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Students hold walkout for Palestine

By CLARINNE KIRK

Students, faculty and community members gathered on Foley Lawn last Thursday for a Stop the Genocide Walkout, a demonstration that proclaimed support for Palestine. The walkout called for the end of the killing of Palestinians by the Israeli government and called for President Thayne McCulloh and the Gonzaga University administration to issue a statement recognizing the violence against Palestinians and showing support for both Palestinian and Israeli civilians.

The walkout was organized by Do Better Gonzaga, an independently organized student-led coalition with a precedent of calling out injustices and inaction within GU. The event began with speeches from event organizers and was followed by a march to the steps of College Hall, where organizers led demonstrators in chants to “stop the violence” and “free Palestine.” The event closed with the organizers giving an official statement signed by protesters to Provost Sacha Kopp, who accepted it on behalf of McCulloh.

A sophomore at GU and one of the organizers of the event, Kevin Pinkelman, said the event was organized due to the responsibility humans hold to speak up against the increasing violence toward Palestinians by the Israeli government.

“The situation in Palestine has been a multidecade-long occupation and apartheid, but in the past several months, the bombing of Gaza has increased so significantly,” Pinkelman said. “We have a duty as human beings to look out for other human beings.”

David Brookbank, a local Spokane resident and longtime activist in global liberation struggles, attended the event in solidarity with student activists. Brookbank said he has been active in raising awareness and calling for action



LUCY BOOTH IG: @photo_b00th

Those in the walkout marched from Foley Lawn to the front steps of College Hall.

within the larger Spokane community.

“We’ve been working, organizing with other people in the community, some of whom are Palestinian, some of whom are Muslim or people of other nationalities, to make it clear that Palestinian people have a

right to their liberation, and to their rights and sovereignty,” Brookbank said.

One student, who asked to remain anonymous, said they attended the demonstration because they believe it is important that the GU administration

condemn the current killing of Palestinians, especially after its initial silence, which they found especially concerning given McCulloh’s power and influence within

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MYERS GORRELL IG: @myersgphoto

Gumbhir prepares snack bags for students to combat food insecurity.

Vik Gumbhir fills stomachs and minds during final run at GU

By NATALIE KELLER

Gonzaga University associate professor of sociology and criminology Vik Gumbhir’s office is full of things that illustrate who he is as a person.

Outside Gumbhir’s door, three brown paper bags full of snacks are clipped to the wall. A sign that reads “Hey you! Are you hungry? Would a snack help? Please take a bag!” hangs just above them. To the left of the door is a display case that houses a “Star Wars” Lego set. Inside Gumbhir’s office are shelves that hold books, more bags of snacks and a boxed DVD set of the crime show “The Wire.”

“My first impression really was like, ‘oh my gosh, this professor is so real,’” said GU student Alexis Corral, who has been in several of Gumbhir’s classes. “Overall, he has just this informal yet welcoming persona.”

Gumbhir, who is in his 19th year of teaching at GU, said he never

foresaw himself studying sociology and criminology nor becoming a professor. He said he was a “disconnected” student in high school and didn’t know what he wanted to study in college. Only when he took a sociology class and found inspiration from several professors did he become fascinated with the subject.

“I decided that I think the academic life is for me,” Gumbhir said. “As an undergrad, it was really being able to look at my own life and understand my own life better through the use of sociological theories and concepts.”

Corral said that Gumbhir teaches these concepts mainly through class discussions.

“Everyone is so comfortable speaking that they just say whatever they want. No one’s going to judge,” Corral said. “He makes this safe space in his classrooms for everyone to talk.”

Corral also said that, during these

discussions, Gumbhir helps students think about hot-button issues from various perspectives.

“I feel like the biggest thing I learned is just being open to challenging what you think your reality is,” Corral said. “He doesn’t really force his beliefs onto us, but he just challenges it in the nicest way possible.”

Another student, Cody Kucsak, said that Gumbhir learns his students’ names within the first day or two of class and puts an emphasis on getting to know students.

“Vik makes a point of learning who you are to know how to teach you,” Kucsak said. “It seemed like he had a lot of respect for us.”

One aspect of Gumbhir’s teaching career in which he said he takes great pride is his student research group. Beginning in the 2007-08 school year, Gumbhir founded The Research Group, a GU organization Gumbhir

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Law School plans children, family justice program

By MARY CLAIRE PHELPS

On Oct. 27, Gonzaga University’s Law School announced it will be implementing a new program called the Children and Parents Rights Justice Initiative, or CPRJI. GU, the Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid and the Washington State Office of Public Defense signed a memorandum to include the program at GU as the first of its kind in the state of Washington.

