

The Gonzaga Bulletin

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Kiara Lime, owner of the business Juliettelime, tables on March 25 during Women's Week.

COURTESY OF COOPER STEPANIAN

GU studies federal aid

Work group launched amid political uncertainty

By ALEX HERNANDEZ

A group of Gonzaga University administrators has been meeting weekly this spring to monitor any changes in federal funding from President Donald Trump's administration.

The designation of an official response group was one of several actions announced by the university to respond to executive orders aimed at cutting federal funding to colleges in what GU President Thayne McCulloh called "a season of tremendous change" in email on Jan 26.

Interim Provost Mia Bertagnolli said in a faculty email on Feb. 4 that the group will be tasked with tracking policy changes related to federal grants, loans and other financial assistance programs that impact GU.

"The disruption to work related to these programs highlights the fluidity of our current environment and calls us to stay attentive while also recognizing the importance of finding ways to mitigate the impact on the daily work we all do in support of our educational mission," Bertagnolli said in the email.

The group's formation comes as Trump's administration cancels federal funding to a number of universities, including Columbia University.

The Campus Federal Support Group currently has six members, according to the Feb. 4 faculty email. In addition to Bertagnolli, these members include Liaison for External Government Affairs John Sklut, Dean of Financial Services Sarah Everitt, Director of Sponsored Research Programs Jackie Van Allen, Associate Vice President Deena Presnell and Chief Financial Officer Joe Smith.

Smith, the group's organizational liaison, said that while these six members have met weekly, membership is adaptive and could change depending on the university's needs. Smith also said that because the group is not an official department, it does not have a chair.

"The individuals comprising our group are those we feel are in the best position to put antennas up and figure out what's going on," Smith said. "We have members who are internal to our organization but also may have roles in external affairs and other networks. Things are changing on a weekly basis, pushing us to be dynamic as we navigate the uncertainty of this situation."

Smith also compared the group to GU's COVID-19 response task force, created to address changing health restrictions during the pandemic.

"During the pandemic, we had a core group of individuals who paid attention to what was happening in the world, what was shut down and what health restrictions were being put in place," Smith said. "These individuals needed to come together based on their roles

GSBA celebrates Women's Month

By LORIANNE SERVIGNAT

As International Women's Month, which celebrated the many contributions of women, comes to a close, the Gonzaga Student Body Association took the last week of March to organize a Women's Week to recognize all of the women inside and out of the Gonzaga University community.

The week included "Thank a Baddie," "Courageous Conversation" and "Drop and Shop," a women-owned small business fair.

"We all live our own busy lives, and I think just taking time to recognize the organizations on campus that are really trying to promote these types of activities just as a reminder of just spreading kindness and talking about these hard topics is important," said Charlyze Lim, the student government's campus inclusivity coordinator.

The events all were in the John J. Hemmingson Center

and were meant to celebrate and support women in the Spokane community. The location of the events allowed students to participate without going out of their way, Lim said.

"I think one of the great things about Women's Week is that being centered in Women's History Month, it's acknowledging all the great progress that we've made," said Kristina Poffenroth, GU's gender-based violence prevention education specialist.

Monday was "Thank a Baddie." GSBA tabled in the Hemmingson Center, and each student that walked past had the opportunity to write a note to a professor, mentor, coach, friend or family member. The letters also included envelopes and postage, so students could put them in the mail that day.

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GU prepares for new president

By SEAMUS MCCARTHY

Gonzaga University will welcome a new president in July, but before Katia Passerini takes office, the community will first say goodbye to outgoing President Thayne McCulloh.

Joe Poss, GU's vice president for university advancement and co-chair of the Presidential Transition Steering Committee and the Onboarding and Orientation Committee, said the first phase of the transition process is about reflecting on McCulloh's presidency and the values he instilled, particularly trust.

"The second part of that work is transferring that trust to Dr. Passerini and bringing her into the community," Poss said.

Poss said the transition began when GU selected Passerini as the next president.

"The formal transition really started in December once the board had made a selection of a new president," Poss said. "The focus went from searching for a new president to, 'Now let's get ready to celebrate our existing [president] and prepare for the new one.'"

The Presidential Transition Steering Committee and its subcommittees aim to ensure a smooth transition, guided by six goals outlined in the transition plan. These include celebrating McCulloh, supporting Passerini, providing her with opportunities to learn about GU, engaging university stakeholders, updating the community and documenting the transition.

The Communications and Celebrations Committee is organizing events to honor McCulloh's legacy. Kurt Heimbigner, GU's interim associate vice president for marketing and communications and co-chair of the committee, said part of the celebration will allow Thayne and Julie McCulloh to express their gratitude to the community.

"I think our charge is to make sure that we can facilitate some opportunities for that [celebration] through a

SEE PRESIDENT PAGE 2



ALAS members perform at the club's annual cultural celebration on Saturday.

JOSHUA GARCIA IG: @flamedmedia

ALAS dives into history, roots

By LILY PEARSE

Gonzaga University's Association of Latin American Students held its annual cultural celebration on Saturday, bridging multiple diverse Latin American cultures and traditions. This year's theme was "Roots and Kingdoms: Tales Reimagined." In opening statements, Club President Jasmin Ochoa Duarte highlighted the intersection of identity through reimagining myths and folklore.

After everyone was seated with a curated meal from different Latin American countries, Ochoa Duarte, one of the event's MCs, spoke about the struggles facing Latin Americans, especially immigrants.

Condemning the GU protest policy, she said that "rather than silencing students, Gonzaga needs to support them when needed most." Red cards were made available on the tables with information about people's rights if approached by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

After the opening statements, a powerful drum began to pound from outside the John J. Hemmingson Ballroom and in came dancers suited in traditional Indigenous Aztec dress, including headdresses with tall and colorful feathers.

The Tlecoatl Aztec Dancers are based out of Idaho and work to keep the traditional dance alive as well as preserve Aztec culture and history. Their dance is a method of prayer, originating from Mexico. At the end of the night, the dancers returned to send off the seniors in attendance, giving them a powerful blessing as they moved forward into the next chapter of their lives.

Throughout the night, there was an emphasis on Native history through storytelling of creatures and spirits. After a particular story would be shared by the MCs (Aiden Andrade, Ochoa Duarte and Lino Cadeza-

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Maud Huijbens says goodbye to GU
after four years on the court.

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Honk! Honk! There's six new EV stations on campus.

GU works toward sustainability with recent update

By COOPER WELLS

Gonzaga University's most recent update to its sustainability plan has brought six new electric vehicle charging stations to campus.

The move comes as GU plans to become climate neutral by 2050 and has been installing climate-friendly changes throughout campus. The most recent update doubled the number of EV stations from six to 12, bringing the number of Flo-branded stations to eight and ChargePoint-branded stations to four.

Aimed at increasing accessibility and affordability for students looking to charge their EVs and plug-in hybrids on campus, the new stations are in the installation and calibration process and are located behind College Hall, Crimont Hall, the Humanities Building and Coach Steve Hertz Field

Jim Simon, GU's director of sustainability, said more chargers are needed throughout campus.

"Imagine needing to charge a vehicle, and you have potentially a 30-minute window [to charge], and if you arrive on either end of that, you're going to miss out," Simon said.

According to ChargePoint data, 108 unique drivers charged on campus from a sample week of Feb. 23 to March 1, 2025.

Aaron Danowski, GU's training and development specialist, has had a plug-in hybrid vehicle for the last four years and regularly uses the charging stations available on campus.

"When I first started using them, there was almost always a charger available," Danowski said. "I could count the number of electric vehicles I saw using the chargers on two hands."

Since then, he's noticed the number of EVs on campus increase to the point that chargers are full by the start of the school day. He recalled the "dash" to secure chargers before they were taken.

"Open charging spots were typically claimed within 10 minutes, in my experience," Danowski said.

Danowski said there has been a notable pricing shift in the charging policy. Previously, ChargePoint stations



MYERS GORRELL IG: @myersgphoto

The new electric vehicle stations are intended to help Gonzaga University reach its goal of being climate neutral by 2050.

offered free charging for the first four hours, but as of March 17, all campus chargers now cost \$1.08 per hour for the first three hours and \$3.24 after that. This change, which Danowski learned from a Faculty and Staff Morning Mail announcement, has made him favor charging at home, where rates are lower.

"Since the pricing change, I haven't used the chargers," Danowski said. "As best I can tell, it is more cost-effective for me to charge at home."

According to U.S. Census data, there were just over 230,000 EVs in 2020. Now, almost 2.5 million electric vehicles are on the roads in America.

Washington state has recognized the growing number of electric cars as part of its sustainability mission and has adopted some of California's policies regarding the issue.

By 2035, all new vehicles sold in Washington must be zero-emission vehicles, according to the Washington State Department of Ecology. To achieve this goal, the state has funded grants for universities and urban development to become more sustainability-focused — one of which funded the new chargers.

Looking ahead, Simon said these new charging stations not only serve an immediate practical need but also signal GU's commitment to a greener future. By investing in this sustainable infrastructure, the university is pushing ahead for continued progress toward climate neutrality by 2050.

Cooper Wells is a staff writer.

PRESIDENT

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variety of ways," Heimbigner said.

One of the first major events will be the Ignatian Gala on April 10, according to Sarah Schwering, GU's presidential communications specialist and co-chair of the committee.

