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**WCC MEN'S AND WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT PREVIEW**



THE GONZAGA BULLETIN

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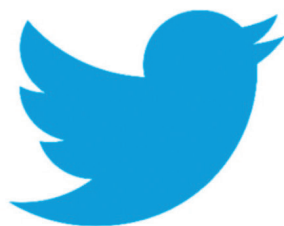
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Playing with house money

With an NCAA Tournament bid seemingly secured, Gonzaga looks to avoid major upset in Las Vegas

By TOMMY CONMY

Before the calendar turned to March, madness was already underway.

The Gonzaga Bulldogs were bullied by the St. Mary's Gaels, losing 67-57 in Moraga to end the WCC regular season.

Despite the loss, GU is still the No. 1 overall seed in the WCC Tournament, advancing automatically to the semifinal round opposite of No. 2 St. Mary's in the bracket.

"Sh*t happens, man," GU forward Drew Timme said in an interview following the St. Mary's game. "We didn't play the best, I didn't play the best, but we're human though. It sucks to lose, but better now than March."

With the league as a whole having a legitimate chance at having four teams selected to the NCAA Tournament, this postseason has some of the highest stakes in memory for the WCC.

The WCC has three teams ranked in the top 30 of the NCAA Net ranking with GU at No. 1, St. Mary's at No. 19 and USF at No. 28.

The NET rankings are the primary sorting tool used by the NCAA and incorporate strength of schedule, scoring margin and quality of wins and losses, among other factors in selecting teams for March Madness.

Despite being No. 50 in the NET Ranking, BYU is the No. 5 seed in the WCC Tournament due to a paltry 9-6 record in conference with losses to Santa Clara and Pacific. The Cougars are rumored to be looking for an additional non-conference game before the tournament to try and bolster their resume.

Should the Cougars advance past the winner of the opening round tilt between Pacific and Loyola Marymount University (LMU), the stage will be set for loser-goes-home USF-BYU quarterfinal. With both teams squarely on the bubble of the NCAA Tournament, a loss — particularly for BYU — will make the week before Selection Sunday agonizingly long. ESPN's Joe Lunardi projects BYU as one of the first four teams out of the NCAA Tournament without any further wins.

Nonetheless, the Zags remain the vaunted big trophy prize for any team hoping to claw into March Madness. An upset win over GU for Santa Clara, USF or BYU would seemingly guarantee a spot in the field of 68. The Cougars have never beaten the Zags in the WCC Tournament, going 0-6 overall and 0-4 in championship game appearances.

Despite the loss to St. Mary's the Zags remained No. 1 in the NET Rankings and the AP Poll thanks to the top six teams in the AP Poll all losing on Saturday, the first time that's ever occurred in the history of the poll. GU is still in line for a No. 1 overall seed in the West region, but could be bumped should Arizona, Kansas or Baylor have particularly strong showings in their respective conference tournaments.

"[St. Mary's] went right at us," Rasir Bolton said in a postgame press conference following the loss. "They were the tougher team. They were stronger



JOE O'HAGAN IG: @ohagandaz

Starting in all 29 games, Rasir Bolton (right) has averaged 10.8 points, 2.6 rebounds and 2.6 assists per game this season.

getting to the rim."

Although the Zags will be eying the opposite side of the bracket for another crack at St. Mary's, the Gaels aren't assured to meet the Bulldogs in the championship. In their way is No. 3 seed Santa Clara (No. 72 NET), one of only three teams including GU and BYU to best the Gaels in conference play this year.

Portland — a surprising No. 6 seed — is likely the matchup for Santa Clara in the quarterfinals, assuming they beat the winner of San Diego and Pepperdine.

Shantay Legans was one of many coach-of-the-year candidates for the WCC, turning around a despondent program in the matter of a year. The first year coach from Eastern Washington is one WCC win behind his predecessor Terry Porter, who coached the Pilots for five seasons.

Some critics have taken issue with the format of the WCC Tournament, which has been in place

since 2019. The format automatically gives the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds byes until the semifinal. Other conference tournaments, like the ACC, give the No. 1 through No. 4 seed byes into the quarterfinals.

The format was originally conceived so that the mid-major WCC could help to guarantee its No. 1 team, typically GU, would make the tournament as an automatic qualifier to reap more of the financial rewards that come with a deep tournament run.

Should the Zags remain the No. 1 overall seed and play in the West region, masks will not be required for any games in the first and second rounds in Portland.

The WCC Tournament kicks off with Pacific playing Loyola Marymount University on Thursday, March 3 at 6 p.m., with Pepperdine and San Diego tipping off at 8 p.m at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas.

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



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(LEFT TO RIGHT) Rasir Bolton, Andrew Nembhard, Matt Lang and Will Graves pose with the WCC regular season championship trophy after defeating the Santa Clara Broncos on Feb. 19.

Zags show out in West Coast Conference Awards

By VINCENT SAGLIMBENI

The Gonzaga men's basketball team was well-represented yet again in this year's West Coast Conference (WCC) awards.

Junior forward Drew Timme was named WCC Player of the Year, previously held by former teammate and now Washington Wizards forward Corey Kispert. Averaging 17.6 points and 6.4 rebounds per game, the 6-foot-10-inch forward shot 58.8% from the field, highlighted by his 37 points against then No. 5 ranked Texas Longhorns. This is the fourth consecutive year a Zag has received

the WCC Player of the Year honor. Timme was the Karl Malone Award recipient last season, which is given to the best power forward in the country.

Timme wasn't the only one who got their fair share of individual recognition. Freshman Chet Holmgren received both the Newcomer of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year Award this season. The No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2021, Holmgren is averaging 3.7 blocks a game in WCC play. Holmgren has 97 blocks this season, the fourth most blocks of anyone in the country, while also having 12 more blocked shots than missed shots from the field (85), shooting a league-leading 61.6%

from the field.

Timme and Holmgren were also First-Team All WCC honorees, along with Senior point guard Andrew Nembhard. The 6-foot, 5-inch point guard facilitated the most assists in the league, averaging 5.5 assists a game while holding a league-leading 3.0 assist-to-turnover ratio. Nembhard was recently named a Bob Cousy Award Finalist, which is given to the best point guard in the country.

Sophomore forward Julian Strawther and senior guard Rasir Bolton were named WCC honorable mentions. Joining Holmgren on the All-Freshman team was guard Nolan Hickman. No Zags were

named to the All-WCC Second Team.

Saint Mary's Gael Tommy Kuhse was the WCC Sixth Man of the Year. His coach, Randy Bennett, was named the WCC Coach of the Year, recently defeating the Zags 67-57 in Moraga, California.

All awards were voted by the 10 coaches that make up the WCC.

The Zags look to defend their WCC Tournament title next week, as its first game will be on Monday at 6 p.m. Tournament play will commence on Thursday.

Vincent Saglimbeni is the Editor-in-Chief. Follow him on Twitter: @vinnysaglimbeni

Bursting the bubble in Sin City

With their chance at the big dance in jeopardy, the Zags are putting all their chips on the table in the WCC Tournament

By HENRY KRUEGER

Projected as one of the last four teams admitted to the NCAA Tournament, the Gonzaga University women's basketball team (24-6, 15-2) is in jeopardy of missing March Madness for the first time since the 2015-2016 season.

This uncertainty sets up a potential must-win scenario for the Zags in the West Coast Conference (WCC) Tournament, something senior forward Melody Kempton emphasized following GU's final regular-season game last Saturday.

"Unless we win out, we don't know for sure," Kempton said. "I don't like to rely on the NET numbers or what people think."

With COVID-19 causing several interruptions to the conference schedule, the WCC opted to use Ken Pomeroy's adjusted winning percentage model to seed the tournament instead of win/loss records and head-to-head results. With a second-best .870 adjusted winning percentage, GU was given the No. 2 seed.

Held in Las Vegas, the tournament commences on Thursday. However, the Zags will play their first game on Monday after being awarded a three-game bye into the semifinal round. This ensures GU will be more rested than their opponent, but it means the team won't know their opponent until Saturday afternoon.

GU's possible opponents for Monday include No. 3 seeded University of San Francisco (16-14, 10-8), No. 6 seeded University of San Diego (16-13, 8-9), No. 7 seeded Santa Clara University (14-14, 8-10) or No. 10 seeded University of the Pacific (6-22, 3-14).

With so many potential matchups, head coach Lisa Fortier wants the Zags to focus on improving themselves rather than worrying about who they are going to play.

"We have been playing so many games without any time to work on strategy or implement different offensive concepts and work on areas that we aren't strong already because we have to just game prep, game prep, game prep," Fortier said.



CHIANNNA MCINNELLY IG: @picsbychiana

Kaylynne Truong posted a career-high 10.9 points per game as junior in the 2021-22 season.

"It will be nice to spend a couple of days focusing on cleaning up any sets that we don't run that often because we aren't good at running them."

Out of the four teams the Zags could play on Monday, USF poses the biggest threat to GU's chances to reach the WCC Championship.

The two programs matched up twice this season, and while the Dons lost both games, GU never won by more than six points. In the most recent meeting between the schools on Feb. 12, the Zags won 83-82.

Despite getting the victory, GU didn't exactly outperform USF. The Zags allowed

USF to shoot 56.9% from the field and 54.5% from 3-point range, but were saved by a game-winning layup from Kempton as the final horn sounded.

GU gave up 21 points to USF redshirt sophomore guard Ioanna Krimili, who's the No. 1 scorer in the WCC. Without a consistent go-to scorer to match the production of Krimili, the Zags need to play better defense if they want to defeat USF for the third time.

A win in the semifinals would advance GU to the WCC Championship on Tuesday, where it will likely face No. 1 seeded BYU (25-2, 15-1).

BYU is the only conference team to

defeat GU, handing the Zags two losses this season.

Considered the WCC's top team by a large margin, BYU steamrolled GU 63-39 when the programs last played on Feb. 19.

The Cougars completely shut down the Zags, who shot 25.5% from the field and 18.8% from 3-point range in that game. GU had only one player score in double digits, with Kempton finishing with 11 points.

BYU capitalized on GU's offensive woes, scoring 20 points off turnovers. The Cougars were led by sophomore guard Shaylee Gonzales, who scored 25 points and went 8-for-10 from the field.

While it wouldn't be surprising if BYU was heavily favored in this matchup, a win for the Zags isn't as unthinkable as it might seem.

When GU and BYU met for the first time this season on Feb. 5, the Zags led 35-20 at halftime. During the first half, GU shot 63.6% from beyond the arc, while not allowing a 3-pointer from the Cougars.

The Zags would fall apart in the second half, losing 62-50, but their first-half performance proved they can hang with BYU.

If GU can put together two excellent halves of basketball against BYU, the team has a real chance to win the WCC Championship and earn an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. However, if the Zags lose, or even worse, fail to reach the title game, their name may not be called on Selection Sunday.

Fans can watch the first four rounds of the WCC Tournament on the conference's regional sports network partners, NBC Sports Bay Area, NBC Sports California, ROOT Sports NW, Bally Sports West, Bally Sports SoCal, Bally Sports San Diego as well as BYUtv. These games can also be seen online on the WCC Network. The championship game will be televised on ESPN.

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

Three Zags take home All-WCC, Ejim named Sixth Woman of the Year

By COLE FORSMAN

Three members of the Gonzaga University women's basketball team were named to the 2022 All-West Coast Conference (WCC) team on Wednesday.

Senior Melody Kempton and junior Kayleigh Truong were selected to the All-WCC first team, while sophomore Yvonne Ejim was honored as the conference's Sixth Woman of the Year and a spot on the All-WCC second team. It's the second consecutive season a Bulldog has won the award, as Kempton received the honor last year.

"We have a group of women who focus more on team success than individual awards," head coach Lisa Fortier said in a news release. "That being said, Melody, Kayleigh and Yvonne have made great contributions to our team this year and the recognition from the conference is well deserved."

As the anchor of the WCC's top scoring defense, Ejim followed up her decorated freshman season as a key contributor off the bench in 2021-22. The sophomore led GU in steals this season with 44 and averaged 5.4 rebounds per game, third most on the team. She contributed 9.9 points per game as well.

Truong, after notching career-highs in points and field goal percentage this season, earned her third all-conference honor in her career. After being an honorable mention as a sophomore, the Houston native earned a spot on the first team after she paced the Zags in assists per game (3.7) and was tied for the team-lead in scoring (10.9).

Tabbed as an All-WCC player in the preseason, Kempton sustained that status throughout the season with a historic campaign. She posted the most efficient shooting season in program history as she knocked down 53.9% of her shot attempts and surpassed 500 rebounds for her career. Like Truong, she helped pace the Bulldogs with 10.9 points per game.

For the second consecutive season, BYU's Shaylee Gonzales was chosen as the WCC Player of the Year while her coach Jeff Judkins won Coach of the Year honors.

Gonzales, a year removed from sharing the award with GU's Jenn Wirth, was third in the WCC with 18.8 points per game. She scored in double figures in all but one game



EMMA PATENODE IG: emmapatenode

Off the bench, Ejim led the Zags in steals (44) and scored in double-figures 15 times this season.

this season, topped the 20-point in 12 games and dropped a career-high 35 points against Saint Mary's in February. It's her third straight appearance on the All-WCC first team.

