jáiz Boyd and Corinn Bleck aim to use their company to give back to Spokane and the creative people that live here. Boyd grew up in Sacramento and various cities across the San Francisco Bay Area, where the hyphy movement sparked an interest in fashion and sewing. After teaching himself to hand sew in 2010, he began reusing his old fabric materials, turning them into something new. “It’s about giving these things a new life,” Boyd said. When he grew out of sewing small pillows and other basics, he began experimenting with cutting materials. By learning how to turn old clothing into new accessories, he found a passion for creating bags. Birds In The Coast was created after Boyd moved to Spokane in 2013, named after the numerous birds in the Bay Area. “Coming up here I realized this was a place where I could actually grow, versus being in the hustle and just trying to live,” Boyd said.

His wife, Corinn Bleck, joined him in running the business in the summer of 2020. With her background in visual merchandising and mathematical skills, she handles the monetary side of BITC and the visual decor. Staying true to their morals is important to Boyd and Bleck, whose company produces zero emissions. When it came time for Boyd to expand to outsourcing, it was important to find a company that aligned with their zero emissions goal.

They found that connection with Spradling, a company that donates their clothing scraps to smaller environmental companies that upcycle it — turning them into backpacks and shopping bags. Spradling is focused on creating jobs for people locally and creating materials that are better for the environment, while having nothing from its own company go into the environment whatsoever. Environmentalism is a large value for Boyd and Bleck. Everything used in the bag making process is saved by Boyd, but if he cannot use them in his work, he has the option to send it back to Spradling.

Their dedication to zero waste inspired their recent collaboration with City Chapter, another local Spokane brand that makes personalized city-branded jackets. Combining materials, each jacket from City Chapters can be turned into three bags by Boyd — one duffle bag, one crossbody and one mini-backpack. No hardware or material goes to waste.

“It’s about taking something that would normally only have one life cycle and giving it three to four different life cycles, so that way you can take one material and just stretch it out as much as possible,” Boyd said. Inspired by wanting to do something powerful and unique to make Spokane a better place for creatives, Boyd and Bleck acquired a storefront at 709 N. Monroe St. The space they recently rented is a byproduct of their company, but it won’t just be used as a storefront. Set designs, art, installations and speakers are all ideas the couple wants to pursue to build on creative coworking.

“It’s an opportunity for other people without that firsthand access to a venue or gallery to create something for themselves,” Bleck said, who decorates and manages the space. “We really want to create events that will expose



COURTESY OF BIRDS IN THE COAST FACEBOOK

Jáiz Boyd works with various recycled materials to create the bags.

people to a new network, to the city or to whoever is coming in from out of town.”

The space is versatile and has room for character, featuring plain white walls, simple hardwood floors and a brick accent wall. Built in the late 1880s, the large open room can be used for a variety of events.

One idea they have is to feature an installation that shows the effects of fast fashion on villages near factories.

Aiming to recreate the environment of a location where waste is being dumped, the installation will imitate smell, air quality, water quality, microplastics and more to show the severity of the issue.

“For you to be able to see an installation that kind of imitates what an environment could be like from our actions is powerful,” Boyd said. “We want to do different things like that to really give people a surreal experience so that people understand.”

Their business also remains close to their hearts. The third member of their team is their eight year old daughter, who accompanies Boyd to the fabric stores and critiques them both.

At family meetings, their daughter discusses silhouettes and materials with them, while Boyd and Bleck welcome and encourage her opinions.

“Having an eight year old be your critic is the most valuable information you’ll ever get because it’s as blunt as it will ever be,” Bleck said. “If it’s bad, she says it’s garbage or gives a thumbs down without hesitation.”

Working with different materials is a staple to BITC, with the recent autumn/winter 2021 collection featuring

leather and Boonta wax, an African material Boyd receives from his grandmother.

The company’s main bags are the teardrop silhouette, cross body bag, duffle bag and mini backpack. By manipulating a rectangle and circle into one shape, Boyd was able to create one of their signature looks, the teardrop silhouette.

The lifetime guarantee that comes with these bags is important to Boyd, who will mend or fix the product no matter how long it has been since the purchase.

“It’s really important to me that these bags last as long as possible,” Boyd said. “And it’s important that people have a good relationship with me because they are investing in me, so I want to return that investment.”

As the creation and making of the bags is mainly done by Boyd, with Bleck assisting in cutting materials, there are limited quantities available at each drop. They hope to branch out to start making dresses, beginning with custom orders before making anything for their label.

Here to bring local luxury products to Spokane, Birds In The Coast is just beginning its journey.

“We’re really about trying to empower other people while navigating that space for ourselves and figuring out where that works for us,” Boyd said. “We love the city and the community and we just really want to do our best to speak life and love into the community.”

Sydney Fluker is an A&E editor. Follow them on Twitter: @sydneymfluker.