"The Ignatian Gala ... is an opportunity for the community to gather and celebrate as a community, in particular honoring Thayne and Julie McCulloh," Schwering said. "I am privy to some details about the event that are forthcoming, and it is going to be spectacular. April 10 is going to be a big moment of celebration."

After mid-April, Poss said the committee's focus will shift toward preparing for Passerini's arrival, with its work concluding in July.

The transition committee is facilitating conversations between Passerini and the GU community, Schwering said, with plans for her to meet with students on April 14 from 5-6:30 p.m. in the John J. Hemmingson Center Ballroom. She will also meet with faculty on April 16 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Poss said Passerini's transition will be extensive, including multiple opportunities to learn about GU traditions and stay informed on current issues in higher education.

"When you look at the national landscape with what's going on with higher education, you see questions about student financial loans, questions about DEI," Poss said. "Our job is to be aware of what's going on within the realm of higher education, how that applies to Gonzaga and to make sure that we're sharing that with [Passerini] when she comes on board."

Poss said that part of what makes GU different from other schools is the Jesuit traditions, especially surrounding cura personalis — the concept that the university should care about the whole student, rather than a statistical metric.

"As a private institution, we get to spend time in the realm of mission, faith and spirituality," Poss said. "We get to spend time in the realm of empathy and love, and all of those aspects of what it means to be a human being. It's the Jesuit work, right? You're studying and looking at the whole aspects of who you are as a human being and how that relates to the world and how that relates to others."

A key part of introducing Passerini to GU traditions has been sharing stories about the university's culture.

"Storytelling is a really significant part of the Jesuit tradition," Poss said. "It's a big part of who we are at Gonzaga, so actually sharing stories with [Passerini] about our students, our faculty, our staff, our alumni, and we've been doing that pretty much since the point that she was selected. We've been sharing stories that we feel embody our values and who we are as a community."

Seamus McCarthy is a staff writer.



Courtesy of Gonzaga University

Katia Passerini will be GU's first female president.



COURTESY OF COOPER STEPANIAN

The third Women's Week's 'Drop and Shop' in Hemmingson.

MONTH

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"I hope that they [the community] felt good about themselves. I hope that just writing a card to a woman in their life that inspires them sparks something like saying 'thank you' more often, or writing more cards or even just appreciating women," Lim said.

Each letter entered attendees into a raffle to win Bulldog Bucks or a GU women's basketball jersey.

Tuesday and Thursday were "Drop and Shop." On Tuesday, students could drop off unused clothing that would go toward a thrift exchange on Thursday. Every piece of clothing dropped off entered attendees into a raffle, and if they dropped off five clothing items, they

could shop for three new pieces to add to their closet.

"Drop and Shop" was a day to support women in need, as all the leftover clothing items were brought to a women's shelter, said Adrianna Alfaro, the student government's community engagement coordinator.

"While it's great to celebrate and be in good relationships with women and be able to put fun things together, there are also still issues that impact women to an inequitable point," Alfaro said.

By donating clothing to the shelter, the student government was able to support women, beyond the GU student population.

Wednesday was the "Women's Small Business and Organization Fair," where local women-owned businesses showed their products and work for several hours.

"We've seen a bit of an enrollment shift where there are now more women enrolled in college than men," Poffenroth said. "There are still a lot of barriers for women once they leave college and they're entering different career fields."

The fair allowed students at GU to support women entrepreneurs and delve into a career path that can be a difficult road for women.

"Women in STEM have definitely gained ground, but it can still feel really male-dominated and hard to break into," Poffenroth said. "So I think it's just still acknowledging some of those challenges."

The week ended with a "Courageous Conversation." The event, which was in a seminar format, was a space for students to share experiences that are unique to them, Alfaro said.

"I think that the fact that we were able to curate the questions about biases, microaggressions and current-day issues was a good way to highlight that women's spaces and women's existence and issues and inequalities go beyond celebrating women on campus — bringing people together to understand that there are ways that we can still spread information about stuff that is prevalent today," Alfaro said.

Lim started the conversation with a list of topics to spark conversation, and after that, everyone that attended could expand on the topic at hand.

"One of the ways that we can understand other perspectives is by listening and having that conversation. This is an opportunity for me to share my lived experience, but it's also an opportunity for other people to share their lived experiences with me. That's how we build empathy," Poffenroth said.

Through a mix of celebration, education and community support, Women's Week ultimately aimed to bring awareness to women's achievements and challenges.

"I think that even if we had little impact through words or donations to the women's shelter, I think that everyone who participated got something out of it, whether it was spreading kindness or giving clothes," Lim said. "I think it turned out to be a pretty good week."

Lorianne Servignat is a staff writer.

GROUP

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in the university and worked together to advise based on the situation at hand. This is, in essence, the purpose of our new support group on federal funding."

Smith also said that the group's role is purely advisory and that it is not responsible for making decisions or taking action on issues it advises.

"This is not a new department or a new unit, this is simply a work stream that will exist to monitor and evaluate the best paths forward for the university as long as that need exists," Smith said. "Our aim is to come together and raise issues, to share information and seek guidance

and answers. We are not charged with decision-making."

As the group continues to operate, Smith said that its findings will be presented through other channels in the university rather than from the support group directly.

"The support group's findings have informed President McCulloh's announcements to the community," Smith said. "In terms of direct communication with students, that information would likely come up in interactions with Student Financial Services regarding student grants, or with professors on issues relating to research grants."

Alex Hernandez is the opinion editor.

Beat the basketball booze

Tips for safe consumption during the substance surge of March Madness

By CAM MCCANN

While the month of March brings with it the NCAA Tournament — one of the biggest television events of the calendar year — it also brings a higher magnitude of madness, and not just on the court.

In a study conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research, college students attending tournament-participating universities reported a 20% increase in binge drinking compared to their peers at colleges that weren't involved in the tournament.

"I think there's anecdotal evidence that there's more activity in the Logan neighborhood," said Kylie Pybus, Gonzaga University's director for the Office of Health Promotion.

While there is no specific data study done on the Logan neighborhood and GU students in particular, the overarching evidence of alcohol and drug-related incidents rising during the NCAA Tournament should warrant attention.

The Office of Health Promotion, with a new team this school year, has a mission statement that says the office's role is to "foster students' well-being through proactive, non-judgemental, and inclusive public health principles and practices."

Pybus, Health Educator Kimberly Stanfield and Wellbeing Health Educator Emily Albert form a trio that aims to inform and aid students about how to better go about handling situations that involve substances like alcohol or drugs. In partnership with GU's Resolution Center, the health office holds educational alcohol and cannabis classes while also owning and maintaining a Collegiate Recovery Community house located at 1320 N. Dakota St. The house contains two study rooms, a zen space and a kitchen.

Alcohol and drug consumption isn't the only problematic tendency for college students during the NCAA Tournament. With 67 games played over the duration of the tournament, sports gambling levels also surge.

A survey conducted by the NCAA states that 67% of students living on campus engage in sports betting, with 41% of those students gambling on their own school's team.

Another study done by The Conversation found that more than 25% of college students have used their financial aid to gamble, and that "college-age" gamblers are more than two to four times more likely to become pathological gamblers than the adult population.

Gambling is linked to alcohol and drug consumption, with a study from the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions reporting that individuals who gamble are more likely to engage in heavy alcohol and drug use than those who refrain. According to the study, nearly half of the individuals with gambling problems also had a history of alcohol use disorder.

GU's health office believes it best to follow its C.A.R.E. acronym for those who know somebody battling this addictive path during big events like March Madness: create a distraction, ask directly, refer to an expert and enlist others to help.

During a big game, it can be tough for students to not only check on their friends, but their own body. Despite plenty of tips and tricks on the web, the health office finds it best for students to be honest with how they feel and go from there.

"There's a lot of old wives' tales about, 'Oh, do this, or do that,' but ultimately, it's really about trusting your body and being familiar with where you are," Stanfield



EMMA LARSON IG: @3mmal Larson

Alcohol consumption among college students tends to increase during March Madness.

said. "Alcohol is a depressant. Let's say, for example, you had a pretty significant athletic event earlier that week, or you were sick, maybe you just had midterms, your body's even more fatigued and it's even more depressed. You add another depressant on top of that, and alcohol is going to absorb and affect you more quickly than it might on any given day, so being familiar with how your body feels is more important than calculating your [blood-alcohol limit] or following advice you find on the internet."

With this in mind, it's also important to take care of the controllable elements before a drinking event. Making sure to stay hydrated and well-nourished are two keys to safe inebriation, but also having a friend to keep you in check — especially if binge drinking — will help to stave off from incidents of overconsumption.

"It's really about being aware and preparing," Stanfield said. "We do have strategies to reduce your risks of negative outcomes: stay hydrated, alternate alcoholic beverages with nonalcoholic beverages, make sure you're eating a

balance of fat, fiber and protein, sticking to one kind of alcohol, have a designated driver and stay with the same group of friends."

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that 49% of college students choose to consume alcohol — 42.11% for first-year students at GU, according to the university's health office — meaning that while plenty of students partake, there are also those out there who don't, giving intoxicated students sober friends to help.

"It's important for students to know that about 40% of students choose not to drink, and to know that some students are choosing not to use substances and are able to help care for a friend and provide support," Pybus said.