Judkins, now with six conference coach of the year awards, became BYU's all-time winningest head coach with 455 victories. With a 15-1 record in league play, he guided the program to its fifth WCC regular-season title. Ali Bamberger from Saint Mary's was named

Newcomer of the Year, while San Diego's Jordyn Edwards won the Defensive Player of the Year award.

The first round of the WCC Tournament in Las Vegas begins Thursday at Orleans Arena. The Zags, as the regular season runner-up, will play Monday at 7 p.m. after they earned a spot in the semifinal.

Cole Forsman is a sports editor. Follow him on Twitter: @CGForsman.



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GU community weighs in on Russia's invasion of Ukraine

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

A Cold War photo of two groups of soldiers— Russia and U.S. — facing off at the border between East and West Berlin sits in Gonzaga professor Alan Westfield's living room and office. Both groups of soldiers sitting in their tanks at Checkpoint Charlie, according to Westfield, were seemingly ready to fire at any sign of an attack from the other side.

Westfield is a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army and said he spent 21 years with the infantry traveling around the world, including being stationed in Germany. He said that this image reminded him of how close the world was to total war during the Cold War.

On Thursday morning, last week in Ukraine, after

weeks of escalating tensions in the region, Russia launched an aerial attack on the major Ukraine cities, including Kyiv, the country's capital. Later that day, Russia sent military land troops into the country, leading many countries around the globe to condemn this as an invasion of a sovereign state, a violation of the UN Charter.

Westfield, looking at the image on his wall while he spoke, said that the conflict eerily reminded him of the photo and the Cold War. He said that when saw the news late Wednesday evening he was shocked and worried while saddened by the inevitable loss of life.

"The first time was in Germany," Westfield said. "We had to figure out as members of NATO how to fight outnumbered and win against the Soviet Union and the

Warsaw Pact. Then in 1989, the wall came down. In 1991, Germany reunified, the Soviet Union disintegrated and people were hopeful on the planet. Well, it seems like we're moving towards another Cold War [right now]."

GU students Valeria Vakiy and Holden Smith said that they were also shocked and worried about the conflict when they first saw news of the bombings on Wednesday night.

Smith originally worried that it would potentially be the beginning of World War III. He said he remembers sitting in his dorm room when the news broke out, thinking that the next step was war on a more global level.

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Patricia Louise Prague earned her degree in education during her time at GU.

EMMA PATENODE IG: @emmapatenedo

Patricia the pioneer

One of GU's first female graduates reflects on her time as a student

By SYDNEY FLUKER

Being the only woman in a room was never a cause for worry for Patricia Louise Prague.

Starting at Gonzaga University in 1950, two years after women were first admitted to the university, Prague worked hard to earn the equivalent of a degree in education and a teaching certificate.

"I wasn't scared," Prague said about her first day.

Coming from a lower-class family, Prague worked her way through the teaching degree she didn't want in the first place. Her initial goal was to pursue a business degree, but familial pressures led her to follow a teaching path.

In her first year at GU, she began to work at the Sears Roebuck in downtown Spokane, where the library is today, in the advertisement department. Prague found support for her education in her boss, who worked around her class schedule to ensure she could manage both.

SEE PRAGUE PAGE 3

Administration responds to Asian American petition

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

The petition created by the Asian American Activists (AAA) organization calling on the administration to give more support for Asian American students has been gaining traction over the past month since its release on Jan. 29 at the Asian American Union's (AAU) Night Market.

The petition has over 550 signatures and has gained support from some administrators and faculty, including the heads of two major divisions on campus: Annmarie Caño, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), and Kent Porterfield, the vice provost of student affairs.

Caño, who identifies as a Latina woman and a first-

generation college student, said that diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) work is very important to her personally and is integral to her understanding of Gonzaga's mission. She said that she was excited when she saw the petition because it fit within her vision of the CAS.

"Let's talk about what's going on in the classroom," Caño said. "Let's talk about what we teach. Let's talk about who we hire and who's being represented as the authority in the classroom. All of that is very important to me in terms of making sure that everybody feels included and like they belong here."

Porterfield described the need to listen to the student activists and respond to their concerns. He said that the university was created for young people and that its

primary concern should be supporting the students in their learning and growth as human beings.

"I think the folks that we have to ask is our Asian American [students]," Porterfield said. "It's not for me to determine that. If our Asian American students don't feel well enough support then I'm concerned about that. We need to take that seriously and that starts with listening, trying to understand what those needs are."

While the demands in the petition called for greater support of Asian American students on campus, the Division for Student Affairs and CAS have organized a series of initiatives in each division over the past year.

SEE ACTIVISM PAGE 3

Big Bing Theory sings in international a cappella competition

By AMELIA TRONCONE

Big Bing Theory (BBT), Gonzaga University's coed a cappella group, will compete on March 5 in the West Quarterfinal of the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella's (ICCA).

The group, which is comprised of 16 students, will compete against nine other universities that are located in the western region of the U.S. Among these universities are University of Washington and Western Washington University.

This will be BBT's first time competing in the ICCAs. Being able to perform again is something that Natalie Marssdorf, BBT's music director and third year at GU, is excited for.

"[Advancing to the quarterfinal] is really exciting, especially after COVID because we weren't able to compete last year," Marssdorf said.

Hailey Hughes, co-director of BBT and senior at GU, echoes this sentiment and said that there is nothing quite as special as performing with this group. Hughes is also enthusiastic to compete in the quarterfinal, where she believes the stakes are raised.

"It is not that difficult to advance the quarterfinal, [but] the quarterfinal is like where the real competition starts," Hughes said.

While the group made it to the quarterfinal competition a few times prior to COVID-19, they have not yet advanced past the quarterfinal. Therefore, BBT's goal for this year is to goal is to advance to the semifinal.

To advance, BBT must place among the top two groups in their region's quarterfinal. To be able to go to the semifinal would be a major accomplishment for the group, Hughes said.

"If we were to advance, I think I would like cry," Hughes said. "I would just be so



Big Bing Theory's co-director senior Hailey Hughes (center) sings in a performance.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN JUNG

immensely proud because we've never done that."

In place of a live performance, a compilation of the universities' prerecorded performance videos will be livestreamed on varsityvocals.com. This livestream will also include a real-time

announcement of the competition's results.

Marssdorf finds that that while a virtual competition is not ideal, it comes with its own perks.

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Vakiy, who has lived much of her life in Europe and has traveled many times to Ukraine, said that she has family in the city of Odessa, located on the Black Sea and one of the first major cities to be under siege. She said that Russian troops would have walked right by her house, which is near the beach, in order to invade the city.

“There is animosity sometimes between Russian and Ukrainian people, but it’s more [about] the wealthier countries thinking that they’re superior than the poorer countries,” Vakiy said. “It’s never been to the point where you think that a war would start, especially since a lot of Russian people have family in Ukraine and vice versa.”

Both of these students said that they had conversations about the conflict, with Smith saying that he had these discussions in his political science and economic classes.

For GU history professor Kevin O’Connor, this conflict will be a significant date in Russian and European history. He said that the attack on Ukraine bore resemblance to 18th century imperialism and is a direct challenge to the notions of Western democracy and self-determination present in Europe.

O’Connor specializes in Russian history and has researched Russia’s relationships with the Baltic region. He said that he has been to Russia a number of times and remembers being in Russia on Dec. 31, 1999, when Boris Yeltsin, former president, announced that Putin would be the next Russian leader.

“This is a huge turning point because Putin is taking unusual steps, using military force to achieve a political objective,” O’Connor said. “This is something that Europeans have rejected since World War II. We make treaties, we have negotiations, we have the United Nations, we have the European Union. Putin’s unilateral move is a real shock to this system.”

Stacy Taninchev, the chair of the political science

Democracy is facing its most serious challenge in decades. There's a turn towards authoritarianism that we see even in European countries like Hungary,Turkey, Russia, Belarus, possibly Poland as well. We can never take democracy for granted. Democracy is something that has to be worked on to be perfected, and above all defended.

Kevin O'Connor, history professor

department, studies the European Union, NATO and other intergovernmental organizations. She taught an introduction course on international relations in the fall and said that she is using the same international relations perspectives that she taught about last semester to examine this conflict.

Taninchev described an article by political scientist John Mearsheimer after the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014, which warned against NATO and the

EU allowing Ukraine to join because that would threaten Russia’s power. She said that she began looking at the conflict that way and then has started questioning the theory and the merits it has in preventing Ukraine from joining NATO and EU.

Taninchev agreed with O’Connor that in a post-World War II European war, the invasion of Ukraine by Russia seems unprecedented and violates the grounds of international diplomacy and agreements that has kept Europe away from war for a long time.

“The situation was there, but somehow we maintained through international agreements and diplomacy this preventing of that conflict,” Taninchev said. “It’s unprecedented in the post-World War II period that Russia actually did now invade an independent country that is also sovereign in a very direct way.”

Westfield, O’Connor and Taninchev all agreed that GU has an obligation to have discussions about this conflict and other worldwide issues, citing GU’s role as an educational institution in educating students to think critically about the world and its variety of perspectives.

Westfield also mentioned the need for GU students to donate and support refugee resettlement groups working with Ukrainian migrants.

Yesterday, GU’s political science department and history department joined together to host a discussion with history and political science students. O’Connor said that hopes to host another one for a larger audience potentially after the upcoming spring break.

“Democracy is facing its most serious challenge in many decades,” O’Connor said. “There’s a turn towards authoritarianism that we see even in European countries like Hungary, Turkey, Russia, Belarus, possibly Poland as well. We can never take democracy for granted. Democracy is something that has to be worked on to be perfected, and above all to be defended.”

Noah Apprill-Sokol is a staff writer. Follow him on Twitter: @noah_sokol03.

BBT

Continued from Page 1

“Nothing can compete with performing live in an environment where you are surrounded by other groups on a stage,” Marssdorf said. “But I think it’s actually kind of an advantage because we get the opportunity to really fine tune [and] solidify what we want.”

The group submitted a virtual audition to the ICCA in November, and found that same month that they had made it to the quarterfinal. According to Marssdorf, they had to put together their performance in four weeks following confusion about the deadline for their virtual audition.

In spite of the challenges BBT has faced this year, the directors believe that the group has what it takes to make it to the semifinal.

“In my four years of doing this, this is the only year that I’ve actually seen ourselves possibly advancing,” Hughes said.

A stipulation of the ICCAs is that the members of each group must be a full-time student at their respective university. Much of the work is done internally by students, with everything from the music to the choreography produced by the students.

Marssdorf says that the student-led aspect of BBT enhances the cohesiveness of the group.

“It’s such a personal connection and it really adds to the family aspect of [the group],” Marssdorf said.

As directors, both Hughes and Marssdorf take on extra responsibility



Big Bing Theory has 16 students in its a cappella group, who will be competing in the ICCAs for the first time since 2019.

to keep the group working well. Hughes leads the group in learning music, while Marssdorf oversees the arrangement of the music. Two of the three songs that the group will be performing were arranged by Marssdorf herself.

The hard work is not only done by the directors. This year’s group, according to Hughes and Marssdorf, has been one of the most hardworking and dedicated groups BBT has had. They both attribute this increased dedication and involvement for the group’s advancement and ability to learn the music quickly.

“Every single one of [the people in the group] has just put so much time outside of our rehearsals to work on [the music],” Hughes said.

It is for this reason that they both say they will be immensely proud of the group and the work they did, no matter the outcome of the competition. Additionally, both Marssdorf and Hughes say that while they want to make it to the semifinal, they are simply happy to be performing with a group that always gives it their all.

“I think this is one of the best groups that we’ve had,” Marssdorf said. “And every single person in this group believes in the group, gives the group their all and really goes above and beyond.”

Amelia Troncone is a staff writer.



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Father Kuder scholarship established

By MIA GALLEGOS

Father Steve Kuder, SJ, was a beloved Jesuit who served as a priest and professor at Gonzaga University until last fall, when he died after a long fought battle with cancer as well as a breakthrough case of COVID-19.

Despite this loss, many members of the GU community are finding ways to reflect on the man that Kuder was and to honor his legacy in a memorable way.

GU and the Kuder family have established the Rev. Stephen R. Kuder, SJ, Endowed Scholarship. This scholarship is meant to honor Kuder's legacy at the university so that his spirit of giving will never be lost despite his passing.

"Teaching and interacting with students was so important to his life, and future students won't get to interact with him anymore. So this [will] be a way to continue his legacy," Marguerite Busch, Kuder's sister, said.

Bush, the women who initially brought this idea for a scholarship to GU's University Advancement office, said endowed scholarships operate differently than immediate use scholarships. An endowment fund allows for the scholarship to grow its amount over time, so as to reach larger numbers of students and assist them in lowering the debt acquired throughout their years attending the university.

This sum of money that this scholarship reaches is based on donations not only from the family, but from community members, alumni and anyone who is interested in contributing to the effort of getting this scholarship to the place where it needs to be in order to be awarded to a recipient.

The Kuder family is hoping to get the scholarship amount to \$50,000 before awarding it to its first student. It will be given out as a need based scholarship at this starting amount. However, if the scholarship fund can get up to \$100,000, it can be designated to a specific department, namely the religious studies department (where Kuder served most of his time as a professor here at GU).

"An endowed scholarship lives forever, said Shanna Dunne the philanthropy officer in university advancement. "His name scholarship will always be awarded. So we call that living in perpetuity."