“It’s a commitment to build a pipeline of attorneys dedicated to and ready to enter practice in the children and family justice sphere, and particularly in the practice related to child welfare cases,” said Jim Bamberger, director of the Office of Civil Legal Aid.

CPRJI is tailored to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of both the rights of the parents as well as the children. It will focus on training students to be well-versed in these dependency proceedings with the hope that they will stay in the area where these attorneys are highly needed.

The concept of representing children is fairly new to the state of Washington. According to Bamberger, Washington state did not have an established right to counsel for children until 2014. This program, being the first of its kind in Washington, will finally give children the right to have a voice in these litigations.

OCLA and Office of Public Defense believed that GU was the perfect place for this program to be implemented because GU’s mission and location make it the ideal place for students to learn about this area of law that drastically needs dedicated and passionate attorneys.

“Gonzaga’s Jesuit and humanistic mission is foundational to every aspect of what they do,” Bamberger said. “This particular initiative [brings] justice for children and families and parents who have been harmed so terribly over the years by a dysfunctional child welfare system.”

Due to the fact that children did not have the right to counsel until 2014 in this state, the need for experienced lawyers in this area has grown significantly, Bamberger said. In Eastern Washington, this program is highly needed compared to other parts of the state that aren’t as rural and are struggling to find attorneys who are dedicated to this area.

“Historically, the child welfare system has been a tool of white supremacy and has served to subjugate and marginalize and destroy families, particularly Indigenous families and Black families and other families of color,”

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Megan Mattappally, a senior human physiology major, performed a solo spoken word performance at the Diwali festival.

MAKOA DE ALMEIDA IG: @makoadalmeida

SASU hosts first Diwali festival

By ESTELLE HAN

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is a traditional religious holiday honoring the triumph of good over evil. On Saturday at Gonzaga University, the South Asian Student Union introduced the Diwali festival to the Spokane community in the John J. Hemmingson Ballroom.

Because SASU was founded last school year, the festival was the cultural club's first major signature event.

"It was a chance to bring together the South Asian and Gonzaga communities and help inform others about the diversity and traditions within our culture," said SASU Treasurer Savreen Pamma.

There were various GU cultural clubs in attendance to support SASU's first event, including the International Student Union, Filipino American Student Union and the Asian American Union.

ISU activities director AJ Setiono said their members showed out to support SASU since it was their first event.

Various cultural Indian dishes were served to the guests for them to taste culturally prominent foods from India, including naan, samosas and payasam.

The festival began with a performance choreographed by GU first-year Neela Kamath that combined the styles of Bollywood, Garba and Raas featuring GU sophomores Pamma, Deeya Chandran and Anisha Grewal. Performers wore traditional outfits, including long skirts called

lenghas and flowing pants called shararas.

Between performances, SASU showed multiple videos about the origins of Diwali according to both the Hindu and Sikh perspectives and the ways it varies throughout different South Asian religions.

After each cultural dance performance, a trivia question was posed to the audience for a chance to win a diya, a traditional oil lamp that people light and use to celebrate Diwali.

As the event progressed, questions varied from, "Name three South Asian countries" to, "What is the model minority myth of South Asians?"

"[The model minority myth] erases any individuality between Asian people and cultures. It lumps all people of Asian descent into one category, attributing success to being Asian, but failure always to personal fault," said co-emcee TJ Aguma during the event.

Chandran, the other co-emcee, then listed the characters that are misrepresented in the popular media that are misleading like Baljeet Tjinder from "Phineas and Ferb," Apu Nahasapeemapetilon from "The Simpsons" and Ravi Ross from "Jessie."

Chandran went on to describe the reality of who South Asians should actually be represented as, such as musicians that break records like Freddie Mercury from Queen, figures that are breaking into the entertainment industry like Simone Ashley (actress from "Bridgerton") and activists that are fighting against global injustices like

Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani female education advocate.

Other performances included a traditional Bharatnatyam dance by graduate student Sarah Sparsha and another Bollywood dance performed by a mother-daughter duo from Spokane's Indian community.

Megan Mattappally, a senior member of SASU, performed a solo spoken word performance about her experience as an American-born South Asian woman and the complexity of identifying her true identity.