ZAC: Women running the hip-hop game



Submitted by
LUKE MODUGNO

Sometimes I Might Be Introvert Little Simz

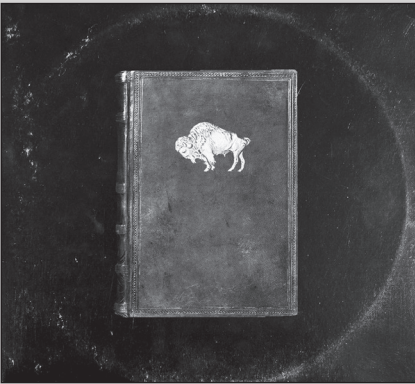
When discussing the best albums of 2021, Little Simz’s reflective record “Sometimes I Might Be Introvert” must be near the top of the list. Simz’s sixth studio album is a thoughtful entry to her catalog, as she raps over lo-fi, genre-bending production about her troubled family life, maturing and her splitting self-identity between her public and private self. Sonic diversity is a strong point, with her palette ranging from Madlib-esque soul flips (“Two Worlds Apart”) to electronic dance tracks like “Protect My Energy.”



Submitted by
SYDNEY FLUKER

Telefone Noname

The debut mixtape from slam poet-turned-rapper Noname gives a raw and detailed account of her experience growing up as a black woman in the South Side of Chicago. From facing poverty to dealing with death, “Telefone” is vulnerable and somber in a way that anyone can understand. “Yesterday” opens the album with an upbeat piano tempo and a deep reflection on her past and present, continued with interpretations of love on “Sunny Duet” and childhood in Chicago on “Diddy Bop.” “Telefone” is a breath of fresh, winter air — crisp and refreshing, but it might make you tear up a bit.



Submitted by
ASHER ALI

As God Intended Che Noir, Apollo Brown

It doesn’t take much to tell whether an up and coming rapper has what it takes to have staying power in the game, and it was evident early on in “As God Intended” that Che Noir has those talents. Starting off with “Anti-Social” all the way to “94,” Noir’s eloquent pen game pairs perfectly with Apollo Brown’s production for 15 tracks. The wide range of narratives that Noir depicts will invoke smiles, tears and laughter, making it one of the most holistic hip hop records from 2020.

'Elf the Musical' brings the Christmas spirit to the Bing Crosby Theater

REVIEW
By KAELYN NEW

Christian Youth Theater Spokane’s (CYT Spokane) “Elf the Musical” arrived just in time for the holiday season. This spunky musical aired from Nov. 5-14 at the Bing Crosby Theater in downtown Spokane.

Approaching this musical, I had low expectations. I am obligated to say these expectations were entirely set by my own stunt in youth theater programs when I was younger.

I anticipated seeing forgotten lines, overlooked choreography, missed cues and the occasional moment when an actor just stares into the audience because they forgot their song. Even then, I would have been satisfied with the performance because I am aware that I can’t expect child actors to perfectly pull off a full-length musical.

However, CYT Spokane’s “Elf the Musical” blew my expectations out of the water. From promising actors to talented singers, the musical offered an array of talent that I couldn’t have possibly foreseen.

The actor of the musical’s main character, Buddy the Elf, perfectly encapsulated the spunky and absurd nature of the character. He was accompanied by two astounding actors, who played Walter Hobbs and Emily Hobbs respectively.

Aside from the characters playing Buddy and the Hobbs family, a few other characters particularly stood out to me.

I was especially impressed by the astonishing belt and range of the actor who played Jovie. It was surprising to me that there were several harmony sections of music in the show, especially because of how young some of the actors were, but they all pulled it off relatively well.

The actor who played Deb perfectly encapsulated what it means to be a spirited desk assistant to a grinch-like businessman. Also, the character of Santa Claus was portrayed so flawlessly that I’m sure the children in the audience went home thinking they had truly seen the real deal.

The musical follows nearly the same story as “Elf” (2003), with most of the same characters and plot points. It’s the tale most of us grew up with; Buddy the Elf takes a magical adventure to New

York City after discovering his father lives there.

Alas, his father is on the naughty list, but eventually Buddy evokes just enough Christmas spirit to both save Christmas and restore jolly spirit in those around him.

The musical itself, written by Thomas Meehan and Bob Martin, boasts several of the jokes that we all know and love from the movie, but several new ones as well. I didn’t anticipate laughing too much at child-targeted humor, but I was once again proven wrong.

Of course, the musical excluded some of the more adult content present in the film, including Buddy’s thoughtful yet scandalous gift to his dad. Yet, the performance largely remained captivating.

The actors performed their own set changes, which is fairly uncommon in youth theater, and a volunteer orchestra assured that the music was played without a hinge.

While the first act did seem a fair bit longer than the second act, I wouldn’t say it detracted too much from the overall energy of the performance.

Overall, “Elf The Musical” incorporated just enough comedy, touching moments and belief in Santa Claus that entertained both children and adults. The musical was packed with family friendly Christmas fun so that all ages could enjoy the holiday spirit. I really enjoyed this show, and I would love to see what CYT Spokane does in the future.

Kaelyn New is a staff writer.

Chomper won't miss: Chomper Cricket Foods diversifies protein

By EMMALEE APPEL

Picture this for an afternoon snack: something seasoned perfectly with a yummy, homemade spice mix, fried with just the right amount of oil to make it crispy but not too greasy and amazingly protein-rich.

If that sounds appealing, then you should try Chomper Cricket Foods' roasted crickets.

Yes, crickets.

It may sound unusual, but eating insects is very common around the world. According to Joanna Newcomb, the owner of Chomper Cricket Foods, many places in Latin America, Asia and Africa include insects in diets regularly, and Newcomb is trying to help normalize that practice in Spokane.