Students keeping themselves safe during this month of madness only helps in keeping the atmosphere light and fun, so next time students crack a couple beers or light a joint when watching basketball, they should take care of themselves and C.A.R.E. for others when needed.

Cam McCann is a sports editor.



JOSHUA GARCIA IG: @flamedmedia

Members of GU's ALAS perform the "Guares" dance at the club's festival.

ALAS

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Martinez), different dances would commence.

The Danza de los Viejitos was a lively dance originating from Mexican folklore, in which the dancers wore elderly masks and danced with a fun cadence. The energetic dance was followed by the first spoken word of the night.

Yajaira Valentine delivered a spoken word piece regarding immigrants. She spoke of the resilience immigrants cultivate and the respect and dignity they deserve.

GU sophomore Sienna Flores spoke about her experience at the event.

"My favorite part of the festival was the spoken words that were incorporated throughout the program," Flores said. "They definitely have a lot of context that relates to how Latin Americans and Latinos are perceived in the U.S."

Flores also acknowledged the hard work that was put into the event, especially the spoken word pieces.

"All of the students put so much emotion and thought into their spoken words," Flores said. "It was very beautiful."

Other dances during the event included the Folklorico-Jalisco, Guares, Folklorico-

Sinaloa, Marinera and Cumbia. The dances came from Mexico, Peru, El Salvador and Colombia.

In a performance, La Llorona was sung by Yadira Orozco. A dancer swept behind her, portraying the tale behind the song. La Llorona is a folklore figure of a woman who drowned her children in a river and then tried to drown herself. La Llorona is cursed to seek her children for eternity, and the classic song reflects the tragic mourning.

There were two more spoken word pieces. Ariana Sanchez spoke about rebuilding after leaving one's place of origin, and Ochoa Duarte dedicated a piece to her hardworking mother.

GU freshman Alex Garcia was also in attendance. He said he particularly enjoyed the dancing throughout the evening.

"I have experience with dancing in high school, so it was really cool to see the different interpretations," Garcia said.

Flores and Garcia said they both gained special lessons following the festival.

"It deepened my understanding of how different Latin Americans are perceived, especially how they're able to come together and have power to do what they need," Garcia said.

Lily Pearse is a digital editor.

Bollier set for renovations

By CHARLIE OLTMAN

When Gonzaga University's Bollier Center for Integrated Science and Engineering opened in spring 2022, two rooms were left unfinished for future lab or research space.

This summer, those two rooms are set to be renovated to create space for the Center for Materials Research and the Biomedical Engineering Laboratory Suite.

The renovations are part of the university's commitment to growing those two study areas in the near future.

The Center for Materials Research will be located on the second floor of Bollier and is in conjunction with the future Spokane-Coeur d'Alene American Aerospace Materials Manufacturing Center, which received \$48 million in grant funding, according to an announcement from the U.S. Department of Commerce in January. Jennifer Shepherd, the interim dean for the School of Engineering and Applied Science, said the center makes airplane parts out of new types of lightweight composite materials.

GU has been a leader in the early stages of the tech hub and plans to open the Center for Materials Research alongside it. Through the center, students and faculty can test the materials and make sure they hold to quality control standards, Shepherd said.

Materials research isn't just for the engineering department, Shepherd said. The biology, chemistry, environmental science and engineering departments are all part of understanding the building blocks and functions of different materials.

"That's where the interdisciplinary piece comes in," Shepherd said.

With this research center, GU students will be able to get hands-on learning experiences for a future in materials research, Shepherd said.

Harman Khare, an assistant professor for the mechanical engineering department, helped write the original proposal for the center. Khare said a host of faculty work on materials research from different departments and that the idea came about organically.

"The idea was originally that we would have this space, this lab available as a test lab," Khare said. "If we wanted to do more focused scientific studies, use

instrumentation, make use of facilities and expertise at Gonzaga, it would be available."

The center is planned to be accessible to faculty and students on campus, but also external users, Khare said.

The other space in Bollier, the Biomedical Engineering Laboratory Suite, will be in the basement and have four labs.

Brandon Sargent, the director of the biomedical engineering department, has been involved in planning out the program's future. Helping plan the curriculum and meeting with prospective students are just some of the responsibilities, Sargent said.

"We have the first group of freshmen on campus, so we have the start of the program," Sargent said. "It'll be really up and running coming in the fall."

As of now, there are 12 students in the freshman class, but the program is looking to grow in the upcoming semesters, Sargent said.

Biomedical engineering encompasses many different avenues of engineering, including mechanical, chemical and electrical engineering, Sargent said.

"The program is to really provide students with a pick your own adventure," Sargent said. "To allow the students to have that versatility and that ability to choose."

To help grow staff, the department has hired two new faculty members scheduled to start in the fall.

"That space will also include two large laboratory spaces for the new incoming researchers and a tissue culture laboratory space," Sargent said. "They'd be able to run more biological experiments, like tissue engineering."

Additionally, the space will hold a teaching lab space for students to gain experience and also house the senior capstone lab, Sargent said.

"[It involves] hands-on work doing things like measuring how the body moves and heart rate, from an engineering point of view."

Sargent said that he hopes the department will be able to flourish moving forward.

Charlie Oltman is a staff writer.

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Questions? Email: classifieds@gonzaga.edu

Nanny Needed!
Our Zag nanny is going home for the summer, so we are looking for a spring/summer nanny (with the potential to extend to next school year) for our 7-year-old daughter on the lower south hill. Starting May 12th, we are looking for someone M-Th, 2:30 - 5:30 that could help with school pickup, homework, and transporting to after school activities. Once school is out (June 17th), we are looking for additional care - typically M-F, 12:00 - 5:30. Please contact **Collin Harper** at **ch Harper89@gmail.com** if interested.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

In Defense of DJ DeSmet

A proclamation against DJ DeSmet was printed in a recent edition of *The Gonzaga Bulletin*, which I took issue with and would like to respond to. This opinion piece disparaged the DJ DeSmet tradition as undemocratic and a source of noise pollution. While I concede the lack of community input is an area for improvement, I think the muting of DJ DeSmet is barking up the wrong tree.

The author's two critiques seem to have distinct aims: less noise on campus and community input on music selection. Neither of these arguments give credit to what I see as the primary function of DJ DeSmet on campus: communally experienced sound.

Why do you and your friends listen to the same music during your car rides instead of all wearing headphones and choosing your own music? Well, I posit there are two reasons. First, it's not a big deal if you don't like a song or two, and second, that minor annoyance is grossly outweighed by the upside of a shared musical experience with your friends and the opportunity for impromptu conversation. A car full of friends each with their own pair of headphones would be void of the jokes, laughter or discussion that make spending time with your friends so valuable.

I find that Bulldog Alley is growing closer to that car of friends all with headphones on. If this headphone takeover is completed, Bulldog Alley will surely become a quiet public space. The previous article argued that a quiet public space would be more inclusive. This begs the question: what exactly is being included in this space? Playing whatever music you like as long as nobody else can hear it? Being whoever you want to be as long as you keep to yourself? Atomizing a community in this way disembodies that very community and without a community to be included



By CHARLIE MARTINEZ

in, inclusion loses its meaning. To me, it seems this new quiet space is reflective of a trend toward reclusiveness instead of inclusiveness.

DJ DeSmet, regardless of whether you like or dislike his music choices, is a symbol of the implicit compromise of being in a community. In this compromise, we all forgo a bit of control so that we can experience something with others and with each other. People seem less and less willing to make this concession and would rather avoid facing the messiness around them and retreat to their own bubbles.

This is not specific to a person or campus but reflects the growing polarization and isolation of society. Relating to another person is what a relationship is, and the only way you can relate to somebody is through shared experiences. Today, everyone is streaming a different TV show, scrolling a different personalized social media feed and often enough listening to their own playlist. Since there is very little shared experience for us to bond over, it's no wonder that discussions and

disagreements about issues like politics cut through relationships because we're not tending to their bedrock: human connection.

We're not discussing and disagreeing about the little things and let's face it, most of life is the little things. Understanding is built on these discussions and the shared experiences that we're missing out on, and this makes for an isolated, anxious and depressed population. So, let's buck the trend.

Being quiet and being alone have their moments. There is beauty in serenity and peace, but a campus full of 5,000 students provides a far better opportunity to build relationships than to find tranquility. While we're on campus, let's practice making the compromise of being in a community. Take the headphones off, take the earbuds out and listen. If you like what you hear, great! Tell someone at your next class (or on your way) about the song you heard. If you don't like what you hear, tell someone at your next class (or on your way) about what you would play if you were DJ DeSmet. Either way, you've opened yourself up to a new relationship or a stronger connection.

Being in a community is the solution to isolation, but it takes individuals buying into that community and making the compromise to make it work. It's a bit of a risk. You are giving up a bit of control, but small private college campuses are a pretty sheltered environment as far as things go. So, let's practice investing in our community. Taking our headphones off is a great way to start.

Charlie Martinez is a GU student.

GU try hard culture: Is overachieving the best way to go through college?

When I first arrived at college, I was surrounded by flyers and invitations to join numerous clubs or organizations. Wanting to get involved and make friends, I flung myself into being busy. My lesson from these efforts is that it's possible that trying a little bit less can give you a lot more.