For the final performance of the night, the Indian Youth Club of Spokane performed a series of Bollywood routines to the crowd and taught members of the crowd how to dance.

"I actually enjoyed how, like, people when looking for volunteers, lots of people actually stood up and went directly [to the stage]," Setiono said. "It was fun seeing my friends on stage and actually learning it."

The show ended with a moment to acknowledge SASU's graduating seniors, Yvonne Ejim and Mattappally.

The event ended with time for attendees to visit vendors from Spokane's local Indian community. There were different stations open for Punjabi-style jewelry and henna, as well as booths organized by SASU for people to purchase their own diyas and participate in a Rangoli craft.

Estelle Han is a staff writer.

PROTEST

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the community.

"I was really upset when President McCulloh put out a message and did not acknowledge all the Palestinians who had been hurt and the genocide that's going on there," the student said.

Pinkelman also acknowledged the administration's silence as a catalyst for the demonstration.

"Thayne's silence and the school's silence on this situation has been deafening," Pinkelman said. "It's hurt Palestinian students. It's hurt Muslim students. It's hurt the entire student community."

A student attendee of the demonstration, Kaelyn Wellman, said that GU's identity as a Jesuit institution, with core values of social justice and equality, increases its responsibility to stand up against the injustices Palestinians struggle against. However, Wellman said that they believe McCulloh's statement failed to uphold these values.

"The statement that was released by Thayne, it was really unfortunate in that it had no mention of the violence that is ongoing against Palestinian people," Wellman said. "My decision to participate in this specific protest is a means of holding both myself, as well as the institution that I am dedicating money to, accountable in trying to uphold those values that we claim we support."

According to Brookbank, GU's silence on this oppression is just part of a series of GU's inaction and separation between the larger community, violating GU's own identity as Jesuit institution.

"Gonzaga has been traditionally missing in action as far as the issues that affect the broader community," Brookbank



JOSH GARCIA IG: @flamedticks

The walkout was organized by Do Better Gonzaga, an independently organized student-led coalition that aims to tackle injustices.

said. "My perspective, as a Catholic who's been involved with Jesuits in Latin America, I call [GU] a nominally Jesuit university."

Pinkelman said this event was important to bring awareness to the student body and to call for ending the United States' funding of Israel's military action.

"Bringing awareness to these issues is really important, and realizing that silence is complacency, and that as an institution, we are complacent in it," Pinkelman said. "The more support and pushback from

students across the country, the more likely it is that real change will happen ... We owe it to our fellow humans to stand up and speak out when they're unable to."

Wellman said they hope this event will encourage the GU administration to play a more active role in ending the injustices facing Palestinians, both through issuing a new statement that acknowledges the violence against Palestinians and through the donation of aid.

"One thing I would love to see happen ... would be the utilizing of our institution's resources to not only spread

the word about the Palestinian genocide, but to also do some of that groundwork, because although students may not be able to afford to directly, the institution can most definitely dedicate resources to humanitarian aid ... both for the Israeli people as well as the Palestinian people," Wellman said.

Clarinne Kirk is a copy editor.