"I always tell people it kind of tastes like a sunflower seed, but like a little bit earthy," Newcomb said. "Really you just taste the spices."

Newcomb has four flavors of roasted crickets: salt and pepper, sweet and spicy ginger, honey cinnamon and taco. Her spices and olive oil are also fully organic, and the honey is locally sourced.

Newcomb's business started up in 2019, mainly selling at local Spokane farmers markets. She says that farmers markets present the best opportunity to tell people about the crickets because more often than not, trying roasted crickets takes a little coaxing.

Newcomb started out doing everything for the business, including farming the crickets, roasting, packaging and setting up booths at markets to sell them. But recently, she has moved away from farming the crickets herself.

As the only employee and the business only being a part-time commitment, it was difficult for Newcomb to keep up with farming. So, Newcomb now buys her crickets from an indoor free-range, all organic farm in Canada called Entomo Farms.

The free-range farm is special because not only is it organic, but the farming process is significantly more ethical. Usually, crickets are farmed in large bins, which is synonymous with being caged for them. Many people dislike the idea of animals being mistreated on farms, so even though these are insects, the ethics still applies for Newcomb.

"I always had a strong sense of wanting to do something that would make the world better, like a lot of people do," Newcomb said. "I love food and there's tons of things I could chose to do, but I feel like this is something that has the potential to make a really big impact, not necessarily [on] my business, I mean I hope it does, but just [for] eating insects in general."

Now that the business has moved away from farming the crickets, Newcomb can focus on trying to educate the Spokane area on the benefits of eating insects. The



MAKOA DE ALMEIDA IG: @mdealmeida

Chomper Cricket Farms offers different flavor options for their crickets.

most significant thing to Newcomb is the health benefits.

She says that the No. 1 selling point that she gives to those hesitant to try crickets is that they are a great source of protein. Newcomb says that crickets are 60% protein, which is higher than any other source of protein including meat, which are complete protein.

Additionally, according to Entomo Farms' website, crickets also contain vitamin B12, which only comes from animal products and contains all nine essential amino acids. They are also a rich source of iron, calcium and dietary fiber.

If that isn't enough to convince the consumer, crickets are also extremely sustainable. Gonzaga Professor Ellen Maccarone teaches her students in

her ethics of eating course about the importance of using crickets as protein.

"The United Nations has been encouraging people all over the world to think seriously about crickets, and insects more generally, as a form of high quality protein that requires far fewer natural resources to be raised than other animals used for food," Maccarone said.

According to Newcomb, cricket farming doesn't emit greenhouse gases, uses less water than even some non-livestock products like eggs and soybeans and are more efficient at converting feed into what you can eat from them.

To be more specific, Newcomb provided a few figures on an informational document. In terms of water used, crickets only require about one gallon of water to

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It kind of tastes like a sunflower seed, but a little bit earthy.

Joanna Newcomb, owner of Chomper Cricket Foods.

produce one pound of crickets, compared to the 1,800 gallons required to produce 1 pound of beef or the 260 gallons needed to produce one pound of soybeans.

To prepare her crickets, Newcomb rents a commercial kitchen space from a nonprofit called "Feast World Kitchen." The kitchen's mission is to aid refugees and immigrants in feeling welcome in Spokane by having a place that shares cultural diversity through food. They have a weekly rotation of worldwide chefs that come to share food and culture from many places.

This kitchen is also where Newcomb got her fourth spice mix for her crickets. Collaborating with Inland Curry, a local Indian restaurant that cooks for Feast World Kitchen on Thursdays, Newcomb and head chef Noreen Hiskey created the sweet and spicy ginger recipe.

"I love doing stuff like that and hopefully I can do more stuff like that, even if it's just with [Hiskey], collaborating with other people in the Spokane food world," Newcomb said.

Moving forward, Newcomb hopes that the next steps will be adding products that utilize cricket flour as well — like cookies or muffins — and working with more local chefs and restaurants.

Chomper Cricket Foods' roasted crickets can be found at the Roam Coffee House in Medical Lake, Spokane. Newcomb hopes to get her crickets into local grocery stores and continue collaborating with restaurants in Spokane, so keep an eye out and don't be afraid to try her roasted crickets.

Emmalee Appel is a staff writer. Follow them on Twitter: @emm_appel.

'Red (Taylor's Version)' is a casually cruel grand slam

REVIEW
By ALEXANDER PREVOST

Jake Gyllenhall, get ready to eat your heart out.

If we're talking about what album truly represents Taylor Swift as a whole, look no further than "Red." It has everything, from the pop-bangers to the tragic, acoustic deep cuts to the diaristic lyricism.

So when 9 p.m. PST rolled around on Nov. 11, my highest hopes for the re-recording were blown right out of the water from the second I hit play.

This re-creation of her original 2012 LP is as faithful as it is innovative.

Many of the melodies have aged like fine wine, as her vocal prowess has truly come into its own over the course of the last decade. Her producers (many of whom returned from the original project) were careful to preserve the original instrumentation with such care while still making everything sound much more full, lush and bright.

From the bombastic drums on "State of Grace" to the urgent guitars on "Holy Ground," Swift and her collaborators kept the familiarity.