Memories of Kuder live on within the minds of many GU community members. Many remember Kuder as a very active person. He was an avid runner and was very proud of the fact that he ran the Dublin marathon when he was on sabbatical. In addition to running, he would go up to Schweitzer Mountain every weekend to ski and celebrate Mass.

Aside from outdoor activity, Kuder made sure that he was always present within the campus community. During his time at GU, Kuder stayed in residence halls, to be closer with the students in their environment.

"He said his work was a ministry of presence. He said that 90% is showing up. And so that's what he would do, he would show up," said Fr. Timothy Clancy S.J., a philosophy professor at GU.

Kuder was a literature and theology teacher. He strongly believed in utilizing literature as a means of thinking about spirituality.

"He was really into using literature as a vehicle for thinking about God and thinking about the meaning of life and what we're



PHOTO COURTESY OF GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

Father Steve Kuder hands out communion to community members at Commencement Mass.

called to do in our lives and how we would find that calling," Clancy said.

Literature and storytelling were Kuder's main way of getting a message across to not only his academic audience, but also to his religious audience. In most of his homilies said at St. Aloysius Church and University Chapel, he would begin with a story. These stories would engage whatever audience he would be speaking to, making his message that much more effective.

"Steve's stories were like his parables, and there was a message inside of them," said Robert Prusch, a retired biology professor and former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at GU and one of Kuder's best friends. "The messages were often very lighthearted, but at the core of them was 'God is love.'"

On top of this, Kuder was the head of the Honors program from 1995 to 2002.

Within this position, he often encountered overworked students who regarded sleep as unimportant or as something they didn't have time for.

"He used to say 'Time is the only thing you do have.' The future is not yet, the past is gone. All you got is the present moment. And his spirituality is very much the spirituality of the present moment," Clancy said.

Kuder's concern extended to more than that of his Honors students' sleep schedules. He made an effort to have the phone

numbers of every student he taught, and whenever one would not show up to class, he would give them a call to make sure they were all right.

Kuder was a comedian. Prusch explained how Kuder impacted him not only in a spiritual way, but also in a more lighthearted and fun way as well.

"One time we were coming back from Schwietzer, and the check engine light came on," Prusch said. "So Steve pulls over, gets out of the car, lifts the hood, closes the hood and gets back in the car. And he said to me 'well I checked the engine, and it's still in the car. So we're going to be fine.' And we were fine."

Kuder's death left an impressive hole in the hearts of many. He reached a large contingency with his storytelling abilities, universally understood messages within his homilies and his ability to be a friend to all who he met.

However, Kuder's scholarship will live on, as will his legacy along with it. His time here at GU may be gone, but his spirit of giving will remain.

If you or someone you know would like to contribute to the Fr. Kuder Endowed Scholarship, visit gonzaga.edu/kuderscholarship to make a gift today.

Mia Gallegos is a staff contributor.

PRAGUE

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Three days a week, she also worked at Monterey Skating Rink, across from Deaconess Hospital. She walked the 1.5 miles to the rink for \$1.50 a day.

Prague lived at her family's home on Sharp Avenue and Ash Street during her time as a student, making the daily 1.5 mile walk from her house to meet a friend on Division Street who would pick her up and drive her the rest of the way.

It was this dedication that got her through her education at GU. She covered tuition on her own, making weekly \$2 payments which forced her to take an extra semester to graduate.

"The most exciting part was that I could go to a school I could afford and that they let me pay tuition weekly," Prague said.

GU wasn't her first choice university, but it was the only option they could manage to afford. Since she never envisioned herself at GU, she had to learn to love it.

Things have changed since Prague was a student. At that time, a 30-minute conversation with three priests was required, where students were questioned about religion. Despite this, Prague recalls the university being very accepting of all religions.

Furthermore, all students were required to take physical education. However, since she was in one of the first classes of women, GU didn't have a P.E. class for women yet. In lieu of the class at GU, Prague and her

female classmates had to walk 10 blocks to Holy Names Academy Spokane for P.E. class.

She graduated from GU alongside seven other women in 1954, according to GU's special collections librarian Stephanie Plowman.

Following graduation, Prague married Floyd Thomas after seven years of dating. She then adopted his surname before relocating for a teaching job in Four Mound Prairie.

The job was as a teacher for a one-room converted-barn schoolhouse, serving 14 students between first and eighth grade.

"Most of their dads worked in Spokane, so I'd stop and pick them up in my car on the way to class," Thomas said.

She picked up 13 kids on her way to school, with one girl refusing to join — preferring her horse as transportation over Thomas's car. While she enjoyed the kids, it was the teaching she couldn't stand.

To Thomas's relief, the job ended two years later when the barn's owner needed it back.

"I knew I didn't want to be a teacher, and after, I never wanted to teach again," Thomas said.

Following Four Mound Prairie, Thomas and her husband moved back to Spokane, where she got a job in what is now the Department of Social and Health Services. She gave birth to her son, Kirk Thomas, in 1960.

She served the department for 30 years, working as a volunteer coordinator for 20 years. It was her work at Our Place Community Outreach, which mainly

served as a food and clothing bank at the time, that her son is most proud of.

There, she got the county extension agent to come into the food bank a few hours before it officially opened to provide cooking lessons using the bank's ingredients.

"People, [but] primarily women, would come into the food bank and get this cooking lesson, and then they would go home with a week's worth of stuff that they now knew how to use to feed their families," Kirk said. "I love to brag about that, because [she] put that together."

Thomas was also active in the American Association of University Women (AAUW), a popular organization at the time that is still around today. For AAUW she chaired their annual scholarship fundraiser, a book drive that took up an entire floor of a department store.

She made lifelong friends through the organization, including Carol Wendel, one of Washington's first female attorneys.

"Helping people is my favorite thing," Thomas said.

That value is reflected in her involvement at Mukigawa Fort Wright, Spokane. An offshoot campus of Mukigawa University, an all-women school in Japan, Thomas and her family lived across the river from the Spokane campus and found themselves building relationships with the school.

Mukigawa offered outreach for the students in Spokane, allowing them to do weekend home-stays with local families. The Thomas's committed for a weekend, but would end up housing girls for the whole semester — building relationships

with their friends that they'd bring over and working to make Spokane feel like a home away from home.

Despite expecting nothing in return, Thomas' generosity paid off. Host families were sometimes invited to travel to Japan to stay with the students' families, and the Thomas's took that trip twice. On one trip, 32 of their former students organized a picnic for her and her husband, surprising them as a thank you for their kindness.

Following a lifetime of adventure, Thomas has been to all 50 states and over 20 countries and territories. One trip was a gift from a late friend Thomas had taken care of after learning she couldn't drive anymore, taking her to and from her business every day while expecting no pay in return.

Having spent almost her whole 91-year lifetime in Spokane, Thomas has seen the city change throughout some of its major moments in history.

"It's gotten bigger with lots more businesses, especially since that big fair," she said, referring to Expo '74. "Spokane's always been my home, but it keeps getting bigger and bigger."

Now, Thomas is still living in Spokane, finding pleasure in reading the Spokesman-Review and long novels. Although her husband has died, her son visits frequently and her life is one she plans to continue enjoying.

"I know nobody lives forever, but I hope to live to 100 anyhow," Thomas said.

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ACTIVISM

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These initiatives started before the petition already address some of the petition's demands.

In the CAS, Caño has enacted a series of DEI initiatives since coming here over a year and half ago in July 2020 related directly to diversifying the faculty and staff in the CAS and offering faculty and students more opportunities to become better advocates for people of color.

This year, the CAS has completed 10 tenure track hires with 60% of those hires being people of color. Caño said that they probably have three more tenure track hires but did not say if those positions were going to be filled by a person of color.

"I know some other dean's at other places that have hiring freezes where they can't hire anybody," Caño said. "They have to work with the faculty they already have. We have an opportunity to both transform our current curriculum and also bring in new expertise to offer some of the things that the students are asking for."

Caño said that the process of hiring people of color has not been easy, however, and has required her to help restructure the hiring process to seek out people of color in the candidate pool.

Caño created a working group meant to address implicit bias in the selection process. She also said that she sent several faculty to receive advocate training through Spokane Falls Community College (SFCC) and then placed them in several job searches to help guide selection committees in the hiring process.

In addition to hiring, Caño also said that she was proud of founding GU's first Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science chapter, which works on promoting diversity in the STEM field.

For faculty, Caño partnered with the Center for Teaching and Advising to create a faculty and staff co-lab where faculty can learn how to make their courses more diverse in terms of students and more equitable in terms of content.

Caño said that the effects of some of these changes will take time to become visible to students, but the top-level changes will lead to more holistic growth on the ground level relating to representation at and diversification of GU.

"I expect these changes, some of which are visible and some of which are invisible, to result in more diverse course offerings, and even among the course offerings that we have, a diversification of the content, the learning outcomes, the teaching strategies and more skillful faculty who can address something that happens in the world or in the classroom that is racist, sexist or transphobic," Caño said.

The Division of Student Affairs has also worked on a number of DEI-related initiatives in the past year, according to Joan Iva Fawcett, dean for social justice leadership and community empowerment, beginning with creating a list of DEI commitments last spring.

Fawcett said that the lists divided the goals into three pillars— capacity building, staff recruitment and retention and program reviews —and that these pillars help drive the division's DEI efforts to respond to the specific needs of all students of marginalized identities.

Fawcett described the many inventories and tests that assess individual faculty members in the division in addition to programs on DEI. According to her, each faculty member upon being hired in the division must take the Intercultural Development Inventory and the Intercultural Conflict-Style Inventory in addition to an online course of DEI.

For staff recruitment and assessment, Fawcett said that a newly convened group on the subject will have its first meeting next week. The goal of this committee is to work with departments around five specific categories: marketing, outreach, networking, pipeline mentoring, onboarding and recognition.

"We're dealing with systemic issues," Fawcett said. "These are problems that start way early on. Now, they're not impossible (to solve). But, we have to be willing to try different things that are outside of our comfort zone. We have to disrupt the status quo in order to really change the demographics and the way we do business."

While these initiatives are a step to promoting DEI on campus, for GU junior Tia Moua, who created the AAA group, these are not enough, especially with the growing hatred toward Asian Americans in the U.S.

Moua, who identifies as Asian American, described this growing hatred as contributing to the fear she has for herself, her Asian American friends and her family. She said that she was especially scared when six Asian American women were killed in March last year, and that she felt unsupported by GU's administration after that crisis.

"If you're not actually reaching out to the Asian students who are impacted, or even like having somebody come to our Asian American Union Club, which has been active for over five years, or FASU which has been active for over 20 years, and reaching out to Asian students to make them feel more heard, belonging and more safe, then it doesn't really show that you care," Moua said.

Moua said that this petition was a demand from the Asian American community on campus for GU to reinforce their solidarity and support for Asian American students on campus, which she said is intrinsic to the mission statement of the school.

"One of the biggest ways to combat anti-Asian hate and violence that always stands out to me is education," Moua said. "Education is the key way to combat racial biases, stereotypes and racism in general because when you're educated about a group that may be different from yours, you start to see that you have a lot more similarities."

Noah Apprill-Sokol is a staff writer. Follow him on Twitter: @noah_sokol03.



Jesuit education means equity

Letter to the editor calls for a greater breadth of voices through Asian American activism



By CAROLINE CORKER



By HOLDEN SMITH



By MADELINE SONTAG



By SHYAM SRIRAM

Many students come to Gonzaga from small, sheltered towns, looking forward to explore new cultures through resources that were inaccessible back home. This university does an excellent job creating a culture of athletic inclusion through Kennel Club and other activities tied to sports and school spirit, but what is often missing is space for students of color. This creates a situation where many minority students must either create their own spaces or suffer in silence. In the words of Rush, “be cool or be cast out.”

When an Asian Pacific American student comes to GU, they might meet other students of Asian or multiracial descent, but where are the institutional resources? Except for a few key faculty like Shuying Li, Veta Schlimgen, Fr. Bryan Pham, Fr. Dan Mai and others, there is not enough opportunity to learn the history and culture behind being Asian American.

Being Asian in America is difficult; there is no other way to put it. There is an underlying yet overwhelming assertion of silence that imprisons Asian youth. They are often reminded how good they are at math and science, but Asian Americans rarely see themselves represented in American cinema, literature, history, etc. Civics curricula in the U.S. has only furthered this feeling of cultural exclusion — white stories and ideas take the main stage in classrooms and enforce the silent suffering of marginalized students.

The insurrection of Jan. 6, 2021, has shown us the dire, almost desperate need, for a renewal in civics education in the U.S. We believe that GU has a role to play in this also through a committed focus in core classics. There is already a movement underway on behalf of Tia Moua and the Asian American Activists (AAA) group on campus to create a diversity core requirement and a minor in Asian American Studies. We believe these acts of

curricular engineering could help to change our campus culture because curriculum can provide a foundation of humanity and compassion, and encourage a “commitment to dignity of the human person, social justice, diversity, intercultural competence, global engagement, solidarity with the poor and vulnerable and care for the planet,” a pivotal component of the university’s mission statement.

Curriculum should be a foundational source of humanity and morals in students, from the time they first step in a classroom at the age of 5, to their high school graduation and finally through college courses. However, in the U.S. curriculum has become a force that contributes to hate, violence and racism, as “the idea of violence against nonwhite bodies begins in the classroom” (according to Susan Cridland-Hughes and Lagarrett King). It is imperative that this form of pedagogical racism, where history is solely presented in terms of white history and culture is nonexistent at GU. As the GU Mission Statement focuses so thoroughly on developing the whole person’s academics, morals, ethics and so forth, the school needs to focus on an inclusive and diverse core curriculum to fight the violence that has been perpetuated by a curriculum dominated by white stories.