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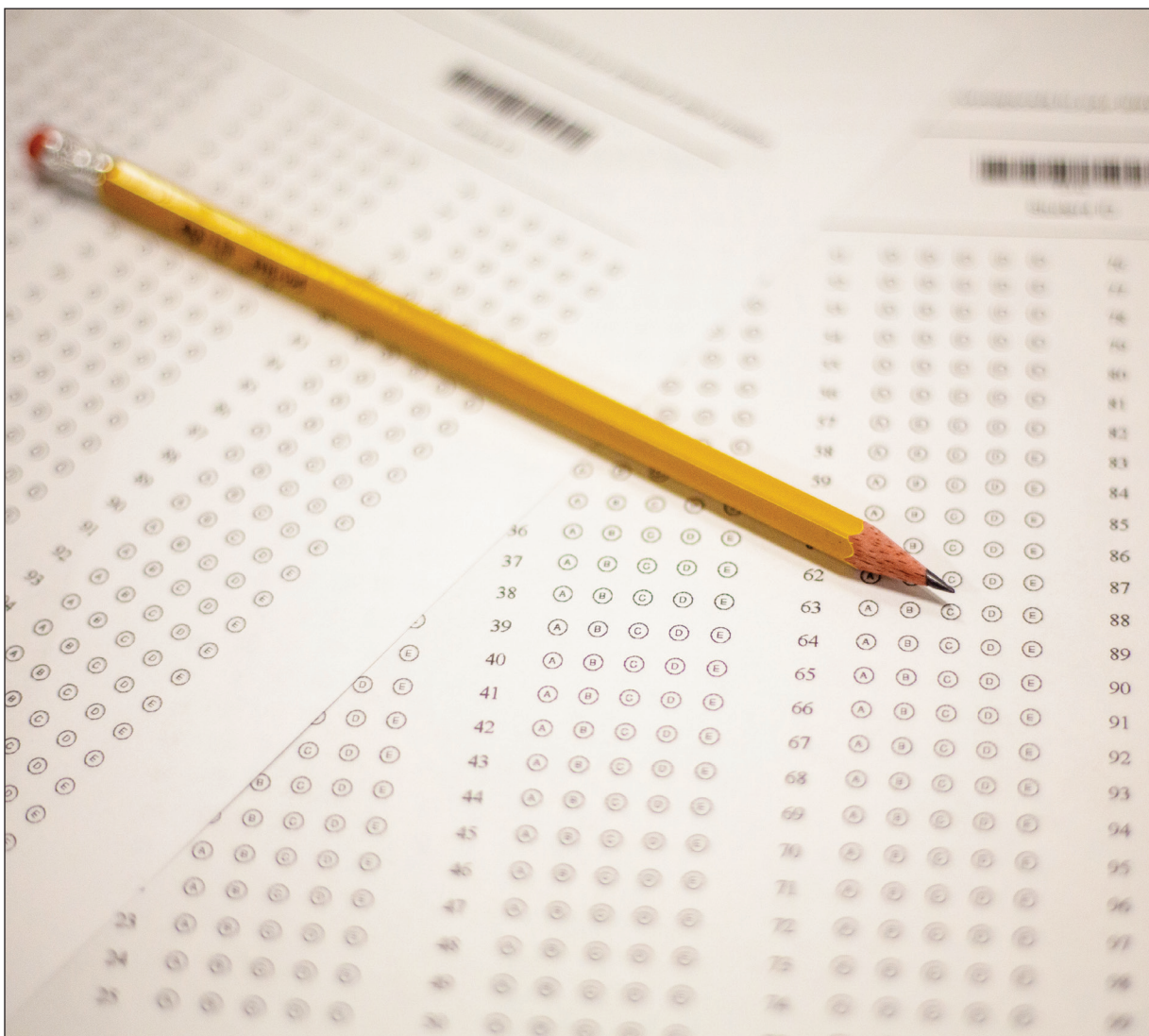
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The Disability Access Office can give students additional time for tests as an accommodation.

GU prioritizes accessibility

Student union and campus office help with disability access

By NATALIE KELLER

Gonzaga University's director of disability access, Jason Varnado, said his department provides accommodations to students with disabilities with a key objective in mind — to make GU's Disability Access Office obsolete.

"That's what we strive for — universal design where you have universal access so that no one ever has to ask for an accommodation," Varnado said. "I think that's every disability office's goal — to remove the need for them."

Varnado said that colleges, in general, were not designed with disabilities in mind and that GU's disability access is "imperfect." He said that, because of this, the Disability Access Office makes every effort to remove educational barriers for students with disabilities.

"We protect students' civil rights," Varnado said. "Especially as a Jesuit institution, our mission is we want to ensure that all students have equal access to education."

Varnado said that the Disability Access Office customizes its accommodations based on each student's individual needs. However, he said that extended time to take tests, more flexible attendance expectations, textbooks students can listen to and assistance with note-taking are among the most common accommodations.

He also said that the types of disabilities students have vary greatly. Varnado's office provides accommodations to students with long-term disabilities, as well as more temporary ones such as a broken hand. Additionally, he said that while some students' disabilities are visible, the majority of the students the office serves have non-apparent disabilities.

The office helps to ensure that buildings and spaces are accessible to individuals with mobility problems through ramps, elevators and push-button doors.

"In a way, I say 'We don't help students in this office, we don't help people in this office'; we make things the way they were supposed to be," Varnado said. "That's access, where somebody doesn't have to ask for a change."

SR Ross, the assistant director of GU's Unity Multicultural Education Center, said the office's proactive approach to accessibility is a good one.