But to say that she didn't make subtle changes from

the original versions would be a lie. For instance, the build up on the verses of "The Last Time" is much more percussive. "Girl at Home" has been completely reworked into an electropop banger (courtesy of producer Elvira Anderfjård).

The Vault Tracks also add to the experience so greatly. For those of you playing the long game, these are tracks that didn't make the original album, and to enhance the experience, Swift essentially creates a B-Side to the original record. With her current collaborators Aaron Dessner and Jack Antonoff, she breathed new life into these lost treasures.

Some of my favorites include the outlaw country crooner "I Bet You Think About Me," which shows Swift at her best — humorous and savage. Meanwhile, "Better Man" offers a sense of heartbreak and hopelessness that isn't seen on the majority of the original cuts.

The straight-up depressing, "Nothing New" features an assist from the queen of depressing music, Phoebe Bridgers. Its lyrical focus, pivoting away from heartbreak to insecurity, is a breath of fresh air on the record.

And then of course, there is the 10 minute version of "All Too Well."

Holy god. This is the best song she has ever made.

I always knew there was a reason the original version couldn't crack my top 10 Swift songs, and now I understand why. With the brilliant Antonoff co-producing, the best way I can describe this behemoth of a song is a vitriolic, slow burn of loss.

It reveals the true nature of her relationship with actor Gyllenhall. Vindictive vocals. Warm pulsing synths. Roaring harmonies. This made me all too unwell in the best way.

"I'm a soldier who's returning half her weight" is genuinely one of the most heartbreaking lyrics I have ever heard.

"Red (Taylor's Version)" is a grand slam, and Swift straight up strolled to home plate in the most casually cruel way. This release proves that she — her artistry, her persona and her music — is not just wonderful. It's timeless.

I'll be keeping this one like an oath.

Score: 10/10

Favorite Tracks: All of them.

Alexander Prevost is a sports editor. Follow him on Twitter: @alexanderprvst.

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ALYSSA HUGHES IG: @alyssahughesphoto
Julian Strawther drives to the basket for a layup.

The grand faceoff: Zags prep for Duke

By HENRY KRUGER

College basketball is back, and while the season has just begun, experts have already started predicting which team will cut down the nets at the New Orleans Caesars Superdome on April 4.

In what some college basketball commentators are calling a potential Final Four or even national championship preview, the Gonzaga University men's basketball team (3-0) will play a neutral-site game against Duke University (4-0) on Nov. 26 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The last-time Duke and GU played was in 2018 in an upset 89-87 win for the Zags in Lahaina, Hawaii. It marked the first time GU defeated Duke, who won the previous two times the schools matched up.

In the Associated Press Top-25 poll released on Monday, GU was voted as the nation's top-ranked team and Duke was handed the No. 7 spot.

The Zags have wins of 97-63, 86-74, and 84-57 over Dixie State University, the University of Texas and Alcorn State University.

Saturday's 12-point win over No. 8 Texas, the fifth-ranked team at the time, was GU's highest-profile victory of the season. Junior forward Drew Timme finished with a career-high 37 points, missing just four of his 19 shots while corralling seven rebounds.

With one more game than GU under its belt, Duke has wins over the University of Kentucky, Army West Point, Campbell University and Gardner-Webb University by scores of 79-71, 82-56, 67-56 and 92-52.

Like GU, Duke has one win against a ranked opponent — defeating No. 13 Kentucky by eight points in its season opener. Ranked No. 23 in the class of 2021 by 247 Sports, freshman guard Trevor Keels led Duke with 25 points. Freshman forward Paolo Banchero had 22 points and eight rebounds.

Following the Kentucky game, Banchero put up 18 points in back-to-back games before having 10 versus Gardner-Webb on Tuesday.

It wasn't clear if Banchero would suit up for the Gardner-Webb game after news broke earlier the same day that he was charged

with aiding and abetting driving while intoxicated. The incident was first reported by the (Raleigh) News & Observer on Tuesday.

North Carolina statute states that aiding and abetting DWI occurs when someone knowingly aids, advises, encourages or instigates another person to drive or attempt to drive while impaired, and that person then drives while impaired.

Aiding and abetting DWI is considered a Level V DWI offense, the least serious level of DWI in the state. A Level V DWI is punishable by a fine up to \$200 and a minimum jail sentence of 24 hours and a maximum of 60 days.

The grandson of Duke Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski, Duke guard Michael Savarino, was arrested on DWI charges by North Carolina. Highway Patrol at 1:10 a.m. Sunday. Savarino has a court date on Dec. 9 and Banchero has a Dec. 8 court date.

"We are reviewing a legal matter involving two members of the men's basketball team," Krzyzewski said in a statement released by Duke athletics to the News & Observer on Tuesday. "Any further actions as a result of this situation will ultimately be determined by the Vice President/Director of Athletics and University officials."

As of Tuesday, Nov. 16, Duke has yet to announce if Savarino and Banchero will be forced to miss any future games, including its game against GU.

The 6-foot-10, 250-pound centerpiece of Krzyzewski's last Duke team, Banchero is considered the country's second-best incoming freshman. He's behind GU freshman center Chet Holmgren — setting up one of the most anticipated matchups of the season.

Holmgren headlines GU's best recruiting class in program history and is already one of the top players on the youngest Zags team since the 2011-12 season.