In America today, we see how the lack of this shared dialogue and inclusive education has led to a fractured country. The pandemic has heightened the need for connection through education, especially in the wake of the George Floyd riots and the Insurrection on Jan. 6. Rates of depression and anxiety have risen substantially during the pandemic, as have the spread of conspiracy theories and misinformation. Some believe that this conspiratorial thinking and the concerning effects of mental illness have led to an increase generally in political violence.

The rise in hate speech, specifically

anti-Asian hate speech following the onset of the pandemic, have also contributed to this violence. According to a study conducted by Ditch the Label, a company which specializes in tracking online data, anti-Asian hate speech increased by 2770% on social media from 2019 to 2020. Amid the rise of anti-Asian hate crimes, fear and pain began to overtake the grip of silence among us. Many Asian Americans feel newly visible, but with a heightened sense of awareness. It is important to note, however, that Asian Americans have been experiencing discrimination long before COVID-19. Hate speech and discrimination are also correlated with prejudice — we need inclusive education to combat this violence.

Pedagogical techniques that emphasize the voices of marginalized groups have been consistently shown to reduce prejudice and pacify violence. In a review of 42 different quantitative studies on education and political violence, higher education levels are inversely correlated with armed conflict and insurrection (Gudrun Østby, Henrik Urdal, and Kendra Dupuy). Promoting education in our country which addresses hate speech and dispels conspiratorial thinking will reduce conflict. GU can be a forerunner for this change by adding a core requirement that focuses on diversity and inclusion, with the intention to dispel hate and racism on campus.

Despite this pacifying effect, our education systems have historically failed to fight back against violence and discrimination with inclusive pedagogy. In the American K-12 curriculum, only 32 of the 50 states include specific Asian American content requirements, and most to a very limited extent (Sohyun An). As our education system viscerally ignores and misrepresents issues like these from the past, it leaves students struggling to find values and humanity as they learn about

events like Jan. 6. This is also known as “curricular epistemicide,” or the death of knowledge and curricula/syllabi.

It is imperative that students learn to think critically by building a strong intellectual foundation encompassing the past shortcomings of our government and leaders. Through understanding the past, students will be able to connect and form opinions about events that happen today. Only once we highlight the voices of marginalized populations and embrace change in curriculum and society will we be able to begin breaking down societal barriers around race and identity.

That is why we are calling on GU to champion the fight against violence that is perpetuated by the lack of curricular inclusion. President Thayne McCulloh reminded us recently in reference to the Ukraine crisis, “we are all one global community, one human family.”

As a Jesuit university, we must carry this sentiment forward both on campus and throughout our communities to resist political violence and racism. If done well, Ignatian pedagogy melds experience, reflection and action to create a profound level of critical thinking. This connection to current and past events is how we can begin to overcome prejudice, and this is a necessary and worthwhile effort for GU to make.

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Workers' rights challenge Amazon

Amazon has been and continues to be utilizing aggressive anti-unionizing tactics within its warehouses across the U.S. These methods, through both legal and illegal means, are strategically employed by the company in an attempt to prevent votes or even discussions regarding unionization.

A recent example of such activities can be found at one of Amazon’s warehouses in Bessemer, Alabama. Earlier in 2021, the workers held a vote for unionization. After the votes were tallied, the majority sided against the formation of a union. However, the vote has been a source of contention and questioning.

After an investigation, the National Labor Relations Board has recently found that the company had used illegal strong-arm tactics to intimidate and belittle workers at the Alabama warehouse. During the vote, Amazon had installed a drop box for the collection of the votes at the warehouse’s entrance and created an appearance of surveillance for those dropping off their votes. Furthermore, the company also hired anti-union consultants who told workers at mandatory meetings that unionizing could potentially lead to them losing benefits and pay.

Further tactics Amazon used at this warehouse included texting workers urging them to vote no, installing anti-union flyers around the warehouse and giving “vote no” merchandise to temp workers (who are subjugated to managerial pressures and ineligible to join the union). There are some anti-unionizing strategies deployed by Amazon in many of its warehouses, even within the Amazon Fulfillment Center in the Spokane area, that are not given nearly enough attention when discussing the company’s union-busting efforts.



By ANTHONY MAUCIONE

One of the most egregious and disturbing examples of this in Spokane’s warehouse, along with others across the nation, happens long before any vote to unionize even happens. To further investigate these tactics, I conducted an interview with an anonymous former employee who had worked roughly eight months at the Fulfillment Center in Spokane.

Recalling their time at Amazon, the former employee discussed what it was like on a day-to-day basis working a variety of jobs. One of the jobs, regarded as entry-level, was called “stowing” at the warehouse. This job consisted of workers grabbing items out of totes (that were sent to them by other employees), scanning them and finally placing them on robotic shelves. This process was heavily monitored and recorded, however.

“So, you have the thing called Takt time,” the former employee said. “That’s like your average time of when you scan something and put it in the shelf. So, the Takt time they would want you to do is eight seconds per item... and these Takt times were controversial as well as unreasonable and unattainable.”

While the “Takt time” system had glaring flaws as it didn’t account for how big or small the item was to maneuver, or if there was enough room in the shelves

to fit an item in, the system works in favor of Amazon in preventing a key method used to organize unionizing efforts: communication.

“You’re constantly working all the time,” the former employee said. “You’re just scanning, looking up, scanning. I mean that’s all you do. It’s like you can’t simply just talk to people and if you were to talk to someone else around a manager, you just cease talking altogether because you didn’t want to see managers look at you and see you’re not on task.”

This disconnect from the workers around each other has been an impediment to any type of discussion, especially regarding unionization or shared issues workers have about their environments. A more recent system was also put in place that involved employees getting handed cards that would assign each of them to a different “station,” which led to further isolation as a byproduct of the new system. Instead of working at the same place with the same people, workers would constantly be shifted around inevitably creating an environment where they almost never knew the people working around them.

In a harsh and constantly changing workplace, whether it has been due to the managerial staff prohibiting conversations, nonstop working to keep up “Takt times,” or hardly getting to know fellow employees due to high turnover rates and shifting stations of work, it often seems almost impossible to make efforts towards unionization, let alone get a vote.

To ensure workplace safety for all of Amazon’s employees, regarding their physical and mental health, workers must be given better means to organize and communicate their issues and thoughts.

Anthony Maucione is a staff writer.

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Frugals is located on the corner of Hamilton Street and Sharp Avenue, offering classic burgers, fries, shakes and vegetarian options.

Frugals replaces Wolffy's, serving classic burgers and shakes

With student discounts and a familiar diner feel, Frugals is opening its doors to the public this month

By SAM FEDOR

Frugals, on the corner of Hamilton Street and Sharp Avenue, will serve up classic burgers in a new location. The building, once the home of Gonzaga favorite Wolffy's Hamburgers, has a new owner, who promises to keep the quality of food high and prices low. Set to open in March, Frugals hopes to become a staple of the GU community, priding itself on speed, quality and, well, frugality.

"You're going to get the best burger that you can get anywhere in town... fresh, homemade and you're going to get it fast," said Kris Baker, the restaurant Development coordinator for Frugals.

Frugals, as the name suggests, also focuses on keeping its burgers affordable. The quarter-pound Frugal Burger can be had for \$4, and this location plans on accepting Bulldog Bucks.

"The Frugal Burger really is the staple item," Baker said. "All of our burgers are fresh burgers, not frozen, and they're quarter pound burgers. For instance, if you go to the competition... they're one-10th patties, which is a fraction of what you'd get here. We do source locally, everything we get will be right here from Spokane."

Frugals prides themselves not only on quality but on speed. Paul Bewick, the general manager of this new Frugals location, also spoke to the efficiency of the process.

"We've got seats inside, but there's also a drive-thru and a walk up window," Bewick said. "You'll also be able to order online."

Less than a block from campus, Frugals also hopes to become a place where GU students can make money as

well as spend it.

"We've got a ton of applications from GU students," Baker said. "We have flexible scheduling, and we know you're going to school... we're very flexible."

Pay is also competitive. While pay starts at \$15 an hour, just above the Washington State minimum wage, Frugals also guarantees tips to employees. According to Bewick, the restaurant adds a minimum tip of three additional dollars on top of the hourly wage.

The Spokane Frugals franchise is one of eight locations throughout the Pacific and Inland Northwest — five in Washington and three in Montana. Other Frugals locations can be found in Kalispell, Missoula, Tacoma, Port Angeles and Auburn. Most of the other restaurants are drive up only.

This location will be unique for other reasons as well. For one, it's smaller than the other Frugals locations.

"Because of the smaller layout of this store, we're going to go with a smaller menu... The smaller menu is going to allow for all of the burgers and our fries to be cooked fresh," Baker said. "It's the original Frugals menu from the original Frugals, all the way back in 1988."

This Frugals location also occupies an iconic building, recognizable to longtime Spokane residents and GU students alike. Originally Arny's Diner, a favorite 'morning after' breakfast dive of GU students and alumni, current students will most likely recognize the building as Wolffy's.

Wolffy's, a '50s themed diner, occupied the building from 2008 to January 2021, when it closed its doors permanently. The ownership cited statewide closures due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that hit local

businesses particularly hard.

GU students are excited that the vintage styled building will be put to use once again.

"I'm pumped for Frugals to open soon," said Will Phalen, a first-year student at GU. "I never got to experience the building's atmosphere and I'm excited to see what it has in store."

Frugals management is just as eager to be a part of the GU community. According to its website, the proceeds from their monthly fundraisers have gone on to benefit a number of charities across the Northwest, especially food banks local to Frugals locations. According to Baker, fundraising and community engagement are a core part of the restaurant's mission. Frugals encourages suggestions as to charities, and suggestions can be submitted via the community tab on their website.

Being located so close to campus, the restaurants that came before Frugals became iconic for their vintage styling and affordable food. Frugals hopes to follow in this tradition, with quality food, quick service, a reasonable price and a classic atmosphere.

With many nearby places for GU students to eat, Frugals will be in for some stiff competition. But store management doesn't seem worried.

"It's just a good quality burger; it's old school and it's delicious," Baker said.

GU students who are interested in applying to work at Frugals are encouraged to download an application at www.frugalburger.com/careers or reach out to frugals.spokane@gmail.com.

Sam Fedor is a staff writer.



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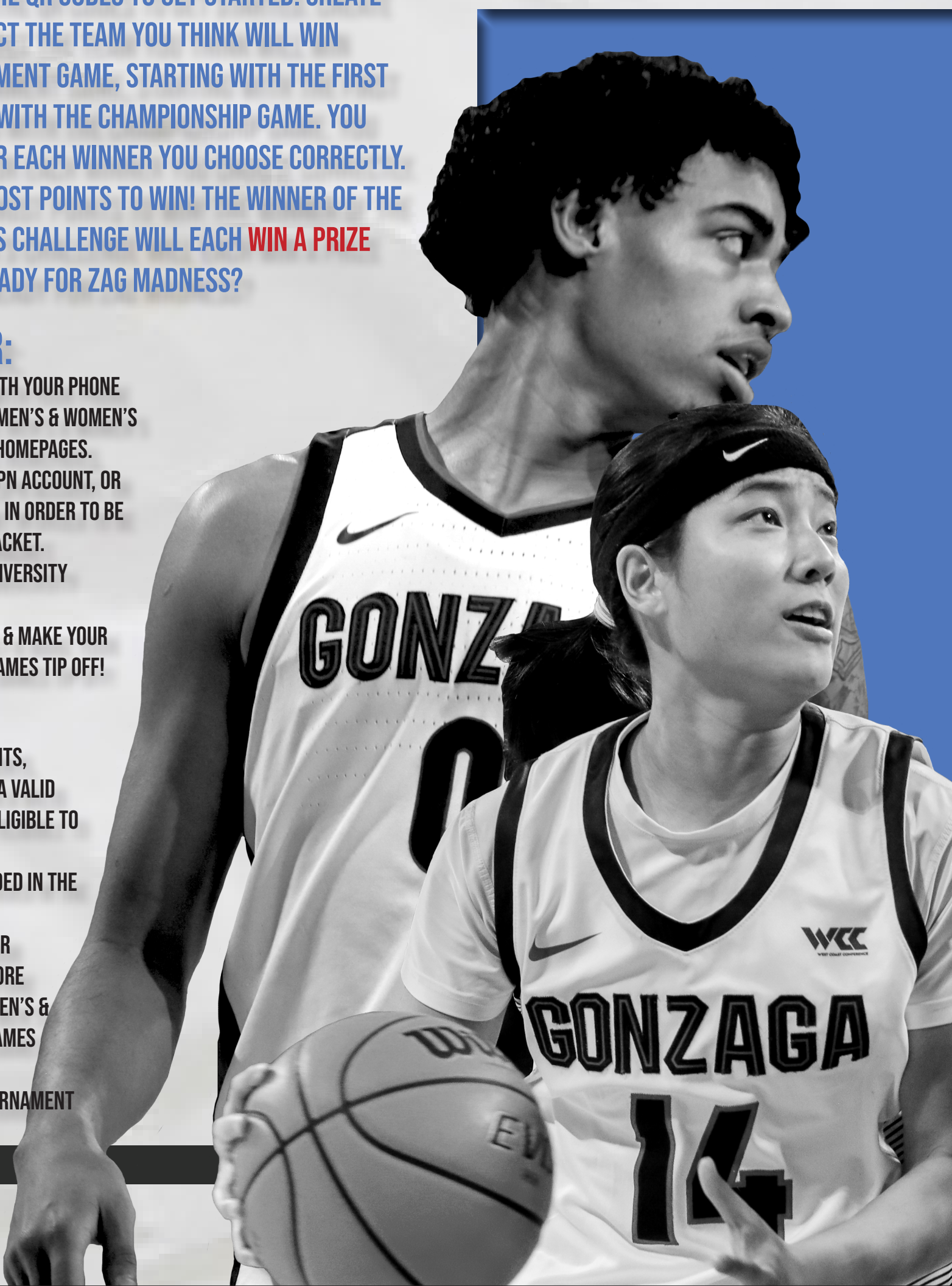
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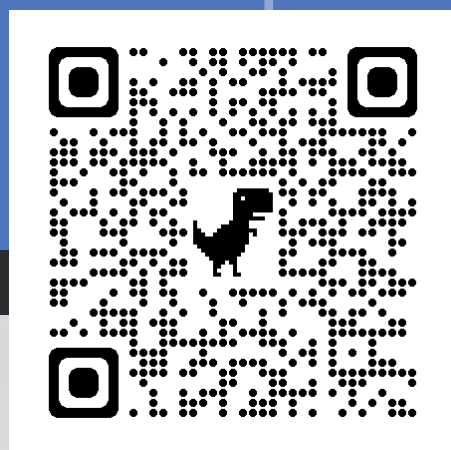