The overachiever culture worked well for me at the start of my college career. Being busy provided me with structure. When unsure of what to do with my time, I could always distract myself by studying. I met some of my best friends through study groups. When I became more involved on campus, I found a community of people around me who were also focused on a heavy academic load in addition to resume building extracurriculars. This was excellent motivation for me. I found my social life by continually saying yes to new offers and bonding with others over being stressed out of my wits.

Your college lifestyle can be heavily dependent upon who you hang out with.



By LILY PEARSE

As a freshman, I saw upperclassmen who were doing so much all of the time. I felt like my level of involvement paled in comparison. If they could do all of that work, surely I could too. While I may have fallen victim to the campus culture of over-committing, I remain grateful to have been held accountable by my peers and more so, to have had role models.

Initially, overachieving comes with benefits, but then you find yourself like me, a year and a half later, burned out. It

feels incredible to get a good grade, to be a good team member, to be recognized for your achievements. Ultimately, if you pace yourself incorrectly, you can end up in a pretty miserable place.

I have been recently investigating the concept of "balance." I realized that at a certain point, I felt I wasn't achieving anything, despite all of my commitments and my heinous schedule. I was achieving, but I didn't feel accomplished. It's almost scary to relinquish a white-knuckled grasp on control and let yourself take pauses. But maybe there are readings you can skip and then you'll get an extra hour of sleep. Maybe you can go out on a Friday and let go of the running to-do list. My best advice is to sacrifice where you can and don't miss out on what's important.

I believe that it's a good thing to aim high when you are passionate about something. Committing yourself fully to a bigger goal is not only rewarding at the end of the day but also gives you something to work toward. I have been

able to maintain motivation by thinking about my future aspirations, and I recognize that I may not achieve what I want to if I don't work hard. To that end, some sacrifices are necessary. It is also important to prioritize long-term gratification and remember where you want to go.

There's no right way to do college because, truthfully, everyone is different. The structure worked well for me and overachieving helped keep me motivated and moving. It's important to take your education seriously and get as much out of college as you can. Do what is most rewarding to you — that doesn't have to mean signing up for everything at the club fair or maxing out your credit load every semester. We could all slow down and appreciate this unique time while we have it.

Lily Pearse is a digital editor.

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Addressing the generational gap

The war between the old and the young is as old as civilization itself. It is natural for older generations to look down upon young people with confusion, condescendence and critique. Consider the words of Kenneth John Freeman in his 1907 essay, "The Schools of Hellas," in which he paraphrases sentiments made by ancient Greeks:

"The children now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise."

Here, Freeman underlines a rich history of critique and disapproval between generations, one that persists today.

A Pew Research Center survey in 2009 reported that 79% of the American public believed there was a generational gap, defined as "a major difference in the point of view of young people and older people today." Among those surveyed, 80% said young adults and older adults hold different moral values and work ethics, with nearly 80% claiming that generations "differ in the respect they show other people."

Most Americans, even many young people, believe that older Americans have a stronger work ethic. However, The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the typical American work week was 40-45 hours a week in 1960, compared to 42.5-45 hours a week in 2025. Advancement in technology has restructured how work is performed and culture is manifested, driving perceptions about the reality of labor and culture that are typically misleading.

The globally pervasive sentiment that young people don't work hard can be explained by the ever-changing definition of



By SEAN LIVESAY

what hard work actually means. For example, to someone who grew up working as a cashier in a grocery store in the 1970s (before the advent of electronic scanners became commonplace), working hard at your job meant manually writing down the price of every store item when someone checks out by looking back and forth at a reference sheet or writing down the stock of every item in the grocery store by hand with pen and paper.

Although younger people may find their jobs less mentally and physically demanding than their older counterparts, older generations must recognize that they also had it easier than their parents. Labor technology has only become more efficient over the last four centuries. Instead of assuming painfully obvious and unproductive sentiments about younger people, it would be more productive for older generations to focus on applying their wisdom and experience in molding the morals and worldviews of younger people.

It seems likely that the ancient tradition of older generations criticizing younger people has roots in human evolutionary instinct. Rigorous standards and heightened expectations for young people within a civilization push

individuals to flourish and be keen on the wisdom and experience of older people lacking in their younger counterparts. Civilizations are only viable over the long haul if the natural progressivism that comes with youth is kept in check by tried and true traditions and values; ideas of progress are most effective when placed in a system of checks and balances by conservatism.

Young people can more effectively understand and connect with older generations by studying cultural and economic history. Older people can reciprocate by engaging with the contemporary internet, a tremendously influential facet of most young people's lives.

It can easily be imagined that someone who remembers when they first installed dial-up internet would have a hard time grasping TikTok brain rot, Ice Spice, AI and Fortnite, much less someone who remembers when they got their first color TV. When the young people of today first experience fully customizable, eight-dimensional virtual reality Metaverses and the artificially generated music of the future in a few decades, I think they'll look back on the "Boomers" of today and cut them some slack.

We should seek to understand generational differences rather than be ignorant. Much of this ignorance is built upon foundations of false preconceptions and stereotypes of people belonging to different age groups. Intergenerational critique is essential but is only effective with a balanced, realist approach.

Sean Livesay is a staff writer.

Another macaron, s'il vous plait

miFLAVOUR brings French desserts to Spokane

By EMILY NIEMANN

Offering a taste of baked European delicacies from the comfort of Spokane's Sprague Avenue, miFLAVOUR Modern French Bakery specializes in creating a chic atmosphere and whisking up new desserts.

Baked into miFLAVOUR's founding story is the relationship of Ella Piskun and her husband Max. Their idea to open a French bakery grew as they dated, married and eventually opened the bakery in 2016. Piskun is the chief operating officer and handles much of the business's day-to-day management.

"We started dreaming about it when we were still dating, and then it was really fun to build it once we got married," Piskun said.

Piskun said that she and her husband brought different skills to miFLAVOUR that enhanced their business.

"I love baking, I love desserts, and he loves running a business, so we joined forces and used both of our expertise to build miFLAVOUR," Piskun said.

Piskun said that miFLAVOUR started in a commissary kitchen, then they began operating out of the Montvale Event Center that they rented full time. miFLAVOUR "outgrew" that space the following year, ending up at its current location on Sprague. Due to budget constraints, Piskun said that they built out their 3,200- square-foot kitchen first and then finished the cafe section after about a year.

"Once we launched that cafe, I feel like that's when things really shifted and we really built a great reputation in town," Piskun said. "I feel like that's where we really took off."



LIZZY BENNETT IG: @lizzyjaynephotos

miFLAVOUR offers various European desserts at its Sprague Avenue location.

“

We started dreaming about it when we were still dating, and then it was really fun to build it once we got married.

Ella Piskun, miFLAVOUR co-owner

Piskun said that their focus on French desserts and quality ingredients helps set them apart.

"I will say that French dessert, I think, is the best because I believe that the French make their dessert really delicious," Piskun said. "It's not filled with a bunch of sugar and a bunch of artificial ingredients, and you can really taste the difference. I am really passionate about making sure that ingredients are good. I care about what I put in my body, so I care about what I provide for customers as well."

Aligned with this ethos is the woman running miFLAVOUR's kitchen as its general manager and executive pastry chef: Courtney Carlson. Being a French

bakery, one of miFLAVOUR's strengths is its differences between other, more rustic bakeries in the Spokane area, Carlson said, as miFLAVOUR offers treats that use French methods.

"French techniques, you use ingredients from scratch and you don't see any mixes," Carlson said. "You'll see real butter, never any shortening or margarine. A lot of our pastries, they're hand shaped, so we're not using any machinery."

Carlson said she started on the baking side of the business and now handles more of the kitchen's day-to-day management.

"I reached out to Max and Ella when I noticed some really cute unicorn French macarons in Huckleberries," Carlson

said. "I remember delivering there and I just saw how intricate they were and how professional they looked."

Carlson just celebrated her seven-year anniversary working at miFLAVOUR, where she helps maintain staple bakery items and introduce new products like the tiramisu or the Dubai chocolate bars. She also said that the founders allow her to handle the brainstorming and creation of their seasonal items.

"Ella gave me the freedom to figure all those out, and so those are definitely something that I kind of treat like my baby," Carlson said.

Carlson said that the inspiration for new additions to the menu comes from a variety of places.

"Traveling is definitely probably the biggest inspiration, and then I would say seeing things online and what other people are doing," Carlson said. "I'm also inspired by our team members. They bring forward so many great ideas."

Carlson said that the pastry chefs give their input on new flavors and combinations in the kitchen and that she values their ideas. Her biggest contribution to their menu is the tiramisu inspired by a trip to Italy with her husband.

"My favorite is our tiramisu," Carlson said. "I like the balance of the bitterness of the espresso with the sweetness of the mascarpone."

Piskun said another item that has been super popular among customers has been their Dubai chocolate bar inspired by the viral online videos.

"We started making that viral chocolate bar, and we literally haven't been able to keep them [on the shelf]," Piskun said. "People have been really loving it."

One of Piskun's primary focuses has been preparing creative pop-ups to attract new customers to their cafe. Their next pop-up will be on Saturday and will feature a new menu item: French beignets.

"We went to New Orleans to actually make sure that our [beignets] are super good, and I can tell you that they're actually better than the ones in New Orleans," Piskun said.

The drive to keep their products on-trend, along with Carlson and Piskun's personal insights, helps keep miFLAVOUR's menu fresh and interesting.