The 7-foot, sub-200 pound big man dominated against Dixie State and Alcorn State — totaling 25 points, 19 rebounds, 10 assists and 10 blocks in those two games. Against Texas, however, Holmgren finished with a quiet two points on three shots.

This summer, Holmgren and Banchero faced off at the Iverson Classic, considered the top high school all-star showcase game after the McDonald's All-American Game and the Jordan Brand Classic were canceled.

The pair were on separate teams, Holmgren on Team Honor and Banchero on Team Loyalty. Named the scrimmage's most valuable player, Holmgren finished with 20 points and 11 rebounds — leading his team to a 143-131 win. Banchero had 15 points.

But even though it's a matchup between the potential top two picks in the 2022 NBA Draft, Holmgren

and Banchero won't be the only draft prospects on the court. The matchup features at least 12 players that have their name mentioned in mock drafts.

One of those players is freshman guard Hunter Sallis, who had a career night on Monday — scoring 16 points against Alcorn State.

Sallis is ranked No. 9 in his class and has been compared to former GU guard Joel Ayayi for his ability to cut at the right times, finish over defenders and his overall aggressiveness.

"He can thrive for us, honestly, in that Joel role," said GU senior guard Andrew Nembhard. "Cut on the baseline, find the easy baskets. He's super athletic and can finish around the rim. I think that's a great role for him."

GU Head Coach Mark Few has also been pleased with Sallis' play so far this season.

"We're asking him to rebound, especially offensive rebounds," Few said. "He's finding his baskets the way he needs to find them, cutting and slashing. He's actually shot the ball really well in practice and hopefully that manifests itself in some of these games."

Another Zag who could hear his name called in the draft either this year or a couple of years from now is sophomore forward Julian Strawther. He's GU's second-leading scoring — averaging 13.3 points a game. Strawther had a career-best 18 points against Alcorn State.

A Las Vegas native, Strawther is excited to play in front of his hometown on the 26th.

"That's like a dream come true, something you always think about as a kid like playing in one of the biggest arenas in your hometown against some of the biggest schools in college basketball," Strawther said.

In Las Vegas, the Zags will also play Central Michigan University and UCLA.

But while Strawther is hyped to return home, he insists that his focus is solely on GU's next opponent, Bellarmine University.

"Right now our focus is on Bellarmine and making sure we keep defending our home turf," Strawther said. "We'll worry about next week when the time comes but right now our focus is Bellarmine and making sure we get this win."

The Bellarmine game will be at home this Friday, Nov. 19, before GU travels to Las Vegas to play Central Michigan on Monday, Nov. 22 at 8 p.m., UCLA on Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. and Duke on Nov. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Henry Kruger is a staff writer. Follow him on Twitter: @henrykrvrger.

Bomb Squad is ready to explode onto the scene

After a year away from the court, the Bomb Squad makes its grand return

By LILIAN PIEL

Anyone who has attended a basketball or volleyball game knows the palpable energy that sweeps through the court when Gonzaga's co-ed hip-hop dance team, Bomb Squad, steps out to perform.

Bomb Squad is a fully student-run club that practices twice a week and alternates with the dance team to perform at basketball games, volleyball games and other on-campus events, said Grace Siemering, social media chair for Bomb Squad.

Siemering has been on Bomb Squad for all four years of her time at GU. As social media chair, she runs the Bomb Squad Instagram account (@gu_bombsquad) and occasionally makes some Tik Toks, as well as keeps the Bomb Squad Facebook account updated. She said that joining Bomb Squad was a great way to get involved at GU and led her to meet some of her closest friends.

"I did dance like all through high school and I just loved hip-hop the most, and I knew that I wanted to find a way to get a community here on campus, and I wasn't exactly ready to stop dancing, so that just seemed like the perfect way to do it," Siemering said.

Bomb Squad holds tryouts for the team each year in September, and the team ranges between 22 and 26 members, said Mia Cretarolo, one of Bomb Squad's co-captains this year. At Bomb Squad's two weekly practices, team members sign up to choreograph a dance and teach it to the rest of the team to perform, she said.

Cretarolo was drawn to Bomb Squad after seeing the group's Instagram account and having someone on the team reach out to her because they knew she was a dancer. When Cretarolo auditioned for Bomb Squad during her first year at GU, what stood out to her about the team was the supportive environment during auditions.

In her experience, dance auditions are typically highly competitive, but at auditions for Bomb Squad, everyone was cheering each other on.

"We are a team, but it also is a club, so we're all just here to have fun but also to make each other better, and we have a very family-oriented dynamic on Bomb Squad, which also draws a lot of people in," Cretarolo said.

Hannah Grimes, Bomb Squad's other co-captain along with Cretarolo, was also drawn to Bomb Squad during her first year at GU after coming across its Instagram account and watching the group perform at first-year orientation. A dancer throughout middle school and high school, Grimes said she wanted to join a group at GU that would help her get involved and keep dancing.

Although Bomb Squad had to pause its performances at games last year due to COVID-19, the team was able to perform a few times at March Madness viewing parties, Grimes said.



ALYSSA HUGHES IG: @alyssahughesphoto
Co-captain Mia Cretarolo and the GU Bomb Squad performs frequently during halftime at various sporting events on campus.