"There's often this idea that we don't need to make things accessible until somebody asks for it," Ross said. "And that is, in fact, backwards."

As a full-time wheelchair user, Ross said creating accessible spaces is what encourages people with disabilities to come in the first place.

"Why would I go places where I don't see a way I can access it?" Ross said. "What needs to happen is we need to move to a place of making things more accessible and then you'll see more people coming in and starting to

use it."

In addition to the services offered at the Disability Access Office, GU also has a club for students with disabilities, the Disabled Students Union, which got its start in the spring.

"We're still super tiny, but it's something that I really am passionate about," said Club President Lily Wright. "It's really a space for disabled students to be able to come and just be able to meet others."

Wright said that the club, which meets weekly, includes both networking and educational opportunities. It is open to all students.

"I'm just very proud that this club is able to exist and able to create that safe haven for disabled students," Wright said. "It's super important to hear what disabled people have to say."

Wright, who has a spinal cord disability, said her experience at GU has been overall positive.

"I think that the Disability Access Office is really great," she said. "They really try to advocate for the students."

Ross agreed that GU has a generally positive mentality when it comes to disabilities.

"We are focused on inclusion," Ross said. "When we identify that someone is not able to participate, is not able to access things like we'd like them to or they'd like to, we want to act."

However, Wright and Ross also said that they see areas of possible improvement.

"Nothing's perfect," Wright said. "There's definitely some gaps in our system at Gonzaga and some things that are not ideal for students with disabilities."

Specifically, Wright said that she would like to see an even less rigid attendance policy for students with disabilities. She also said that a stigma still surrounds disabilities and that she hopes it will continue to be erased.

"We don't want to be just tolerated," Wright said. "We want to be accepted."

Ross said that continuing to fight negative stigmas around disabilities is beneficial to all.

"If we can expand our idea of what disability is and that it's not some sad thing, that it's just like any other identity," Ross said. "That's what's really important for people to start to understand."

Varnado said that the Disability Access Office will continue working toward its goal of equal access for all students.

"Disability is diversity," Varnado said. "It's an important part of the human experience."

Natalie Keller is a staff writer.

“

I don't serve my bosses. I'd like to think I serve the students. And the fact that I'm not happy here is absolutely no reason to do anything other than commit myself to giving the best possible version of myself.

Vik Gumbhir, criminology professor

GUMBHIR

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Gumbhir founded The Research Group, a GU organization through which students could pursue research projects of their choosing. Gumbhir said the group had great success, with many students taking their projects to national conferences.

"Amazing projects, projects that are on par with what students in masters programs are doing, have come out of Gonzaga University," Gumbhir said. "That was really important work for me. It's the best I've ever done."

Although Gumbhir left his position at the helm of the group in the 2018-19 school year, he has continued to teach an array of classes in his discipline, including a class in which students exclusively watch, analyze and discuss "The Wire." Gumbhir said that the early 2000s crime show offers a meaningful message about generational crime and poverty in cities.

"It turned out that students really like getting together and watching television shows together, and the conversations were just lively," Gumbhir said. "I just get to sit in a room with those students and enjoy a show that I find profound with them."

Gumbhir said he enjoys not only teaching students, but also trying to support their overall wellbeing.

One of the ways he does this is through the bags of snacks that hang outside his office door.

"A few years back, I started to learn more about the issue of food insecurity on college campuses," Gumbhir said. "There's a shame about asking for help. It's easier to just say 'thank you.'"

Since early spring, Gumbhir has been offering free snacks to any student who wants one.

"People know that they can just come by, grab a snack and go," Gumbhir said. "Our task as a university community is to make sure that food is available to those who need it. If there was a moment where my activism was born, it's there."

As much as Gumbhir said he has enjoyed certain aspects of his teaching career, he also said he harbors feelings of dissatisfaction and sees ways that GU could improve.

"I have watched this university mishandle diversity, equity, and inclusion," Gumbhir said. "This university is going one way, and there's nothing wrong with the way this university's going. I'm not criticizing the leadership. I'm not criticizing the direction. But I'm going another way."

Gumbhir said that he was denied a promotion, which he said is one of the reasons for his discontentedness. That, combined with his partner's recent acceptance of a position at John Hopkins University, is why Gumbhir said he plans to leave GU either at the end of this school year or the next.

"I'm sad he's leaving," Kucsak said. "I think it's going to be a big hole in the criminology department."