"I think it's kind of something [cool] about miFLAVOUR is that you will see something new every time you come in — nothing is the same since it was in the beginning," Carlson said.

miFLAVOUR is located at 3403 E. Sprague Ave. It is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Emily Niemann is a news editor.



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TATTOO TOUR



RACHEL TRUSSELL IG: @racheltrussellphotography

Mom's Tattoo & Piercing is located in Kendall Yards at 1226 W. Summit Parkway #7003.

'Moms' who approve of tattoos

By LAURA ERICKSON

For local tattoo artist and owner of Mom's Tattoo & Piercing, Beth Swilling, the most meaningful aspect of the art form is human interaction.

While other physical art forms such as paintings in museums or homes receive their fair share of interaction, being static limits them in ways tattooing doesn't, Swilling said. Just by the nature of existing, art on the body has the power to move freely through the community.

"That's what inspires me every day to be a tattooer," Swilling said. "You rarely exchange names, rarely get to know this other human, but you connect with this other human in a way that's really pure and has an innocence and a curiosity about it — that's nonjudgmental."

Swilling opened Mom's in 2014 and celebrated the Kendall Yards shop's 10th anniversary last year. Primarily focusing on custom work, Mom's hosts five different tattoo artists — each with a unique style — and three piercers.

In addition to creating art and connecting with others, Swilling said the tattooing and piercing experience can be vulnerable, which is why dependability, reliability, consent and a safe space are Mom's founding principles.

"In so many places in our industry, in both piercing and in tattooing, we get so many stories, especially [from] marginalized groups, [of] feeling not safe," Swilling said. "It's especially egregious to me when you have somebody who is predatory in this industry ... we try, as a community, to regulate that."

The emphasis on consent and safety can be found in other aspects of the business. Mom's is the only piercing shop in Eastern Washington with an Association of Professional Piercers membership, Swilling said, and the shop's piercers have a collective 25 years of experience in the body art form.

One requirement for the membership is to use true implant-grade jewelry, meaning jewelry that is designed for long-term wear and will not degrade within

the body over time. The type of jewelry used, Swilling said, has a big impact on the health and healing process.

"They're not just piercers — this is their livelihood. This is their career. This is their knowledge, and they have a huge knowledge base," Swilling said. "They're really, really good at what they do."

Despite having been in the industry for 20 years, Swilling said her passion for tattooing was more unexpected than planned and happened much later in life. Swilling said the story is long, but in short, the desire to get into ink began with her husband's first tattoo.

"I basically was like, 'What the f*** is that?'" Swilling said, referring to her reaction. "This was nothing in my sphere of consciousness."

Years later, the spontaneous idea to get her husband a second tattoo sprung during a work-related trip to New Zealand, where the couple ended up becoming good friends with his tattoo artist, Damian Leigh. Over a few years visiting during the summers, the friendship continued

to build, and so did Swilling's interest in tattooing.

"I finally got the courage, and he said yes," Swilling said of her request to be taught by Leigh. "That's how it all got started. But I was at this point, I think, in my late 40s ... it was not typically a place where you're changing your career completely."

As she continued to learn the craft, Swilling began practicing out of her own home, then moved to a private studio in North Spokane for seven years before opening Mom's.

"This entire business has been predominantly built on word of mouth — from people seeing my work and then telling their friend," Swilling said. "Beautifully, wonderfully, so much gratitude towards them."

Swilling said the main idea behind her shop's name came from shop piercer and daughter, Scout Swilling.

"Scout said, 'You should name it Mom's, because I tell everybody to go to mom,'" Swilling said, also pointing out that the name poked fun at the stereotypical tattoos people get for their mothers. "I've done, like, maybe one of those tattoos, [throughout] all my tattooing career — it's pretty hilarious."

Susan Crofts, one of Mom's five tattoo artists, described her preferred style of tattooing as "organized chaos" and said she enjoys doing work similar to watercolor or thrash polka. Crofts said her favorite aspect of working in the tattoo industry also comes down to human connection.

"It's commercial art," Crofts said. "You're doing this for other people. This is going on other people's bodies. It's their ideas, their vision, and you're just trying to make it come together."

Crofts has been tattooing for six years, two of which have been at Mom's.

"This place is like home to me," Crofts said. "It's my people."

Customers can walk out of Mom's with a fresh tattoo or piercing any day of the week besides Monday, but they are also welcome to indulge in the shop's "Crystal Corner" featuring art and ceramics by local artists, as well as a curated inventory of tarot and oracle decks and other gift items from small businesses. Each of Mom's tattoo artists also has their own collection of physical artwork on display near their stations available for purchase.

Laura Erickson is a news editor.



Inclusive inks around Spokane

COMMENTARY
By MATTINGLY KREIDER

Picking the right tattoo shop is a crucial first step to getting a tattoo you love — one you will cherish on your body forever.

Every location is unique, and different shops specialize in different styles. Spokane is home to an incredible tattoo culture, offering a wide range of shops to choose from. Don't let that stress you out — finding a place that translates a stencil to skin the way you want doesn't have to be daunting.

Iron and Gold Tattoo
705 N. Monroe St.

Traditional-style tattoos remain popular for a reason. Characterized by bold lines and saturated pigment, American and Japanese traditional tattoos will never go out of style.

Located on North Monroe Street, just on the outskirts of Kendall Yards, Iron and Gold Tattoo specializes in these styles. The shop has built a reputation for classic flash designs like pinup girls, roses, skulls and daggers, as well as custom neo-traditional pieces with extended color ranges and modernized interpretations of classic tattoos.

Its interior is covered floor to ceiling in artwork and flash, giving it an old-school feel. With time-tested techniques and a deep respect for tattoo history, Iron and Gold creates pieces that stand the test of time both aesthetically and structurally. The shop also accepts walk-ins, making it a great option for spur-of-the-moment decisions.

Anchored Art Tattoo
421 W. Riverside Ave. #108

Anchored Art Tattoo is located in a sleek, modern space in downtown Spokane that opens onto Riverside Avenue. The shop's black and gray aesthetic matches much of the tattoo work produced by its artists.

While Anchored has artists skilled in various styles, its specialty is black and gray realism. This style, known for its high level of detail and shading, closely resembles real-life images, often depicting portraits, animals and nature.

If realism is what you're looking for, Anchored is the place to go. However, its color tattoos are just as vibrant, and the artists also excel in geometric designs. The shop accepts walk-ins as well.



COURTESY OF @FORTUNATA.TATTOO ON IG

This Aries warrior tattoo was created by Howie Hues, an artist at Fortunata Tattoo.

Mom's Custom Tattoo & Piercing
1226 W. Summit Parkway #7003

Another well-known tattoo and piercing studio in Spokane, Mom's Custom Tattoo & Piercing, is located in Kendall Yards. The shop has built a reputation for high-quality custom tattoos and professional body piercings.

The studio's artists specialize in a vast array of styles and subject matter, creating unique designs tailored to clients' preferences. They emphasize cleanliness and safety, ensuring a comfortable experience for customers.

Mom's also stands out for its commitment to inclusivity, clearly stating on its website that it is a safe space for people of all genders, races, body types, religions, ethnicities, abilities and sexual orientations. This philosophy is reflected in its welcoming and friendly environment.

Unlike some shops, Mom's doesn't always have walk-in availability. However, it offers appointments within days or weeks and accommodates walk-ins when possible. It's best to call ahead or check the website, where the shop provides an availability form.

Fortunata Tattoo
121 W. Pacific Ave. #400

Located in downtown Spokane, Fortunata Tattoo is another standout studio. With 12 artists, you're bound to find one that fits your style. Whether you're looking for fine-line black and gray work or colorful cartoon-inspired designs, Fortunata has an artist who can help

guide your vision.

The shop has also been voted Spokane's best tattoo studio in The Inlander's "Best Of" readers' poll for the second year in a row.

This is another studio that has a "come as you are" vibe. The staff is diverse and truly seems to care about representation and inclusion. One of the great things about body modifications like tattoos is that they allow you to customize your appearance and how you want to present yourself. Fortunata is the place for that.

All About It Ink
54 E. Wellesley Ave.

Breaking away from the downtown cluster, All About It Ink is located near NorthTown Mall and is one of Spokane's top-rated tattoo studios. Specializing in a variety of styles — including realism, neo-traditional, Japanese, watercolor, tribal and cover-ups — All About It Ink is known for bringing unique artwork to life.

The studio's five professional artists work closely with clients to create personalized tattoos that flow naturally with the body. Using advanced techniques, they also revitalize older tattoos, making them vibrant once again.

Spokane's tattoo scene offers something for everyone. Each shop brings its own expertise and atmosphere. Whether you're looking for a timeless classic, a hyper-detailed portrait or a one-of-a-kind design, the right artist is out there.

Mattingly Kreider is a contributor.



Fern Plant Shop is easily accessible to students by the City Line and provides detailed instructions for simple plant care to customers.

LUCY BOOTH IG: @photo_b00th

Spokane plant store guide

Cultivate your room decor with plants from these nearby shops

COMMENTARY
By JULIAN MYERS

By this time of year, most Gonzaga University students have settled into their spaces. Whether it's a dorm, suite or apartment, Zags fill their rooms with posters and pictures to put down their roots and make their space feel like a proper home.