Bomb Squad was scheduled to perform at Hoopfest this year before the event was canceled, and the team has performed at Hoopfest in the past as well. In lieu of performing at games last year, Bomb Squad focused on improving its skills to prepare for its return, continuing to have different members of the team choreograph and teach dances, Grimes said.

"We just tried to kind of continue dancing any way we could and just improving our skills hopefully for like the next year, more than anything," Grimes said.

On top of performing at basketball and volleyball games, Bomb Squad is usually invited to perform at the WCC Tournament and performs at other on-campus events such as first-year orientation and GEL weekend.

This year, Bomb Squad is back on the court and will also occasionally hold open practices for those who want to improve their skills or just bring their friends and have fun dancing.

Cretarolo said this year's class of first-year students are one of the most talented groups she's seen, which has helped to both bring in more talent and push returning members. The team is filled with positivity and works to push each other, so they are excited for the year ahead, she said.

Due to the lack of team bonding opportunities last year because of the pandemic, Bomb Squad is trying to make up for that and get to know each other better to help foster the family dynamic that the team is known for, Cretarolo said. This is especially important this year, since Bomb Squad has 11 new members in contrast to the typical five or six newcomers each year.

For Grimes, that family dynamic is the most rewarding part of being involved with Bomb Squad. Having a group of people who make each other better and support each other has given her a sense of belonging at GU, which many people look for in college, she said.

In addition to everyone on Bomb Squad being supportive of each other, many people that Cretarolo has met at GU are fans of the group as well.

"Just to have that really supportive atmosphere, not just on the team but from everybody on campus, and like when we go out to perform everybody is literally screaming and it feeds my soul, it's just so reassuring and supportive and makes me feel so good," Cretarolo said.

Lilian Piel is a news editor. Follow them on Twitter: @lillianpiel.

Stanford Showdown: Rivals return to Gonzaga

By DANIEL FORTIN

After winning one exhibition game and two regular-season games, the Gonzaga University women's basketball team (2-0) is looking good right now. However, the No. 10 ranked team in the country, the Stanford University Cardinal (1-1) roll into town on Sunday and the Zags will be tested.

GU has done well against its early schedule opponents, defeating Central Washington 78-42, Montana State 72-47 and Montana 67-60. The Zags are also bringing some old and new faces to the starting lineup, including red-shirt senior forward Anamaria Virjoghe, junior guard Kayleigh Truong, redshirt senior guard Cierra Walker, senior forward Melody Kempton and senior guard/forward Abby O'Connor.

The starting lineup seems to be set in stone at least for now after the first few games for the Zags. "We should leave the lineup how it is," Head Coach of GU Lisa Fortier said. "I think that there's a possibility for our lineups to change. And not because of the skill of the players but you're always looking for different things. It's not just your five best players. What combinations do you have and what can you bring in off the bench?"

Even though GU has lost three of its top scorers last year, Jill Townsend, LeeAnne and Jenn Wirth, team still has a lot of depth in the second unit as sophomore forward Yvonne Ejim in her first game of the season where she scored 14 points and grabbed 8 rebounds. Kaylynne Truong has also played well as she scored 16 points and made all three of her threes against Montana State and scored 15 points against Montana.

The starters played well too, as Kempton scored 12 points on 5-for-7 shooting and grabbed 10 rebounds marking her first double-double in the season. Kayleigh has also been effective in her starts as she scored 12 points against Montana state and 13 points against Montana.

"I think our team definitely has that gritty spirit; we're out to prove everyone wrong," Kempton said. "We want to do the best we possibly can, but we also know what we can do and we're going to show everybody what we can do."

Looking at Stanford, the program is looking to achieve a benchmark for the team as they try to achieve back-to-back championships, which would be the first in program history.

The defending national champions were voted No. 3 in the Associated Press Top-25 preseason poll and also received five first-place votes but have fallen in the rankings to No. 10 in the nation.

The Cardinal won their first game against Morgan State with a score of 91-36 but they lost their second game to 25th ranked Texas last Sunday, 61-56.

Stanford lost their star player Kiana Williams to the WNBA draft this spring but the other four regular starters have returned for this season.

Junior guard Haley Jones, senior guard Lexie Hull, sophomore forward Cameron Brink and sixth-year guard Anna Wilson were the Cardinal's other four starters for the majority of the season with the only new face being



CHIANA MCINNELLY IG: @picsbychiana

Following their two wins against Central Washington and Montana State, the Zags prepare for a longtime rival on Sunday.

junior guard Hannah Jump who came off the bench last year for Stanford.

Jones was named the NCAA Tournament Final Four Most Outstanding Player in 2021 after leading the team in scoring in both of its Final Four games. Wilson is also back for a sixth year after the NCAA declared that last season did not count towards NCAA eligibility due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She scored nine points in Stanford's debut against Morgan state and scored 15 points against the Longhorns all while adding five assists.

Similar to the Zags, the Cardinal also have depth in the bench, as junior forward Francesca Belibi scored 12 points against Morgan State while also adding two blocks against Morgan State.

Hull had 11 points against Morgan State and 16 points all the while adding 11 rebounds against the Longhorns, so expect the Zags to find a way to slow her down.

Brink had 10 points, five rebounds and three blocks against Morgan State. Head coach for the Cardinal Tara VanDerveer mixed and matched rotations and that produced a balanced attack from her deep and versatile roster.