Despite his general unhappiness with the university, Gumbhir said he has done his best to remain dedicated to students.

"I don't serve my bosses," Gumbhir said. "I'd like to think I serve the students. And the fact that I'm not happy here is absolutely no reason to do anything other than commit myself to giving the students the best possible version of myself."

As Gumbhir winds down his time at GU, both Corral and Kucsak said they appreciate the work he has done for them as students.

"I always think he's trying to work for the students," Kucsak said. "He is here for students."

Corral said that Gumbhir has been a key guiding figure during her time at GU.

"He's such a passionate individual about his topics," Corral said. "The way he teaches is just so informative and just so inspiring as a student. Thank you, Vik, for helping me figure out what I want to do with my life."

Natalie Keller is a staff writer.

LAW

Continued from Page 1

said Bailey Zydek, manager of the children's representation program at OCLA.

OCLA was given five years to get the program up and running and has taken strides in constructing it. According to Agnieszka McPeak, the associate dean for academic affairs and program innovation, the program is still in the early stages, but its first step will be to add it as a concentration. Students will be able to take specific classes pertaining to CPRJI. It is expected to also add courses that focus on trauma-informed lawyering as well.

McPeak also said skills courses that involve students in more experiential learning, such as client counseling or trial advocacy, will be offered.

The hope is that by working with OCLA, students will be able to gain experience through partnerships with existing lawyers and to create mentorships. As the program progresses, the goal is to create a certificate program in the future and build a clinic or internship program where students will get live client experience. The students will focus on both the children's rights and the parents in the dependency

proceedings that this program will prepare them for.

"The program includes parent representation because we recognize our students need to know both sides, and there needs to be adequate, informed and trained lawyers on both sides in order to achieve the best stability and outcome for children," McPeak said.

CPRJI is expected to be available to current law students in the fall of 2024. Bamberger said the need for lawyers in this area is extensive, and there will be a need for 100 full-time attorneys once the program is implemented due to the lack of qualified lawyers in the area. The program has already gained a lot of interest from students and it will grow as the program also grows, McPeak said.

"As lawyers, we have the power, and frankly, in my opinion, the obligation to do things and wield our considerable privilege and influence to combat that," Zydek said.

For more information on the CPRJI, visit the GU School of Law's website or the Washington State OCLA's website.

Mary Claire Phelps is a staff writer.



ISABELLA STOUT IG: @isabellacarin.photography

GU's Law School will be the first to offer a family, children and justice program in Washington state.

Biden and the road to reelection

The road to the 2024 election is likely to be a long one, riddled with false promises and ancient candidates. After the past three years, the most pressing question on many constituents' minds is: Does President Joe Biden stand a chance?

The answer appears to be grim, as Biden has lost favor with far-left voters and moderates alike.

Biden's first official 2024 campaign video emphasizes vague themes of dignity, equality and freedom with no concrete methods for implementation, with his campaign slogan being: "Let's finish this job."

What job, exactly? In 2020, Biden ran on promises to defeat COVID-19, revive the economy, protect abortion access and reestablish the U.S. as a great nation abroad.

While his administration's investment in infrastructure and manufacturing has aided in adding tens of millions of jobs to the market with rising wages, high inflation throughout his presidency has largely overshadowed these achievements.

Biden could've picked up ground with his promise to end gun violence, taking weapons of war (like AR-15s) off the street, but he once again faltered. The gun safety law passed in June 2022 made some improvements to background checks but did nothing to limit access to assault rifles. This is troubling given the exponential rise in mass shootings over the past three years, per Gun Violence Archive.

One of the most troubling failed promises on Biden's part was his vow to safeguard abortion access. Biden vowed to codify Roe v. Wade given the Supreme Court's likelihood of overturning it but was unable to due to lack of votes in the Senate. While his administration has worked to provide access to abortion medication and protect other forms of reproductive healthcare, female-bodied, left-leaning voters are unlikely to forget this rollback of rights under the president's name. Equally troubling is Joe Biden's forgotten promise of



By KAELYN NEW

safety in seeking asylum. In August 2020, Biden pledged to make the U.S. a safe space for refugees and asylum seekers. Since his election, however, he maintained strict Donald Trump-era border policies which grew more restrictive after extensive numbers of migrants began arriving at the border, according to Politico.