If you're looking to further cultivate your room decor, then a plant may be your new friend.

Thankfully, Spokane's plant shop scene is thriving. There are several plant shops across Spokane that students can visit for all their room decoration needs. An added benefit is that these businesses are locally owned and easily accessible since students ride free on all Spokane Transit Authority buses.

One such store is Siren Plant Shop. It is close to campus and has a wide selection of plants and pottery.

Additionally, Siren takes requests for specific plants through Instagram messages, which is perfect for any student who is already familiar with plant care. Taking the westbound 28 line bus north of campus will get you most of the way there.

If you're looking for more than just plants, The Chop Shop Plants and Oddities may be for you. As implied by the name, this store sells more than just plants and plant care services. It also sells interesting clothes and indie art. Chop Shop is 30 minutes northwest of campus via the 25 bus.

Some of the most diverse plant varieties and care services can be found at Fern Plant Shop, which is just west of downtown. The City Line bus, which runs straight through GU's campus, drives right past Fern.

The central display at Fern is dedicated to terrariums, which are glass containers that hold multiple plants in a closed ecosystem. These can be far more interesting than traditional houseplants due to the variety of plants contained in them, as well as the myriad ornaments that decorate terrariums.

Since terrariums are closed systems where little moisture is able to escape, they require far less frequent watering compared to the standard potted plant. Fern sells premade terrariums, as well as terrarium decorations, including a whole selection of crystals.

Fern also sells an odd type of plant called a marimo, which is a moss ball that floats in a container of water. These can vary in size and be held in a small vial or jar, so they can take up as much or as little space as desired.

And they grow — albeit very slowly. Marimo balls are very low maintenance, only requiring that water be replaced with new, filtered water every two to three weeks.

The variety at Fern may seem overwhelming, but the store is well organized. Every section of the store is labeled with colorful pink signs, which tell customers what sort of plant or other service they are looking at. Additionally, these signs have detailed yet simple care instructions customized for each plant, creating a very friendly environment for new plant buyers.

For those who already have plants in their living spaces, Fern has services that might be useful to you. On top of a wide selection of pottery, Fern will safely transfer your beloved plant to a new pot at no extra charge.

GU students looking to bring life to their rooms have many options to choose from thanks to the Spokane's plant stores. These shops offer everything that a student could want or need for buying or maintaining plants, substantially growing the ways that a room can be decorated.

As decorations, plants can really liven up your living space, and Spokane has an abundance of lovely local businesses from which to get them. Plants really are the perfect roommates.

Julian Myers is a staff writer.

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level **1** **2** **3** **4**

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Solution to Last Week's puzzle 2/23/25

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

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Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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SHEAR MADNESS
By Landon Horton
ACROSS
1 Mideast title
5 Upset with
10 Heeded a wake-up call
15 Stratford—Avon
19 Top left Battleship coordinate
20 Saunter
21 Required amount
22 Actor Liu
23 Brand of smart TVs
24 Neon and xenon
25 Wedding attendant
26 Protective wound cover
27 Refutes
29 Turn to face the pitcher
31 Captivate
33 Brake parts
34 Like a chimney
35 Rice
36 Melodic composition
38 "As if!"
40 Stable sounds
43 Musician Sean Ono
44 Key for special characters
45 Spy org.
46 Good-natured
47 See 17-Down
48 NorCal law force, for short
50 Air carrier

52 Writer Wiesel
53 Boomer follower
54 College treasurer
56 "You ___!": "Indeed!"
58 M.A. seeker's hurdle
59 Song often played at Dodger Stadium
61 Quivered
63 A quarter after five of
65 Thief count in the Ali Baba folktale
66 Country singer Clark
67 Sound for imitating a car
68 "I'm baffled!"
70 Cockney or Geordie
72 Most unusual
75 European peninsula
76 Brief chats?
77 Hit the slopes
78 Iran, formerly
79 Carpeting calculation
80 Bonsai, e.g.
82 Wise
84 Melville captain
85 "Mi ___ es su ___"
87 American acquisition
90 "Just wait ___!"
92 Trades jabs
95 1980s perm style
100 Greek moralist
104 Bluefin and albacore
105 With 108-Across, instruction given to a barber, or how the answers to the starred clues were literally formed

106 ___-Roman architecture
107 By oneself
108 See 105-Across
110 J.D. seekers' hurdles
111 Tire abbreviation
112 Bit of henna art
114 Two-rod antenna
116 Brain ___: 2024 Oxford Word of the Year
117 Spy-fi novelist Deighton
118 Sprinkled
119 Brunch option
120 PC's "brain"
121 Garage fig.
122 Soup server
123 iPods that replaced Minis
124 In vogue
DOWN
1 The "E" of ENT
2 Determining factor in playlist selection, perhaps
3 "Body art of a beloved's silhouette"
4 Homecoming events
5 "Advisors on robe or wand selection"
6 Gather
7 Safeties in the NFL, briefly
8 "Beer that belongs in a museum?"
9 Do a trial run on
10 Like some Summer Olympics events

11 "Faithful helpers who are less helpful after some time off?"
12 "Amazing!"
13 Like some black diamond runs
14 "Practicing to be worthy of elite double Dutch equipment?"
15 Ship in 1898 news
16 "Sumerian king's image?"
17 With 47-Across, "House" actor
18 Well-used pencil
28 "That ___ true!"
30 Stern's counterpart
32 Downwind
36 1990s soccer star
Lalas
37 Ward off
38 Prattles on
39 ___ monde: fashionable society
41 Some forensic evidence
42 Icy rain
49 Skirmish
51 Security letters
54 Kentucky college
55 Emu kin
56 Fails to hold, in a way
57 Battery bit
60 Drink also known as a Cape Cod
62 68-Down team in Fla.
64 "Star Wars" sporting vehicles
68 Org. for Suns and Rockets
69 Rowing blade

70 Half of a craps pair
71 Madre's hermana
73 "Elastic Heart" singer
74 Bygone soda in pink cans
81 TV friend of Sheldon
83 "Red Notice" actress Gadot
86 Favorable qualities
87 Musical interval also called "the devil's interval"
88 Accompanied by
89 Pursued, as a tip
91 Bald baby?
92 Basic need
93 Throbs
94 Consecrate
96 Furnished with a handle
97 Small nocturnal bird of prey
98 Final syllable
99 Investigate anew, as a cold case
101 Look online
102 Ink squinters
103 Prepare for a pass, in basketball
108 Other, in Spanish
109 Sport with horses
113 Delta HQ
115 "___ Misérables"

Huijbens shows love on the court

By JOSIE KUFFNER

If Maud Huijbens' career has shown anything, it is that she loves GU.

The senior made the decision to move to GU from Syracuse University and has stayed with the program through thick and thin as it has made multiple tournament runs, and she helped keep its season alive in the recent Women's Basketball Invitation Tournament.

Huijbens said she loves the culture at GU.

"I just wanted to be in an environment where it's about the community, about having a family oriented team," Huijbens said.

Her passion for the game wasn't ignited in the Inland Northwest, though — Huijbens has had a basketball in her hands from a very young age.

"My family is a basketball family," Huijbens said. "Basketball is not big back home in the Netherlands. My dad played professionally back home, and he played at Utah University. He asked me, 'Do you want to try basketball practice?' So when I was 7, I started and never stopped."

Huijbens played for the Netherlands U18 National Team where she averaged almost 12 points a game, and then she spent her freshman year on the East Coast at Syracuse University.

After one year and a few Zoom calls with GU women's basketball head coach Lisa Fortier, Huijbens made the switch in 2021 and came across the country to be a Zag.

"Syracuse was just not a good fit for all the reasons, basketball wise, it just wasn't a good place for me to be," Huijbens said. "And then I got in touch with Lisa [Fortier], and after that experience, I just had a gut feeling. Then I went home, and then I got here a few weeks later, and I've been here ever since."

Since her transfer to GU, Huijbens has been a force on the team. In her first year as a Zag, Huijbens appeared in 21 games and scored her season high of 12 points in a match against Pepperdine. Her sophomore season saw 12 game appearances, as she was hindered by a season-long injury recovery, and scored 45 points total.

In her third year, Huijbens appeared in 35 games for 686 minutes, scored 220 points and grabbed 127 rebounds while holding the second highest shooting percentage on the team at 53%. Her season high of 15 points came against Saint Mary's, and Huijbens was named the



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Huijbens has played 706 minutes and recorded 231 points.

West Coast Conference's Sixth Woman of the Year.

This season was no different for Huijbens. In January, she was named the WCC Player of the Week after recording two double-doubles. She played 810 minutes, recorded career-highs with 270 points and 193 rebounds. Her best night came against Santa Clara where she tallied 23 points.

"I think that on our team, she's one of the most instrumental leaders that we have, and physically, she's all set," Fortier said.

Though she has won a host of individual awards and achieved numerous career highs, Huijbens said she credits her teammates for her success on the court.

"I was able to excel because my teammates excelled," Huijbens said. "We started to understand how to play Gonzaga basketball — what works for us. We just really found a rhythm. And I found my rhythm in that."

Huijbens was on the up-and-up this season until she suffered a concussion that caused her to miss six conference games.

"I'm still bouncing back from it, if I'm

being completely honest," Huijbens said of the injury. "Besides being physically hard and having to get my conditioning back, my strength back — it's been hard mentally. I kind of went out on a high point, so I'm trying to get back into rhythm."