Stanford scored 47 bench points and 14 out of 15

players scored against Morgan State but they didn't have the same success against UT where the bench only scored 10 points as a unit.

A key for the Zags to win this game will be to limit the Cardinal on their threes and play good perimeter defense, as the Cardinal in their win against Morgan State went 10-for-22 from three. But in the team's loss to Texas, Stanford shot 4-for-27 from behind the arc.

Another key for the Zags is to protect the paint as the Cardinal shot 58.2% from the paint in their win against Morgan State but in their Texas loss, the Longhorns did a good job at limiting Stanford in its shot opportunities while also adding full-court pressure to cause pressure.

If necessary, the Zags can foul the Cardinal, as their free throw percentage for both games was 71% from the line.

GU will take on Stanford on Sunday at 1 p.m. at the McCarthy Athletic Center.

Daniel Fortin is a staff writer.



LILY KANESHIGE IG@: aka.lilly

Bree Salenbien: Ace in the making

Women's basketball's highest ranked recruit in program history strives to find her footing

By HENRY KRUGER

Standing at 6-foot-2, freshman Bree Salenbien towers over most of the other point guards on the Gonzaga University women's basketball team.

With the average height for a Division I NCAA women's basketball point guard being roughly 5-foot-8, Salenbien's height is unique for her position. It's also become a joke among teammates, including 5-foot-9 junior point guard Kayleigh Truong.

"It's funny because we have a little point guard group and obviously my height isn't 6-foot like Bree so she brings a lot of height to that group," Truong said with a chuckle.

But while Salenbien is taller than the average point guard, her confidence didn't always measure up to her stature.

Growing up in Adrian, Michigan, Salenbien said she was fairly skinny and awkward as a child. As Salenbien got into basketball, her father gave her advice to overcome these challenges.

"My dad always told me 'even if you're not strong, you play strong,'" Salenbien said.

For Salenbien, these words still hold meaning as she adjusts to the college level.

"I just want to be able to adapt well to the strength of the game and that's one of the hardest things for me so far, so I just want to get better with that," Salenbien said.

Learning to play strong, however, isn't the only obstacle Salenbien has faced.

After helping Lenawee Christian School win back-to-back Division IV State Championships as a freshman and sophomore, Salenbien was looking to win her third consecutive title. But with 15 seconds left in the final regular-season game of her junior season, she tore her ACL.

Determined to get back on the court in time for her senior season, Salenbien's recovery took only five months. As a senior, Salenbien was named the Gatorade Michigan Girls Basketball Player of the Year — averaging 26.9 points, 12.4 rebounds and 4.6 steals a game.

With her success came attention from colleges. Salenbien had 36 Division I scholarship offers by the beginning of her junior year, some of which came as early as 8th grade.

But even with so many schools to pick from, the COVID-19 pandemic added some complexities to the

signing process.

The highest-ranked recruit in program history, Salenbien wasn't able to visit GU's campus before signing. But while she didn't get to see the packed crowds in the Kennel or experience the area of Spokane, Salenbien was confident in her decision.

"I fell in love with the coaches when they talked to me," Salenbien said. "Obviously I didn't get to take my official [visit] so it was a lot about the relationships I [had] built already."

Since arriving at GU, Salenbien has impressed her teammates and coaches.

"She's so versatile," Truong said. "She can play inside, she can post [up] somebody who's smaller than her. I mean, if I play defense on her, she's going to go straight to the paint and post me up."

In her first real test of the season, an exhibition game against Central Washington University Salenbien finished with 11 points, four rebounds and three assists in 16 minutes of play.

Since then, GU has played two regular season games — defeating Montana State University 72-47 and the University of Montana 67-60. In those contests, Salenbien totaled six points, six rebounds, four assists and a block across 22 minutes.

While it's difficult to completely gauge Salenbien's role as it's early in the season, Head Coach Lisa Fortier provided some clarity.

"[Bree's] learning two positions, she's learning to be the point guard and the wing for us and that's not something that we often have [players] do," Fortier said.

At point guard, Salenbien is behind Kayleigh and Kaylynne Truong, whom she credits with preparing her for the role.

"[I] have learned so much from them already," Salenbien said. "Playing the point guard behind them, it's just really special to have two people that know their role super well."

As Salenbien adjusts to the college level, she isn't alone.

Other newcomers to GU include Esther Little, a 6-foot-2 wing from Ipswich, England, Calli Stokes, a 6-foot guard-forward from Redondo Beach, California, Maud Hujibens, a 6-foot-3 forward transfer from Syracuse, and Payton Muma, a 5-foot-8 guard from Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Off the court, the freshmen have bonded and supported each other, something Salenbien is grateful for.

"We stick together a lot off the court and then on the court we're able to compete and really push each other to get better," Salenbien said.

Henry Kruger is a staff writer. Follow him on Twitter: @henrykruger.

McKenna Marshall: A leader fueled by family

GU volleyball's leader in kills has been dominating the West Coast competition before her time as a Bulldog, playing for the name on the back of her jersey

By VINCENT SAGLIMBENI

When Gonzaga University volleyball player McKenna Marshall was in fifth grade, she had her eyes set on becoming a basketball player. Her mom continually encouraged her to play volleyball and attend just one practice, but Marshall was insistent on hitting the hardwood and playing hoops.