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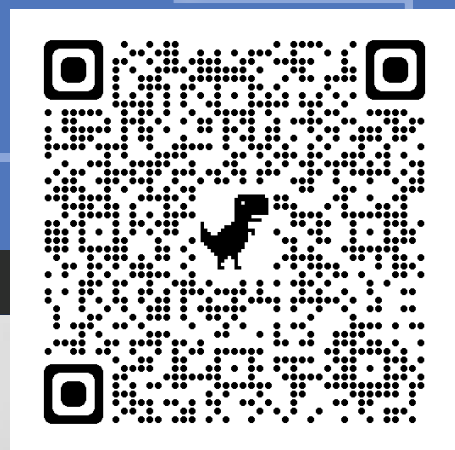
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Zeeks Pizza crosses the mountain for GU

New pizzeria opens on Hamilton Street, offering dine-in, takeout and delivery options

By TOMMY CONNOLLY

The new location of Zeeks Pizza is adjacent to Gonzaga's campus and took the place of the Cascadia Public House at 1414 N. Hamilton St. The location is Zeeks 20th overall and first to the east of the Cascades. The Spokane location is locally owned by Edie and Mike Stotts.

"First and foremost, Zeeks is spot-on with the brand of the GU district," Edie said. "It's a fun vibe, super inviting and we try to make it an atmosphere for kids at the school as well as families."

Zeeks offers 10% off discounts to any GU students and is currently in the process of adding Bulldog Bucks as a form of payment. These promos, plus other deals put on by Zeeks, make it an enticing place to get a slice of pie near campus.

In order to bring Zeeks across the mountains, it took some work from Edie, Mike and Dan Black, the president of Zeeks and the franchiser. Black and Mike Stotts are high school classmates from Mead High School and had been passionate about starting a franchise in Spokane.

"Dan really wanted to bring a place back to his hometown, but he wanted to make sure it was a hit," Stotts said. "I wanted the right location. I wanted the GU district. I knew it would be good for the brand in and of itself."

This location has already begun to pay off for Zeeks as their doors have been open for just under two weeks and students and pizza-lovers alike have begun to flood the doors.

"We used to have Zeeks at our high school and it was always super good pizza," Joseph Wass, a GU student, said. "Being from Seattle this is one of the best chains that we have and having it so close to campus and where I live is unreal."

Zeeks is a different vibe than any other place around GU's campus. It is not a sit-down restaurant, nor a bar, but it has something for everyone. Fun music, upbeat staff and a positive atmosphere are staples of the franchise that Stotts hopes will draw in students.

March Madness is right around the corner and Zeeks hopes to be a place for students who want a different place to watch the Zags play outside of their house or attending the game.

"My husband and I have not missed a game since GU became a Cinderella story," Stotts said. "We are all about Gonzaga and this community because we know all in all this is a heavy basketball community."

Outside of just supporting the Zags on the basketball court, students and community members can have the opportunity to try one of Zeeks many beer selections for those 21 and over. The location also features a heated outdoor patio that allows for year-round beer drinking and pizza eating.

"I went in last week with some friends, and they had a huge selection [of beer] on tap," Wass said. "This has been a staple at Zeeks locations on the west side of the state, making sure to tap into the beer-centric culture of Eastern Washington."

For those who are not 21, Zeeks offers a great diamond root beer that comes from the bar and their pizza is handcrafted daily. Zeeks has a little bit of



Zeeks pizza is located a few blocks from campus at 1414 N. Hamilton St.



Zeeks features creative pizzas, like "Kitchen Sink," "Wood Butcher" and "Puget Pounder."

everything and students should get excited about the chance to try such an accredited franchise.

The hours of operation are currently 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Sunday and hours are extended on game nights to allow for students flooding out of The Kennel.

Outside of going into Zeeks to enjoy the atmosphere

in-person, they also offer an extensive delivery service for takeout orders. Customers can find the delivery map and order online at zeekspizza.com

"Come and try us out, and let our service and food speak for itself," Stotts said.

Tommy Connolly is a staff writer.

ZEEKSPIZZA.COM

HOURS:
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7 DAYS A WEEK!

The Zeeks Pizza logo features a large, stylized white letter 'Z' inside a black circle. A red swoosh, resembling a pizza cutter, curves around the 'Z'. Below the circle, the words "ZEEKS PIZZA" are written in bold, white, sans-serif capital letters.

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A close-up of a large, round pizza topped with melted cheese, sliced tomatoes, green herbs, and pieces of meat. The pizza is served on a wooden board.

10%
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Zona Blanca brings fresh, coastal Mexican cuisine to Spokane

By CLAIRE TOLLAN

Zona Blanca Ceviche Bar is serving up the unique flavors of Mexican coastal cuisine in Spokane. With its colorful walls and bright, lively atmosphere, it might feel like a vacation escape, even in the gloomy winter weather.

The award-winning ceviche bar is owned by James Beard Award nominee and chef Chad White, owner of CW Hospitality Group and seen on season 13 of "Top Chef."

After spending time traveling throughout Mexico, specifically Baja California, White brought his knowledge of Mexican cuisine and culture to his hometown in Spokane.

"I wanted to bring something to Spokane that wasn't a staple," White said. "And ceviche was one of those things and I have a lot of experience in preparing ceviche ... I really wanted to promote the flavors of the coastal region of Mexico."

In its simplest form, ceviche is made from fresh raw fish or shrimp cured with citrus juices. Zona Blanca's menu has three different ceviche dishes, each with its own unique flavor profile and influences.

Ceviche Mixto is more of a Mexico City-style ceviche, according to White. Octopus, shrimp and yellowfin tuna are mixed together with a blend of aguachile rojo, topped with peanut salsa and served with pickled red onion. It is sweet, salty, spicy and sour.

Aguachile Verde is Zona Blanca's traditional bright and fresh ceviche, according to White. It combines lime juice, agave, cilantro and serrano chiles, served with shrimp and cucumbers. White recommends this ceviche for a warm day but said even on cold days Zona Blanca's ceviche outsells everything else on the menu.

The Baja Atun Crudo ceviche is a bright dish with Asian flavors. It is made with yellowfin tuna tossed with ginger soy sauce, wasabi, sesame oil, chile de arbol and serrano chiles.

According to White, Asian influence is prominent in Baja California, as a result of Chinese immigration to the area prior to World War I. This dish in particular is inspired by that cultural time period, White said.

"A lot of people in Spokane make the assumption that Mexican food is, you know, enchiladas, rice, beans, carne asada," White said. "And it is all those things. But what draws me to Mexican cuisine is that



ANDREW LOF IG: @andrewlof_photography

Zona Blanca offers fresh and bright flavors in every dish near downtown Spokane.

it is so much more than that."

While ceviche is Zona Blanca's staple and best-seller, the restaurant also offers oysters, tostadas, tacos and a rotating themed menu.

Every other month, Zona Blanca focuses on a different state in Mexico and highlights its specific cuisine. This month, the restaurant is highlighting the state of Jalisco, home to the city of Guadalajara.

White spent time in Jalisco, opening a restaurant in the city of Zapopan, just outside of Guadalajara. With a cooler and more humid climate, the food is rich, filling, warm and stew-heavy according to White. He felt February was a good month for Zona Blanca to focus on Jalisco's cuisine.

"We really try to learn as much as we possibly can and educate our guests," White said. "I believe that you can come to this restaurant and you will not find flavors that we have here anywhere else."

For J. Nautiyal, lecturer of communication studies at Gonzaga University, Zona Blanca brought her a newfound knowledge and appreciation of mezcal, one of the restaurant's Mexican spirits.

"My summer was like an education in mezcal," Nautiyal said. "I learned so much about how there could be a way of stereotyping this particular spirit, but there's just so much nuance to it. So just developing an appreciation for another land and its terror war, that's something that happens when you experience a whole range of [mezcal]."

Zona Blanca offers 13 different varieties of mezcal and 18 different types of tequila. It also serves cocktails, beer and wine.

Its happy hour runs from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. where you can grab a \$2 fish taco and a \$5 margarita. You can also choose from spicy guacamole and tortilla chips, a selection of Mexican beer or a beer and tequila shot combo.

The hospitality is part of what keeps Nautiyal coming back, she said. In particular, she enjoyed the recommendations from Zona Blanca's bar manager Karissa Schulke.

"She's so brilliant," Nautiyal said. "Every week or every three, four days that I would go back she's like 'I think this is something that you would like' and brings me a taster...it's just that care. It was really, really amazing. So, I just enjoyed that

touch."

Zona Blanca became a summer rhythm for Nautiyal, she said. She enjoyed sitting at the outdoor patio, which is fit with an outdoor fireplace and a colorful mural painted by local artists.

Its new location on Howard Street is now open to families, on a well-lit street, close to other attractions and walkable for those living or staying downtown.

Nautiyal was intrigued by Zona Blanca when it moved downtown, especially because Spokane does not have many options for fresh seafood, she said.

"The food there is amazing," Nautiyal said. "The seafood is really fresh, and whoever I've gone with they've really enjoyed [it]...I've had their ceviche once and it's brilliant."

Zona Blanca also hosts a fundraiser each Wednesday night called Chefs Shuck With Us. Guests chefs are invited to shuck oysters for about three hours, prepare the oysters, control the playlist and turn the bar area into a party.

Bartenders pair the oysters with a cocktail and sponsors donate a photo booth and raffle giveaways.

Tickets are sold to the public and 10% of ticket sales go to Stand Up To Cancer. For White, who lost his stepfather to cancer two years ago and has lost friends to the disease, the fundraiser is personal.

"I think all of us in one shape or form have been connected to somebody who has either battled or been a victim of cancer, or has a family member that they know," White said. "Each year, we try to figure out what we're going to do and how we're going to support our community. And we found that this was a good way to do it."

Since November, Chefs Shuck With Us has raised over \$12,000 for Stand Up To Cancer.

Zona Blanca's Instagram keeps the public informed on the fundraiser as well as other happenings at the restaurant. You can check it out at @zonablancaceviche.

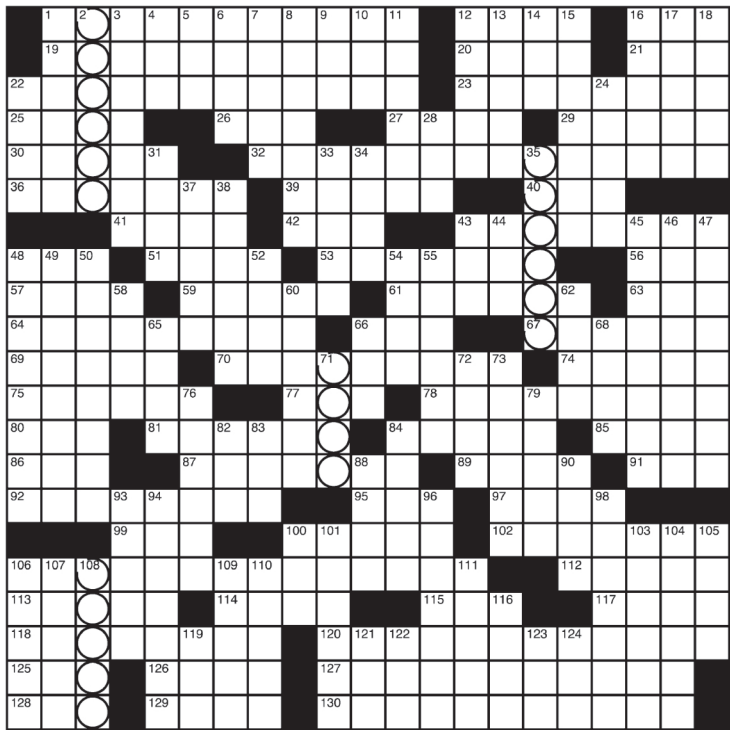
Zona Blanca is open Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 8 p.m. It is located at 157 S. Howard St.