Once she was cleared to return to the court, Fortier eased her back onto the scene. Huijbens went from starting every match leading up to her concussion to being a strong contributor off the bench.

"She's doing great," Fortier said. "She moved into a different role for us, just from a starter to a non-starter over the last couple games, just because we kind of found a little bit of rhythm. I think she's about at the position that she was before she had to take away a little bit of time."

Huijbens certainly regained her form in time for the WCC Tournament. She scored 11 points, including three 3-pointers, in GU's narrow loss to eventual tournament champions Oregon State.

As her final season at GU comes to an end, Huijbens said she wants to walk away from the program by leaving an important message to the teams that follow after her.

"I want to leave an example of how you lift your teammates up, how positive energy can shift the energy in the room, how positive touches can influence the people around you," Huijbens said. "Doing a lot of things that might not be on the stat sheet, but are contributing directly to the team performance. Understanding that there's so many more things to GU basketball than scoring points or grabbing rebounds."

Huijbens has made a lasting impact on GU's development this year, with the team and fans sure to miss her presence. She spoke on her future aspirations beyond basketball and hopes for legacy in Spokane.

"I'm very excited for that next chapter," Huijbens said. "Even though it's sad leaving here, I'm ready to move on. I'm also trying to stay in the moment right now, to not think ahead too much. I think I'm going to enter that next step and the next phase of my life after basketball here is done. I'm just trying to have fun with my teammates here for how many games we have left."

Josie Kuffner is a staff writer.

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Men's basketball's 24-25 season ends

COMMENTARY
By CAM MCCANN

Gonzaga University men's basketball has been known for playing its best basketball once the NCAA Tournament comes around, and this season — even with the most losses since 2010 — proved the same way.

Despite ending its nine-year streak of reaching the Sweet 16, GU (26-9, 14-4 West Coast Conference) managed to breeze through its first round matchup against Georgia and almost upset No. 1 Houston in the second round.

The Zags scored 49 points in the second half — the most of any team going against the Cougars this year, who are the top-ranked defense in the nation. GU shot the ball at a 60.87% clip from the field, 66.67% from beyond the arc and hit all 15 of its second-half free throws. Houston then went on to hold No. 2 Tennessee to the fewest points in a half (15) ever scored in an Elite Eight or by a No. 2 seed or higher in any postseason game.

The loss to Houston capstoned an up-and-down season that started a 101-63 drubbing in a top-10 opening day matchup against No. 7 Baylor.

Many individuals showed promise. Ryan Nembhard led the nation in assists with 9.8 per game and ended his season in the top-5 all-time in single season assists with 344.

Khalif Battle, another starting guard, proved to be a bucket-getter and a high-flying dunker, while Nolan Hickman improved on his shooting to average 44.5% on the season from beyond the arc.

Graham Ike continued GU's tradition of strong post players, producing the most efficient offensive nights out of anyone on

the team, and Braden Huff filled in when Ike often wound up in foul trouble.

The team's one major weakness was role player production as Michael Ajayi, Ben Gregg and Dusty Stromer struggled to score. Ajayi — the reigning WCC scoring champ — couldn't put the ball in the basket, and fell to a grit and glasswork role, while Gregg struggled from beyond the arc all year. Stromer also didn't make much impact in many games this season.

This talented team rolled with that momentum and a 5-0 record into the Battle 4 Atlantis, but were quickly disappointed with an overtime loss to West Virginia. A costly steal and score by Tucker DeVries tied the game with GU, which had been up most of the game.

More close losses plagued the team's nonconference season, as three more Quad-1 games were lost in the final possessions. Kentucky (89-90) featured a second-half collapse from GU, and UConn (77-71) and UCLA (65-62) were close all the way through.

GU fell to unranked after a winless week in the first month of West Coast Conference play. The losses to Santa Clara (103-99) and Oregon State in overtime (97-89) were clear shooting anomalies for both of the opposing schools and marked the first back-to-back losses since the 2018-19 season.

Oregon State played tremendous, shooting 58.5% from the field and 42.9% from 3-point range. The Broncos dropped an unprecedented 103 points in The Kennel with 12 second-half threes on 70% shooting to set a record as the only opposing team to put up triple digits in the McCarthy Athletic Center's history, according to Sports Illustrated.

After being stripped of his place on the AP Poll, Few knew it was time to turn the season around and built momentum slowly but surely. One of the problems was a lack of a clear leader in the locker room, according to Few.

"I think Ben [Gregg] and Ryan [Nembhard] are our best leaders, and I know Nolan's [Hickman] trying here and there. That's kind of one of the issues with this group, is just who wants to step up and go out and maybe call some guys out," Few said after the loss to Santa Clara.

With leadership becoming the focus for the Zags, they would win out for the rest of WCC play if the Saint Mary's Gaels didn't exist.

The Zags fell twice to head coach Randy Bennett's squad — first in Moraga, California, then in the Kennel on Senior Night.

The first loss came after a tightly contested end sequence, but the game in Spokane followed a much different tune, as Saint Mary's led wire-to-wire in a 74-67 slugfest.

Opinions on the Zags were mixed, as some believed the team could work its way to a No. 6 seed in the NCAA Tournament, while others were unsure if the team would make March Madness — including the Zags themselves.

Nonetheless, the season turned around in the final two games of the conference season as a second-half frenzy against Santa Clara and a dominant full game over San Francisco ended the season with a +39 scoring margin in the final two showings.

In the WCC Tournament, GU faced both University of San Francisco and Saint Mary's and came out of Vegas with

GU SPORTS
CALENDAR

Friday, April 4

➤ Track and field at Whitworth Peace Meet, Spokane, Washington, (all-day meet)

➤ Track and field at Stanford Invitational, Palo Alto, California, (two-day meet)

➤ Baseball vs. San Francisco, 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 5

➤ Baseball vs. San Francisco, 6 p.m.

Sunday, April 6

➤ Women's tennis at LMU, Los Angeles, California, 11 a.m.

➤ Men's tennis vs. LMU, 11 a.m.

➤ Baseball vs. San Francisco, 1 p.m.

Home games in bold

two single-digit wins and a guaranteed bid to the big dance.

The game against the Gaels was particularly grit-and-grind — a style certainly unorthodox for a high-powered GU offense — with Braden Huff being the only player to score a 3-pointer.

With the end of the season, GU loses a bevy of contributors, including Nembhard, Hickman, Gregg and Battle who all graduate, and Stromer, Ajayi and Jun Seok Yeo, who all entered the transfer portal.

Ike still has yet to make a decision on his future, meaning Few has either six or seven scholarship spots to fill for the 2025-26 season.

Few seems to always find a way to retool, and this offseason will likely end up no different. Last year, Braeden Smith and Jalen Warley both came to the program through the transfer portal, and Smith has now had an entire year as a redshirt to grow and learn after his tenure with Colgate.

Despite arguably the worst year for GU men's basketball in the last decade, there are plenty of bright spots and things to point at for the future. Don't expect GU to go anywhere ... except the Pac-12.

Cam McCann is a sports editor.

WBB gears up for next season

COMMENTARY
By KYLE SWEENEY

Gonzaga University women's basketball's 2024-25 campaign represented the dawn of a new era for the program. Four starters from the previous season — all of whom were program veterans — moved on from GU, leading to new roles for a slew of players that took to the court in The Kennel this season.

Despite a tough start to nonconference play, GU turned things around and shared the West Coast Conference regular season title with Portland for a second-straight year. However, GU stumbled in the WCC Tournament semifinals, dashing its NCAA Tournament hopes.

With Maud Huijbens, Tayla Dalton, Esther Little, Claire O'Connor and all-time leading scorer Yvonne Ejim set to leave after this season, head coach Lisa Fortier's squad is once again looking for fresh new faces.

So what's the offseason outlook for GU women's basketball?

The Zags are expected to retain their backcourt, with Allie Turner and Inês Bettencourt holding more than two years of eligibility. Additionally, the Zags are bringing high school recruit Paige Lofing, a 5-foot-9 guard from Huntley Project, Montana. Fortier announced Lofing's signing in November, and she will join the program this coming season.

Earlier this month, Lofing was named Montana Girls Gatorade Player of the Year, awarded to the best player in the state. Lofing finished her high school career with 2,490 points, the fourth-most in Montana history, and also helped win the Class B State Championship for the first time ever for Huntley Project High School. Lofing is a sharpshooter from beyond the arc, possessing a fluid ability with the ball in her hands, both as a passer and a shotmaker.

"We can't wait to start coaching Paige. She is a very talented point guard who has an offensive skill set that will allow her to play off the ball as well," Fortier said. "She has grown tremendously as a leader in the past two years, and provides a steadiness at the position that is beyond her years."

Lofing has the chance to slide in nicely alongside Turner in the starting lineup next season, which would create a skilled, young backcourt for the Zags. With Ejim's exit, Turner will likely be the focal point of the offense next season, and an offensive talent like Lofing could prove helpful in the backcourt.

However, questions remain regarding GU's frontcourt depth. The departure of Ejim, Huijbens and Little leaves a gap in the low block that needs to be filled, both



RACHEL TRUSSELL IG: racheltrussellphotography

GU women's basketball captured a share of the WCC regular season title for a third-straight season.