But once Marshall went to her first practice, she would bump, set and spike herself to a successful career.

The 6-foot-1-inch junior outside hitter from San Diego, California, transferred from West Coast Conference (WCC) competitor, the University of San Francisco, this past year.

During her time in the City by the Bay, Marshall averaged 3.3 kills per set, adding 2.1 digs per set. In her final season with USF, Marshall totaled 281 kills, ranked second-most in the conference with her 4.07 per set average.

Marshall also led her team in kills in 15 of the matches USF played in, six of them consisting of 20-plus kills, earning her a First Team All-WCC spot.

After her stellar last year at USF, Marshall transferred to GU, where she currently leads the team in kills with 236. During her process of transferring schools, staying on the West Coast wasn't something that crossed her mind, as she was open to going anywhere. But after playing against GU multiple times, her love for the west coast grew.

"I've been here before when we were playing [GU] when I was at USF," Marshall said. "I had a memory of my experience playing [GU], and then coming here, I realized

that I was just kind of moving up the coast. I've always loved the West Coast, and I just feel like this is kind of my home. So it just kind of worked out."

Marshall said transferring from one WCC school to another made it easier to transition to her new team. Being used to the conference and knowing the teams they've played before made it easier for Marshall to acclimate to her surroundings with her new teammates.

And with inner-conference transfers not being that common, head coach Diane Nelson said that with a quick turnaround to the start of this past season, having a new player from the same conference helped.

"She's done it before," Nelson said. "She's done it before at the level that her now Gonzaga teammates are doing it. And so that just allows us as coaches to let her figure some things out and focus on brand new or incoming freshmen, maybe our [junior college] transfers... so that really was helpful."

Marshall admitted that she had a little extra motivation when she got the chance to go up against her former team. Winning in three straight sets, Marshall said it was a weird experience doing scouting reports on her old roommates and teammates. But in the end, Marshall was excited to finish on top to get the victory.

Marshall had nine kills in the win against her former school.

"That game, I had so much motivation," Marshall said. "I've never wanted to win a volleyball game more than that match. You want to prove yourself and you want to show them that I chose the right

place. It was definitely a very fun game. I had so much fun playing that match."

Other than the motivation from playing against her old team, Marshall has an added sense of motivation through the obstacle that one of her family members is facing.

Nathanial "Bailey" Marshall, cousin of the GU volleyball player, had liver issues that required care from the ICU. According to the GoFundMe page for Bailey, Bailey had a liver transplant in 2014 to treat primary sclerosing cholangitis, a disease in the bile ducts that affects the transfer of liquid from one's liver to their small intestine.

Then, while Bailey was in surgery on Aug. 3, his hepatic artery was severed, greatly affecting his liver due to the cutoff of blood flow and oxygen. This resulted in Bailey's family being housed in Los Angeles for the next month, dependant on the ability to get a liver and Bailey's recovery process.

Bailey is on the waitlist for a new liver, and as of Aug. 29, he was released from the ICU while still being monitored on a daily basis. Since then, McKenna said he is back in the hospital. Over \$12,000 has been raised so far on Bailey's GoFundMe page.

"He's one of the main reasons why I am really motivated," McKenna said. "I just hope that he gets that transplant as soon as possible because he deserves to start his life, you know, and he's in his twenties. It's just so unfair that he has to go through that. He's been sick his whole life. That's why it's just kind of hard to see him go through that."

With all that she has been through, Marshall's leadership on the court has been prevalent

in GU's 2021 volleyball season. Nelson said her leadership style is unique to her, and in doing so, it has allowed for her to be her best self both on and off the court.

Nelson wants to see her continue that leadership aspect in the final few games of the season, referencing McKenna's plethora of respect for her teammates.

"She has high expectations for her[self]," Nelson said. "... She comes in with a high standard. She comes in with high achievement [in] prior years and a vision of what she wants to be able to contribute to the team. And so all those things make for daily work to be really, really intentional towards her goal."

As the season comes to a close, McKenna continues to motivate not only herself, but her teammates and peers around her. Although she has only been here for one year, and with upcoming changes to the coaching staff after Nelson announced her resignation, McKenna said the future is still bright for GU volleyball.

"I think with my next year here, since I have a COVID year, we're kind of building a new foundation, and with a coach change and everything, it's going to be a little chaotic and new," Marshall said. "I think for me, personally, I just hope that people remember our team for how hard we work on our grit. So when I leave, I hope that the foundation is still really, really strong for who we are as a program."

Vincent Saglimbeni is the managing editor. Follow him on Twitter: @vinnysaglimbeni.

GU SPORTS CALENDAR

Thursday, Nov. 18
»Women's Basketball vs. Idaho State, 6 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 19
»Men's Basketball vs. Bellarmine, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 20
»Cross Country at NCAA Championships , Tallahassee, FL, 9 a.m.
»Volleyball vs. Portland, Noon

Sunday, Nov. 21
»Women's Basketball vs. Stanford, 1 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 22
»Men's Basketball vs. Central Michigan, Empire Classic, Las Vegas, NV., 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 23
»Men's Basketball vs. UCLA, Empire Classic, Las Vegas, NV., 7 p.m.
»Volleyball at Pepperdine, Malibu, CA., 7 p.m.

Home games in bold



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