"If you go once, don't just go once, go back one more time and just humanize the process, humanize the rhythms of consumption," Nautiyal said. "I think that's more fun."

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

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis



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2/27/22

JUICY TIDBITS

By Katrina Lee

ACROSS

- Often abbreviated reaction to information overload
- Ukulele ridge
- "Goocha" sounds
- Starter
- Indian flatbread
- Laser pointer chaser
- Altruism
- Most of the 2010s
- Span of a scale with three sharps
- That, in Madrid
- Gucci of fashion
- "Elements of Algebra" author
- "Don't back down, bro!"
- Completely different situation
- Certain cartoon components
- Reunion attendees
- Café freebie
- "Don't think so"
- Nos. for alums
- Comparative data diagram
- "The Misery Index" network
- Bulgarian's neighbor
- Type of diet that might replace potatoes with cauliflower
- New Deal agcy.
- "High Rollers" co-host ___ Lee
- Alert on the road
- "in Charlie
- "Play it cool"
- Prefix with treat or giving
- Blow a fuse
- Sellers of KAFFEREP cinnamon buns
- Middle-earth ring bearer
- Following
- Tokyo airport
- Apple runs on it
- Raggedy
- Hot state
- How three nursery-rhyme merchants went to sea
- Trailer follower
- Laker legend, familiarly
- Votes against
- Soybeans served in the pod
- Gawk at
- With 6-Down, Rudolph's guiding light
- Dad's referral?
- Boarding precedes it: Abbr.
- Penicillium, e.g.
- Half a martial art
- Kendrick with a Pulitzer
- On the lam
- Résumé alert about an unfinished goal
- Like a romantic dinner, in Paris
- Chef's protection
- Word with words or chance
- With many returns
- Paris gal pal
- Most sentimental
- Total removals
- Malden name
- Preceder
- Ball
- "The Crocodile" of early tennis
- ID on many returns
- Post
- Give me some gossip! ... and a hint to this puzzle's sets of circles, which affect four

DOWN

- What Rickey Henderson often beat
- Chinese for "black dragon"
- NIAD director
- Luzon, for one: Abbr.
- JFK predecessor
- See 91-Across
- Thompson of Marvel movies
- Beat it
- Night before
- Technica: tech news website
- Make drinkable, as seawater
- 70-Across nephew
- "Mr. ___": Rami Malek drama
- OPD posting
- Zoom annoyance
- Amtrak speedster
- Sultan's group
- Intimidate, with "down"
- Identical
- Foretell
- Paris article
- Trivia night settings
- Flings
- "That's wrong ___ many levels"
- Like some remedies
- Hammer parts
- "Ghost Story" author Peter
- Forbidden
- Flood shelter
- 23-andMe discovery
- "Thank the Lord!"
- Got a move on
- Instruction
- "___ Holiday": opening section of Copland's "Rodeo"
- First woman to be named Doctor of the Church, briefly
- ___ B'rith
- Tory adversary
- ___ de' Medici, first de facto Lord of Florence
- Berry in a bowl
- Garlic genus
- Get plastered
- Piedmont bubbly
- Classic U.K. sports cars
- Prepare, as beans
- Fett in "The Mandalorian"
- Die ___ again
- Stain
- Short on iron, maybe
- Serf of Sparta
- Ruckus
- Cap with a pompon
- Convened in
- Idea that spreads in a culture
- "First Lady of Song"
- Entrance porch
- Teen dystopian novel narrator
- Hanukkah top
- Duchamp, for one
- CD precursors
- Lets out, say
- Designer Ashley
- Like some covered kings
- "You know the ___"
- 90-Down's improv
- Just make, with "out"
- Good name, briefly
- "Star Wars" nickname
- German "Alas!"
- ___ the line

Sudoku By The Mephram Group

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

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

Solution to last Sunday's puzzle

2/27/22

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

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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Emma Rue's fits coffee, cocktails and dessert into one cozy lounge

By KAELYN NEW

Looking for a sophisticated new coffee, cocktail or dessert place in Spokane? Emma Rue's has everything in store.

The lounge, located at 17 S. Howard St., is unique because it combines three separate business concepts into one: dessert, coffee and cocktails.

Despite opening in 2020, Emma Rue's has been in the making for over a decade. It all started in the mid-2000s when three friends got together for some drinks and dreamt up a business plan for a coffee, dessert and cocktail lounge. They wanted somewhere in Spokane that would combine all their interests.

Alyssa Agee, one of the founders, said that she was inspired to recreate some of her favorite dessert shops from her time living in Portland.

"When we moved back home to Spokane, there really wasn't a place in town where you could go for great drinks and dessert," Agee said.

So Agee, alongside her husband, Bryan Agee and Aaron Hein decided to make their dreams a reality.

Finally, the right space in downtown Spokane revealed itself, and in late 2020 Emma Rue's was born. The lounge has been in business for almost two years.

"If you come and visit the restaurant you will see my aesthetic everywhere," Agee said. "I'm all about beauty and elegance and romanticism."

The lounge boasts everything lavish including velvet furniture and antique glassware. Emma Rue's also has several works by local artist Hazel Miller on display.

"We're not your typical sports bar, but we're also not your typical sort of a man-cave bar," Agee said. "Yes, we have dim lighting, but it's a very feminine space without being girly."

Emma Rue's offers a daily happy hour from 3-6 p.m., making it the perfect space for college students and the broader community to go and relax after a long day of studying or work.

Agee's influence extends farther than just the vibrance of the lounge. Emma Rue's menu features "The Alyssa," a latte named after the founder that features lavender and vanilla.

Agee has a knack for desserts, and that is never more evident than on Emma Rue's dessert menu which features everything from pastries to cheesecakes.

"Overall, I have a love affair with chocolate, so you'll see that come through on the dessert menu," Agee said.

Kandice Cavazos, a bar lead at Emma Rue's, says she thinks one of the most unique menu items are the café correttos. The menu boasts a wide array of correttos that feature alcohol, espresso and whipping cream, making Emma Rue's one of the only places in town to offer such drinks.

Another perk, Cavazos says, is how the menu offers different drinks that are suitable for different times of day.

"Not only is the ambience really nice, but you can hang out for most of the day and have your coffee in the morning and then have a brunch cocktail and even stay late for live jazz," Cavazos said.

A major cornerstone of Emma Rue's is people from



ANDREW LOF IG: @andrewlof_photography

Emma Rue's offers live music and features from local Spokane artists.

the community — local musical artists. The live music offered at Emma Rue's helps maintain the atmosphere of the lounge while providing an opportunity for up-and-coming musicians.

Recently, the lounge has begun to feature the live music of Villa Blues and Jazz on Thursdays, a showcase that Agee hopes to maintain going forward. In addition, Emma Rue's is introducing a rotation of live jazz artists from Spokane once a month on Saturdays.

Agee says that Emma Rue's has made connections with musical artists from both Whitworth and Gonzaga and hopes to invite some of the student quartets and trios to play for the lounge.

"There's just not enough venues in Spokane offering an opportunity for jazz artists and so we want to be able to be one of those spaces," Agee said.

Small businesses need community support now more than ever, according to Cavazos, and Emma Rue's offers specialty drinks that are hard to find elsewhere in Spokane. Without customers, Emma Rue's would cease to exist.

"Small businesses really need to be supported in the community because it keeps us strong and makes sure that we are successful," Cavazos said.

Emma Rue's is open Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to midnight, on Saturday from 9 a.m. to midnight and on Sunday from 9 a.m.- 8 p.m.

Kaelyn New is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @kaelyn_new.

King Bach to perform at Spokane Comedy Club

By EMMALEE APPEL

The Spokane Comedy Club, 315 W. Sprague Ave., will host Andrew Bachelor, or as anyone from the era of Vine knows him, "King Bach," on March 11-13 as he travels across the U.S. for his first standup tour titled "Laugh Now, Laugh Later."

(Side note: I hear his name mispronounced very often so if you're wondering, it is pronounced like "batch" since it's a shortened version of his last name, Bachelor.)

Bachelor is well-known among Generation Z for his skits and 6-second Vines, but what you may not know is that while his Vine account grew to be the most followed account on the app with 11.2 million followers, he was still doing standup in small clubs.

"I remember following him on Vine several years ago when he only had a couple million followers, I thought it was cool back then for someone to make so much of a career off those 6-second videos," said Grace Ehrhardt, a junior at Gonzaga.

Bachelor says that while the online videos are a daily commitment, he has always dedicated time to standup shows in the evenings.

"I've been doing standup for about 12 years... standup was the first thing I started doing, before I was doing anything, before YouTube and social media," Bachelor said.

Bachelor claims that, like with his online comedy videos, his standup content is not curated for or catering to any audience, but instead gives insight into his own life.

"My standup is catered towards my life and things that I go through," Bachelor said. "You know, most people deal with a lot of the situations that everyone else goes through. I've never actually catered to a generation or audience, people just relate."

Bachelor hopes that this tour will give audiences the opportunity to learn more about his life and connect with him in more ways than through the 6-second videos he is so well known for, which have now moved onto TikTok, where Bachelor has 25.4 million followers.

He also says that comedians like Dave Chappelle and Eddie Murphy, among many others, inspire him to keep his comedy career going.

And speaking of keeping his career moving upward, Bachelor and his team have recently given a soft-release announcement that a TV series about the comedian is in

the works.

The series will detail more about Bachelor's life and his rise to fame through social media, while discussing that although going viral or becoming an internet sensation is becoming more common, it can be difficult for people to maintain their popularity as things online move very quickly and audiences can choose a new favorite influencer or comedian every other week.

"It's basically a story about my life — you know a normal kid picking up a cellphone and becoming a millionaire off of it," Bachelor said.

But back to the now, March 11 and 12 will have two showtimes each, one at 7:30 p.m. and another at 10:30 p.m., but March 13 will only have one show at 7:30 p.m. The early evening shows are ages 18 and older, while later shows are 21 and older, all with a valid ID.

More information on ticket prices, availability and COVID-19 guidelines can be found at the Spokane Comedy Club's website: spokanecomedyclub.com.

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

What's in a recipe: Chocolate delight in a brownie cake

By HARPER HAMILTON

You are four years old and it is your birthday. As you sit in your little chair at the big dining room table, your mother brings out your birthday cake, candles aglow. You think to yourself, "This is the best day of my life."

And at four years old, it probably is. But apart from being your birthday, what makes this particular day so good?

Today, you get to eat cake.

A mouthwatering mix between a chocolate cake and a brownie, the brownie cake has been a birthday tradition in my household for years. Every year my mother would make the same brownie cake, and every year it would be the thing I would wake up looking forward to the most.

As I grew older and found a passion for baking myself, I began to make the same brownie cake my mother had made for me for many years for my friends. The wonderful thing about cake is that it does not have to be a birthday or special occasion to make a cake. A brownie cake is good for any day, and any occasion. After all, it is not hard to make someone smile with a cake in hand.

While there are many flavors of cake, chocolate has always been the family favorite. It is reliable, trustworthy and rarely fails to live up to its expectations. A step up from the plain yellow cake, the chocolate cake never gets old. Mix that with a brownie, and you have the best combination since peanut butter and jelly.

The recipe itself for the chocolate base is an easy one, simple but exciting, new yet

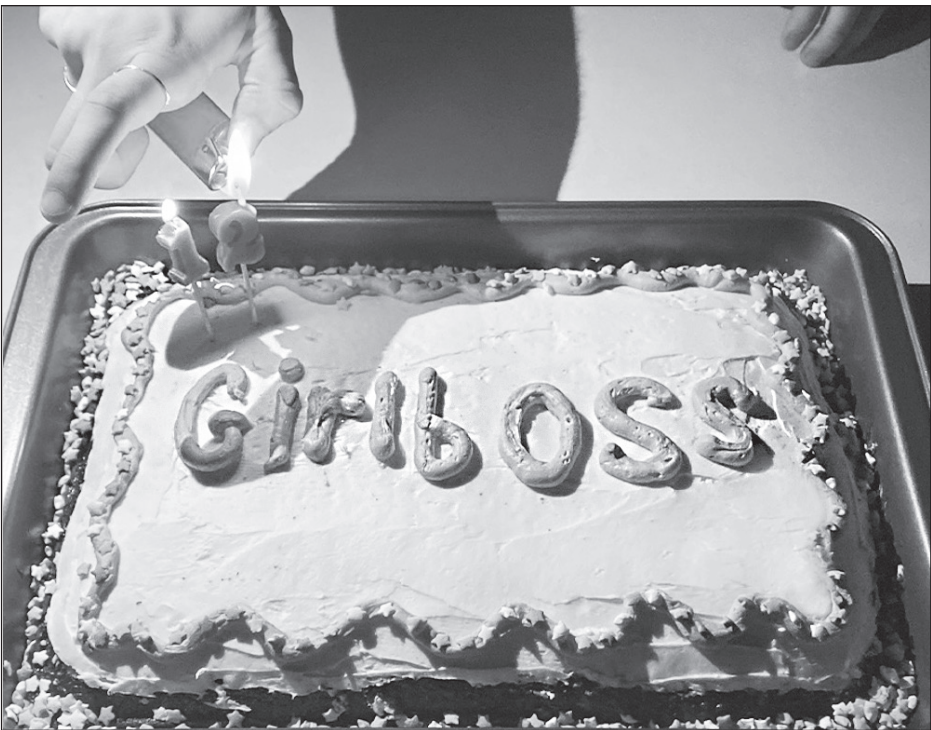


PHOTO COURTESY OF HARPER HAMILTON

Harper Hamilton's brownie cake has been a recipe in her family for years.

old. As for the frosting, that is a choose your own adventure, because while frosting helps the cake, we all know it's the base that makes up what we all love. While some may argue that the frosting is the best part of the cake, true cake connoisseurs know that the icing matters little if the cake itself is dry or flavorless.