“

We can't wait to start coaching Paige [Lofing] ... Lauren [Whittaker] is going to be a huge asset for our team.

Lisa Fortier, women's basketball head coach

offensively and defensively.

Lauren Whittaker, a 6-foot-3 forward who redshirted in her first year with the Zags, will help fill that void. The Canterbury, New Zealand, product was a part of the 2024 recruiting class that brought Turner and Cristabel Osarobo to Spokane.

"Lauren is going to be a huge asset to our team. She adds size and skill and brings a ton of high-level experience to the team," Fortier said. "There are not

many players out there who move so fluid at her height. She can score inside and out and loves to play the physical game."

Whittaker's addition will be useful for GU, but the transfer portal will also provide further options. After Kayleigh Truong, Kaylynn Truong and Brynna Maxwell's departure left the backcourt wide open, Fortier snagged Bettencourt from UConn and Dalton from Saint Mary's in the transfer portal prior to the 2024-25 season.

With the backcourt in question, expect Fortier and company to be active in the portal, searching for forwards and centers who provide length and rim protection for a team that returns sharpshooters galore in the backcourt.

Although it's difficult to pinpoint who the Zags might target in the portal, On3.com provides updates on all the transfers in the portal searching for a new home next season.

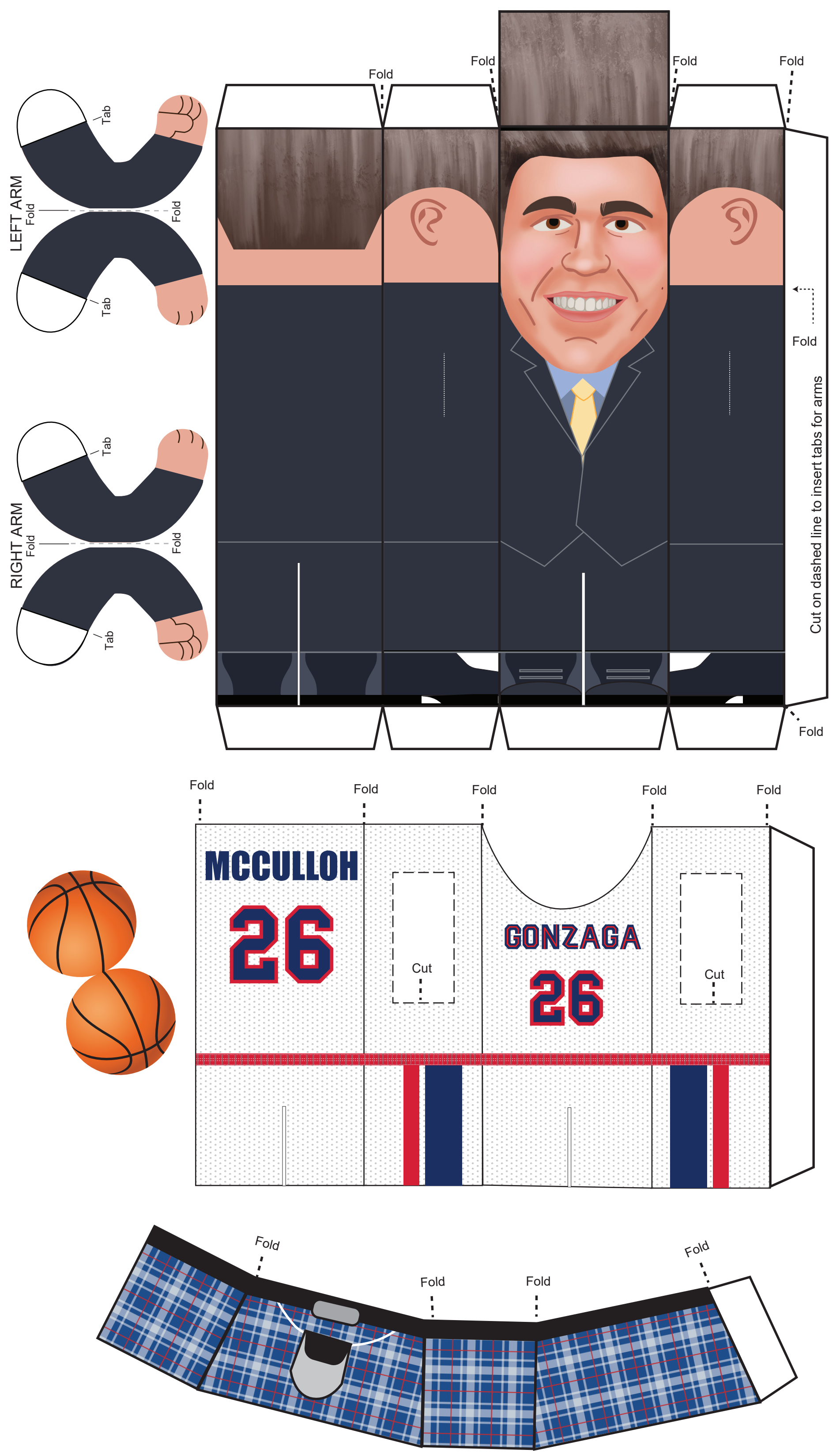
So far, Lofing is the only signing coming to Spokane next season, but be on the lookout for new signings, especially from outside the United States. Eight players on this year's roster are international recruits, signaling Fortier's willingness to look overseas to find players.

It's never too early to look ahead, and with important gaps needing to be filled, this offseason will be crucial for GU to find success in its last season in the WCC.

Kyle Sweeney is a staff writer.

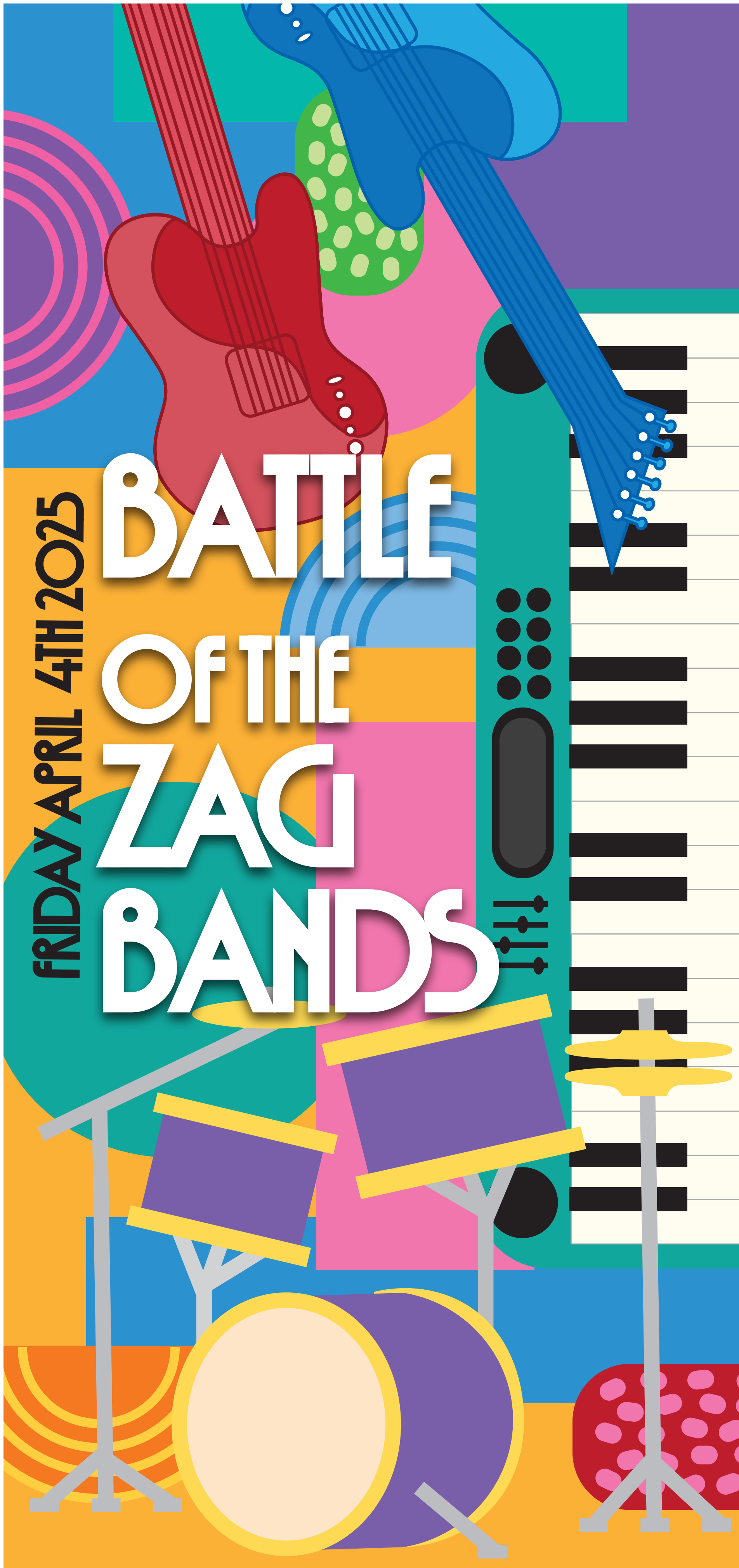
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BATTLE OF THE ZAG BANDS

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