While I may not always be at home to

celebrate my birthday with a homemade cake now, it is my turn to take on the tradition, making it for my friends and special occasions (and also the not-so-special occasions).

As Marie Antoinette once said, "Let them eat cake!" And with this recipe, you too shall eat the best cake of your life.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups sugar
- ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 cup melted butter
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ cups flour
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 tsp. salt

Recipe:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Mix the sugar, unsweetened cocoa powder and butter together by hand, or using a blender.
3. Add eggs in one at a time, stirring them in gently.
4. Mix in the sugar, vanilla extract, and salt and stir until smooth.
5. Pour the batter evenly into a 9 X 13 greased pan.
6. Bake in the preheated oven for 25 minutes at 350°F.
7. Let the brownie cake cool in the tin, running a knife along the edges of the pan to keep the cake from sticking to the pan. At this stage you can also place the cake in the fridge to help it cool down before you ice it.
8. After letting the cake cool, ice the cake using whatever method you prefer, smoothing it out with a knife as you go. Be creative, icing the cake is the most fun part!

Invite your friends and family over to celebrate your new creation.

Harper Hamilton is a staff writer.

Finding her place in the family business

With two older brothers working for Division I programs,
Abby O'Connor is the latest member of her family to find basketball success

By SYDNEY FLUKER

Efficient, quick ball movement is what allowed the Gonzaga women's basketball team to get a leg up against Loyola Marymount University on senior night.

In the middle of it all was Abby O'Connor, seamlessly working with the team and earning her career high of five assists.

The 6-foot senior guard from South Bend, Indiana, transferred to GU in April of 2020 following three years at Loyola University Chicago.

From her three seasons at Loyola Chicago, O'Connor averaged 12.5 points per game, shooting 40.6% from the floor and 34.5% from 3-point range.

She finished off her career at Loyola Chicago with 1,124 career points, becoming the 25th player in Ramblers history to hit 1,000 points. She left Loyola Chicago as one of two players to have 1,000 points, 500 rebounds and 100 career blocks.

Growing up in an athletic family, her childhood was filled with sports and two-on-one games with her older brothers. Her two older brothers played basketball and her dad coached it, so basketball became the main family sport. Now, her brothers coach basketball at Georgetown University and the University of Delaware.

"I definitely don't think I was always naturally better at it, but [basketball] was always the main thing of my family — what we watched the most and talked about the most — so I always gravitated to it, even though it might not have always been what I was best at," O'Connor said.

Alongside basketball, she played soccer throughout childhood and high school. At Saint Joseph High School, she became a 2x Northern Indiana All Star in basketball and received multiple accolades as a senior. In the end, the choice came down to which sport she'd rather play in college.

"It was either I wanted to play a sport in college or not play a sport at all," O'Connor said.

Coming out of high school, O'Connor didn't receive many offers aside from



ALYSSA HUGHES IG: @alyssahughesphoto

Abby O'Connor has started in 29 of Gonzaga's 30 games, averaging 6.3 points, 4.4 rebounds, 1.2 steals and 1.1 assists per game this season.

Loyola Chicago. The location of Chicago, about two hours from her hometown, was far enough from home without being too far, and she enjoyed the campus-city balance Loyola Chicago had to offer.

"After getting to college, I probably got a little more committed, which seems a little backwards," O'Connor said. "Getting to college and some of the freedom that I was given at Loyola grew my confidence and let me explore exactly what I was capable of, in some ways."

As she spent more time at school, basketball became more important to her, but her environment became more negative. It eventually reached a breaking point at the end of her third season, when she made the decision to enter the transfer portal.

O'Connor was in the process of transferring when COVID-19 began in

March 2020. Her final choice came down to GU and DePaul University, another university in Chicago.

With the transfer process going completely virtual, her decision to come to Spokane was made without ever seeing the city or the school in person. The thought of a fresh start excited her enough to make that jump.

"It was a leap of faith, but ultimately, the coaches in the basketball program and the team were what drew me to come here," O'Connor said. "I felt really good about the coaches and the relationships that I was developing with them that I was okay with making my decision without having visited."

She began at GU in the fall of 2020 while waiting for the NCAA to approve her waiver to play, which would allow her to waive the requirement of not playing

for the first year post-transfer. On Dec. 6, 2020, her waiver was approved to play immediately.

That 2020-2021 season, she shot 39.1% from long range, 37.8% from the floor and averaged 2.7 points and 1.8 rebounds per game in 25 games played.

"Playing with [Abby] is amazing," said senior forward Melody Kempton. "She is consistently hard working and is always gonna do her best no matter what her mood is or how things are going for her. It's just a great opportunity to play with someone like that because you just always know what you're going to get from them and it's just constantly great."

According to O'Connor, GU has allowed her to focus on basketball and to grow as a player.

"The coaching staff is really positive and practices are enjoyable to go to and I do really enjoy being a part of this program," O'Connor said. "It has made me very happy, just the daily things like wanting to go to practice and how we enjoy getting better together, so it's been really fun."

O'Connor has focused on growing academically alongside athletically. Starting as a business major but hating economics and the mathematical side, she explored political science courses before settling into it as her definite major.

She finished her bachelor's in political science and will graduate with her master's in organizational leadership this May. Plans for post-graduation are unclear, but she hopes to play professional basketball overseas or attend law school and work in the sports industry.

"Abby is the person who everybody wants to be friends with and hang out with, including the coaches," said Head Women's Basketball Coach Lisa Fortier. "She's one that all of us want to coach because she's just easygoing and fun to be around. You can't tell by the way she is on the floor because she works so hard, but it's just easy with her."

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

Lisa Fortier: A trailblazer for GU women's basketball

By SYDNEY FLUKER

On Feb. 21, head coach Lisa Fortier won her 200th game at the helm of the Gonzaga University women's basketball team. The victory makes her the youngest coach in GU history to reach 200 wins and she did it in the least amount of time.

Fortier didn't even realize she was at 200 when she heard the announcement last week.

"I didn't know that it was 200 to start with until they mentioned it on the speaker," Fortier said. "I'm glad, but we're just always looking for the next one."

Hailing from Grass Valley, California, Fortier grew up playing basketball and played throughout her time at Auburn High School. From Auburn, she played basketball at Butte Community College in Oroville, California, graduating in 2002.

Following Butte, she played basketball at California State University at Monterey Bay. Before graduating magna cum laude in 2004 with a bachelor's in human communications, Fortier accumulated numerous accolades for athletics throughout college. In 2003, she received the NAIA Academic All-American and Honorable Mention All Cal-Pac Conference honors and in 2004 received CSUMB Female Scholar Athlete of the Year.

She traveled from Monterey Bay to GU for her masters in athletic administration. While obtaining her degree, she served as coordinator of basketball operations at GU.

From Spokane she moved to the University of Northern Colorado to serve as assistant women's basketball coach in 2006. She transferred back to the Bulldogs the following year and has stayed ever since.

Arriving back at GU in 2007, she began as the assistant women's basketball coach. With her as assistant, the Bulldogs went 196-43.

As an assistant, Fortier coordinated GU's defense and spent time coaching the guards. During her time as assistant, she mentored Courtney Vandersloot and Katelan Redmon, two WNBA draftees, as well as professional basketball player Haiden Palmer.

After nearly a decade on staff, Fortier was named head coach on April 14, 2014.

"I think that the average programs who aren't consistently successful overlook teams, and I just don't think that that's what we do," Fortier said.

Her first season ended with a 26-8 record, setting a record for team free-throw percentage at 77.4%. Fortier led the Zags to their 11th-straight WCC regular-season title and seventh-straight NCAA tournament appearance in one of the best rookie seasons to date for any GU head coach. That year, she was named WCC Coach of the Year and WBCA Division I Rookie Coach of the Year.

In her seven years at GU, Fortier has had three players — Jenn Wirth, Jill Townsend and Jill Barta — named as the WCC Player of the Year. Under Fortier, the Bulldogs have had 13 All-WCC First Team selections, five All-WCC Second Team selections, six All-WCC Honorable Mention selections and four WCC All-Freshman Team performers.

As a coach, she's been named the WCC Coach of the Year four times and received the Maggie Dixon Rookie Coach of the Year in 2015.

She is the only coach in program history to have six 20-win seasons in their first seven seasons. Most recently, she went 23-4 during the 2020-2021 season.

Last year under her leadership, GU saw its 17th WCC regular season title, ninth WCC tournament title and 12th NCAA tournament appearance. The Bulldogs were ranked in national polls every week of the season.



CHIANA MCINELLY IG: picsbychiana

Lisa Fortier became the fastest head coach in program history to reach 200 career wins on Feb. 21.

"My favorite part is just all of these players," Fortier said. "I love the women that I get to work with, and I love spending time with them, when I can shoot with them, when they come into my office or if we get to sit in the food room. After all, they're really unique, thoughtful, intelligent, caring women, and so I just really liked the time that I get to spend with them more than anything else."

Now, the team is focused on preparing for the WCC tournament, entering as the No. 2 seed. Coming off of a successful regular season (24-6, 15-2 WCC), their focus has moved to dominating the tournament.

"We've had a quarter where offensively or defensively we were not at our best and so that's an area of growth and I don't think that's a huge thing, just the consistency of effort," Fortier said. "The steadiness that we play with, the mental toughness to continue to grind every possession out are important and we've shown all of those things."

Following the tournament this year, GU will be sending off seniors Cierra Walker, Anamaria Virjoghe, Melody Kempton, Abby O'Connor and Kylee Griffen from its lineup.

"It's bittersweet because I would take them for six more, all of them, and it's a good, good group of people and really good basketball players," Fortier said.

Once players come to GU, they rarely transfer out. Senior forward Melody Kempton has played for Fortier since her freshman year in 2018. Her junior year, she took home the first WCC Sixth Woman of the Year award, received a 2020-2021 All-WCC Honorable Mention and led Zags in field goal percentage at 60.7%.

"Playing for her is amazing, she's very supportive," Kempton said. "She really cares about all of her players, which I think is hard to find sometimes. Obviously, I've never played another program, but to have someone that cares about me as a person, not just as a player but wants to help develop me as a person, I think is pretty rare to find in a coach."

Fortier exemplifies a cura personalis coaching style, focusing on the whole of the player rather than just their athletic ability. Her love for coaching extends beyond the court — for her players, Fortier is alongside them no matter what.

"I just feel honored to have someone that just cares

“

I think that the average programs who aren't consistently successful overlook teams, and I just don't think that's what we do.

Lisa Fortier, head coach of GU women's basketball

so much about this program and us individually and just how we do in life, and not just in basketball," Kempton said.

Outside of basketball, Fortier is married to assistant coach Craig Fortier, a previous Eastern Washington University men's associate head basketball coach who joined GU's staff in May of 2014. Together, they have two sons and one daughter and are a proud basketball family.

With the countdown to the WCC tournament coming to a close, competing teams are finishing their final grind before the games begin. With less than a week before their first game, the Zags are ready for whatever comes their way.

"There's nothing we have to be able to do to be our best that we've never done before," Fortier said. "It just has to be continuing to do what we know how to do for the entirety of the game."

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

The Emperors, Fighting Irish and a bunch of bulldogs

Before Spike the Bulldog, GU athletics toyed around with many nicknames over the last 100 years

By OLIVIA SANDVIK

For 34 years, Gonzaga University did not have a mascot and until becoming the Bulldogs in January 1921, GU had intriguing titles and descriptions.

Originally, GU's official colors were blue and white — the Virgin Mary colors, characteristic of many Jesuit universities. With the absence of a mascot, early GU athletic teams were often called "The Blue and the White."

Additional, unofficial dubs were the "Jesuits" and the "Fighting Irish." There was no connection to the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, Irish Catholic men merely dominated GU's football team at the time.

"By action of the associated student body of Gonzaga University, all varsity athletic teams of the local institution will be known as the Bulldogs," said George Varnell, a sports editor for the Spokane Daily Chronicle in 1921.

The student body wanted to stop the usage of all unofficial labels and have the bulldog name spread far and wide.

There is a long-standing rumor that a reporter initiated GU's decision to become the "Bulldogs," saying that a GU football team fought tenaciously like bulldogs. However, that account is unlikely. There is no evidence and no one has confirmed that in the past 100 years.

A decade later, in the late 1930s, some alumni, students and sports editors favored changing GU's mascot from the "Bulldogs" to the "Emperors."

Ironically, even Bing Crosby, who later proposed "The Bulldogs of Gonzaga" fight song, advocated for the switch.

Supposedly, the suggested switch came about because "Emperors" was unclaimed and it was a nod to GU's regional connection to the Inland Empire. Supporters also argued that the nickname "Bulldogs" did not accurately represent GU as much as "Emperors" did.

According to a 1933 article in The Gonzaga Bulletin, "[The Emperors' is] a name unlike any other owned by any school — a name that implies leadership and lofty qualities..."

Today's lack of the emperor mascot expresses GU's tenacious spirit; students, staff and faculty will never let go of the "Bulldogs" mascot.

Beginning in 1921, GU periodically had live dogs for mascots, including its first mascot, Teddy Gonzaga, a Boston Bull



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

Spike the Bulldog emerged as a prominent mascot after appearing in Nike's "Welcome to Bracketville" promotional commercial for the 2000 NCAA Tournament.

Terrier.

The joy students had of owning a live mascot was short-lived. Teddy Gonzaga died of poisoning in May 1922.

Estimated to be taken in 1925, a photo, titled "Mickey, the mascot" in Gonzaga University's Digital Archives showed what appeared to be another Boston Bull Terrier. There is little else known about Mickey, so whether the dog had a significant role is unknown.

The live mascots were primarily present at GU's football games. At the beginning of World War II, the football team disbanded due to a lack of participants and financial troubles. The absence of a football team gave the "Gonzaga Bulldogs" title greater prominence to GU's basketball team.

The next official mascot was Corrigan,

named after Wrong Way Corrigan, a famous daredevil aviator. Tragically, Corrigan and five other dogs were fed poisoned meat and died in March 1948.

A year later, Corky was born and replaced Corrigan as the official mascot.

"I think Corky is my favorite," said Stephanie Plowman, the Special Collections Librarian at GU. "In 1950, when [Gonzaga] had [its] first national championship in boxing, there's a picture of him with a few boxing members... He seemed like a cool dog."

After Corky died, GU circulated through several bulldogs during the subsequent decade.

Salty is perhaps the most recognized mascot. Elected in February 1966, Salty made it into Sports Illustrated for biting

a referee during a basketball game. In November 1966, Salty was lost in the streets of Spokane and returned to the school by a local.

Following Salty was Chesty, christened after General Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller, the most decorated U.S. Marine in history. Chesty was the last live mascot for nearly 30 years.

In 1980, GU had its first student mascot, Michael Griffin. Better known as "Captain Zag," Griffin was the predecessor to "Spike" and served as GU's mascot for three years.

Before there were multiple Spikes, the student mascots revealed their identity on Senior Night. Lee T. Mauney, who appeared in 1986, was the first "Spike."

The transition from live dogs to costumed students proved successful.

"A human can be more animated and interactive ... The mascot can go to an event that's not necessarily a game, but represent Gonzaga [while] wearing the costume," Plowman said.

While live mascots can be entertaining for dog-lovers, "The Keeper of the Leash" — the student in charge of the dog — and spectators are subject to the dog's temperament.

In 1998, Mike Roth, the former athletic director at GU, changed the university's official colors. While maintaining the white, Roth darkened the shade of blue and added red. Roth and his team revamped the Bulldog logo with the new colors, electing an aggressive appearance.

Around the same time, Spike's costume received an upgrade, sporting a basketball uniform and a spiked collar (no pun intended).

The last live mascot, Q, was gifted to GU for the Bulldogs' first NCAA Tournament run in 1999. Q is an eponym for Quentin Hall, a former GU men's basketball player.

The gritty bulldog mascot has molded both GU's athletic teams and the student body for the better.

"When you think of fighting tenaciously like bulldogs... it shows that [you] don't give up — that [you] try," Plowman said. "I know that other universities use the bulldog, but I like our image; it's impactful."

Olivia Sandvik is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @Olivia_Sandvik1.

Commentary: Tommy Lloyd hasn't crossed paths with GU for the last time

Zags fans may celebrate Mark Few's former assistant for now, but those sentiments could change as early as this month

Commentary by
TOMMY CONMY

One of the only constants throughout Mark Few's tenure at Gonzaga was his right-hand man Tommy Lloyd accompanying him on the sidelines.

That all changed when Lloyd left Spokane and flew south to take the head coaching job at the University of Arizona after the Zags lost to Baylor in the National Championship game.

A storied program and a fringe blue blood school, Arizona fell on tough times in recent seasons. The Wildcats last made the NCAA tournament in 2018 after making the tournament 25 times from 1985 to 2009, the second-longest streak of all time.

Former head coach Archie Miller was shown the door after a lackluster final three seasons at Arizona despite success in the early aughts of the decade. Lloyd was tabbed as the successor and became only the third head coach at Arizona since 1983.

Lloyd has wasted no time in orchestrating an immediate turnaround in Tucson.

Although the Wildcats were tied for fourth with Oregon State in the preseason PAC-12 coaches' poll, Lloyd's squad has vastly outperformed expectations. Arizona boasts a 26-5 overall record, going 16-2 in PAC-12 play to lead the league over second-place USC.

In the most recent AP Top-25 poll, the Wildcats were ranked No. 2 behind Few's Bulldogs at No. 1 despite the loss to Colorado.

"Weird, cool, awesome — I'm proud of [Gonzaga], they've got a great team," Lloyd said to the AP. "They're family and I think they're happy for us."

Both Few and Lloyd were also named to the Naismith Coach of the Year late-season watch list.

Coming into the season, no player on Arizona's roster had won a game in the NCAA Tournament besides Oumar Ballo, who followed Lloyd to Tucson via the transfer portal.

Now, the Wildcats are on the precipice of a No. 1 seed in March Madness and the program's first PAC-12 title in four seasons. According to ESPN Bracketologist Joe Lunardi, Arizona is one of the four No. 1 seeds alongside GU, Kentucky and Auburn.

Although Lloyd inherited a talented roster from Miller, he worked more of his recruiting and transfer magic to lure Ballo to Arizona. Since transferring, Ballo has been a revelation for the Wildcats. In just over 15 minutes per game off the bench, Ballo averages 7.7 points and 4.8 rebounds per game while shooting 63.8% from the field.

GU seems to be just fine without Lloyd or Ballo in the fold this season, boasting a 24-3 overall record. However, the absence of Lloyd was never going to be felt in the first year he departed. A renowned international recruiter and a transfer portal hound, what Lloyd did best was acquire



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

After 20 years as an assistant coach at GU, Tommy Lloyd has guided the Arizona Wildcats to atop the PAC-12 standings in his first season at the helm.

talent and develop it.

Looking at this year's roster, there are not near the number of international players that populated GU rosters of old. Andrew Nembhard and Martynas Arlauskas are the only two international players on the team and only Nembhard gets significant minutes.

Lloyd was lionized for recruiting players like Przemek Karnowski, Kelly Olynyk, Rui Hachimura and Domantas Sabonis, among countless other standouts for GU. Not only did Lloyd venture across borders, he dipped his toes into the transfer portal, landing standouts like Brandon Clarke and Kyle Wiltjer.

GU's 2022 recruiting class has yet to be finalized, but as of now, the only committed player is four-star Braden Huff from Illinois. The Zags are also in the mix for five-star Mookie Cook (as is Lloyd), but missed out on five-star Jaden Bradley. Every player competes in the U.S. in prep basketball and is originally from one of the 50 states.

Perhaps the dwindling focus by GU on international players is the result of Few recruiting and landing five-star recruits in Spokane. Early in Few's tenure, the Zags had no chance at the top-ranked recruits in the country and had to scour the globe for untapped talent.

Less than a year without Lloyd on the GU bench has produced few concrete differences from outside the building. Internally, one can only wonder if his famed

ability to transform bench players into NBA players (see Olynyk) is missed.

With the Zags the projected No. 1 overall seed in March Madness, GU fans are more focused on their Bulldogs rolling through the final slate of West Coast Conference competition while eyeing possible tournament matchups than they are about operational intricacies within the program.

Fans may want to view Lloyd and his Wildcats with cautious optimism. Few and Lloyd mutually agreed to scrap a matchup between the two programs scheduled for November 2021 in Spokane a month after Lloyd was hired at Arizona.

Although Zag fans celebrate Lloyd and his success now, their façade of niceties may crumble if the Wildcats take down the Zags in the NCAA tournament in the future.

"If we had to play [Gonzaga], we'd probably both be pretty happy to still be alive," Lloyd said in a postgame news conference. "It would obviously be great. I don't know exactly how it would feel but I think once the ball went up, I'd do the best job I could for my group and the University of Arizona to win the game and it wouldn't be more complicated than that."

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

One of Few's good men

By MIA GALLEGOS

As the son of Mark Few, it is understandable why AJ Few, Gonzaga University senior, is a die-hard fan of the school's men's basketball team.

However, AJ Few is not just an avid supporter of the team — he is one of the team's managers. As a manager for the team his dad coaches and brother plays for, AJ's four years at GU have been unlike any other.

AJ Few has lived in Spokane for his whole life. He went to Gonzaga Preparatory School for high school, a private institution just up the road from GU's campus. During his four years there, he played for the boy's basketball team.

As a senior, he won the Washington State 4A championship alongside Anton Watson.

During AJ Few's senior year of high school, a couple factors came into play when selecting a university to attend.

"I didn't really want to leave because I love Spokane," AJ Few said. "There were a couple other schools I was looking at. But also at GU, if your parents are employees at the university, you get heavily discounted tuition."

AJ Few explained how this heavily-discounted price for school has resulted in being less than what it is costing his younger sister to attend Gonzaga Prep. This comparison shows the extremity of this price reduction, considering GU is a university and GU Prep is a high school.

When selecting a major, AJ Few had a general idea of what he wanted to go into.

"Originally I wanted to do finance because it was always what was most interesting to me," AJ Few said.

Within this major, he got to take a few accounting classes and came to find out that he not only liked this aspect of his major, but that he was good at it. He decided to pick up an additional major in accounting to tack onto his preexisting finance degree.

"All the advisors I talked to thought it was a good dual major to go with just to differentiate myself a little bit," AJ Few said.

His first year of college was very academically focused. He had decided that he just wanted to be a student for his first year. However, he quickly realized that the basketball-centralized environment he had been living in his whole life was not something he was ready to give up.

"I just kinda missed being a part of a team," AJ Few said. "So me and my dad just kinda talked [about] if I could just help out with the team a little bit. So I decided to become a manager my sophomore year."

A team manager has many roles. At practice, managers help with rebounding, make sure the players have water and are there for any needs that the team might



AJ Few (far right) attended Gonzaga Preparatory High School before majoring in finance at GU.

have.

During timeouts in the games, the managers bring out chairs, water and towels. However, according to AJ Few, the high-stress aspect of team management comes with traveling.

"You don't want to be the person who messes everything up because you forget the uniforms or forget something really important for the game," AJ Few said.

Despite this pressure, he said the team manager role is very exciting. He enjoyed being able to go to practice every day and learn so much about the sport from the team.

AJ Few's dad and brother are both part of the program. These familial ties make his management experience that much more personal.

"It's not as weird as you think," AJ Few said. "I've been around the program my whole life with my dad. Like, I see him every day at practice. It's a little weird seeing my little brother on the team now, but it's funny. We always joke around a lot during practice."

Mark Few said during a news conference how thankful he has been to be able to see both of his college-age sons much more than he would be able to if it weren't for them both being involved in the basketball program.

"It's been so great having both AJ and Joe around," Mark Few said. "It gives you at least two hours a day when you wouldn't usually see your college kids."

When reflecting on his past four years at GU, AJ Few described some of his favorite

memories as they pertain to the basketball team. He was on the bench when Jalen Suggs made his buzzer-beater shot during the Zags' Final Four game against UCLA in the 2021 NCAA Tournament.

"Just seeing that and running to storm the court was pretty special," AJ Few said. "And just the locker room after and everything was just craziness."

However, though being there to witness this iconic moment in Zag history, AJ Few described his disappointment in not being in Spokane to celebrate with the GU community.

"I was sad because we saw Spokane was going crazy and we didn't get to experience that," AJ Few said. "But it was still super cool to be there and be on the bench for that and storm the court. It was just wild."

As he begins his final months as a student at GU, AJ Few believes that the thing he will miss the most is the people he has met.

"It's not the most pretty campus or, you know, the best weather at all," AJ Few said. "It's just the people that you miss."

Though he will no longer be a student at GU, AJ Few will always be a supporter of this team he has managed for nearly his whole college career.

"He lives and dies with the Zags," Mark Few said. "He always has."

Though his future plans are currently undetermined, the GU basketball program will leave a lasting impact on AJ Few's life.

Mia Gallegos is a contributor.

GU SPORTS CALENDAR

Friday, March 4

- **Women's tennis vs. Montana, 1 p.m.**
- Baseball at Oklahoma State, Stillwater, OK., 2 p.m. (Games 2 and 3 on Saturday and Sunday)

Saturday, March 5

- Women's rowing at Pacific Lutheran Invite, American Lake, WA., all day

Sunday, March 6

- Women's golf at Dr. Donnis Thompson Invitational, Ewa Beach, HI, all day
- Men's tennis at Denver, Denver, 11 a.m.

Monday, March 7

- Men's golf at Colin Montgomerie HBU Invitational, Spring, TX., all day
- Women's basketball at WCC Tournament Semifinal, Las Vegas, NV., 2 p.m.
- Men's basketball at WCC Tournament Semifinal, Las Vegas, 2 p.m.

Tuesday, March 8

- Men's tennis vs. Boston College, Riverside, CA., TBD

Wednesday, March 9

- **Women's rowing vs. Minnesota, Chula Vista, CA., all day**

Local events in bold

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