Certainly, many Americans aren't too pleased that Biden has consistently funded international wars and defense over other measures like healthcare and student debt relief that may take more precedence. Since the Russia-Ukraine war erupted, the Biden administration and Congress have directed more than \$75 billion in assistance to Ukraine.

This is only compounded by the administration's senseless financing of Israel, amassing to \$14.3 billion, \$320 million of which is for weapon transfer, according to NPR. As the Biden administration continues a firm stance in support of its long-time ally Israel, Data for Progress reports that most voters across party lines support a ceasefire to further prevent civilian deaths. With the death toll of Palestinians surpassing 11,000

people according to AP News, Biden's firm pro-Israel stance has even further pushed away potential voters.

This policy and others have had drastic impacts on his approval ratings. A New York Times/Sienna College poll conducted at the end of October into the beginning of November predicts that former President Donald Trump will take the lead in several key swing states including Arizona, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Nevada.

If the current president wants a chance at being reelected, he needs to center his platform on debt relief and healthcare access, but even then, he has alienated far-left voters and moderates alike with his inconsistent platform.

Failed promises aside, Joe Biden is currently the oldest U.S. president to have been sworn into office. At 80 years old, prospective voters are concerned about what his deteriorating health means for the preservation of our nation.

If the Democratic party wants a chance at rivaling Trump with effective policy measures, they should choose someone more fit to lead in the coming four years. It's high time that both parties recognize that the White House isn't a retirement home, and the best bet is to find some fresher faces.

When the time comes next November, if either Trump or Biden are reelected, it may be time to ask ourselves if the two-party system is an effective means of representation for the American people. Do these candidates represent what the nation needs or are we merely choosing between opposite sides of a corrupt coin?

Kaelyn New is the managing editor. Follow her on X: @kaelyn_new.

The finish line to finals: A guide for everyone in the race

Finals season is fast approaching, Zags.

After this short Thanksgiving break, there are just two full weeks of classes left.

Following these two weeks is finals week, standing between us and winter break.

Big projects and essays are on the horizon, with exams also looming. So, what can we do to prepare for the finish line to finals?

The following is my survival guide of advice on how to best approach finals.

With all the courses students take, it can be difficult to keep track of the details of your finals. What I do to organize all of this is keep an Excel spreadsheet updated.

This spreadsheet includes information like dates of finals, their formats and when and how I should prepare for each final. This allows for less confusion between courses.

Now that it's starting to get dark earlier, it can be harder to motivate yourself to study in the evenings. This makes it more beneficial to get ahead on work earlier in the day. When studying after dark, what has helped me is studying in well-lit areas to maintain focus and



By EMILY FROMAN

avoid tiredness.

Log back into your Quizlet account, bookmark it on your computer, do whatever you have to do to utilize their various studying features. Even if you have the free version like I do, you are still able to easily transfer your notes to Quizlet notecards with the "Create Magic Notes" AI feature.

I'm sure there are different studying services out there, but Quizlet has proved most effective for my studying purposes.

Attend any and all professor review sessions that you can; they can only help

you. If you have questions about the course content, be sure to go to office hours early and not right before your final. Professors tend to get busier the closer we get to final exams.

Study rooms also fill up quickly during finals season, so book them up as early as you can.

If possible, find a classmate to be your study buddy.

Having a study buddy has helped to motivate me in the past to learn the class material. You can also test your knowledge by explaining concepts to each other.

In terms of study locations, Foley Library is always a good location, but you do have to be quieter when studying there. If you want a study location where you can chat more, the main floor of the John J. Hemmingson Center fits this criteria.

Something that is key for me during finals season is taking small breaks in between sets of studying. This maximizes focus and ensures that you're not overworking yourself during finals.

If I have to pull an all-nighter, I try not to do it the night before an exam. It

is generally more strategic to be well-rested before a big exam so that you can remember content for the exam.

You may find yourself dining out increasingly as finals season goes on. The motivation to cook and wash dishes tends to decline as the focus narrows in on studying for finals. It's important to sustain yourself with enough protein in your meals.

The best tip I can give for surviving finals season is to start organizing yourself early. Know what you need to get done, and plan out how much time it will take. It is usually longer than you would think.

Sometimes, no matter what you do or how you prepare, finals season is rough. It can be hard to get enough sleep, eat enough or drink enough water.

During this time, try not to stress out too much and remember that winter break is just around the corner.

Good luck, Zags!

Emily Froman is a staff writer.

The Gonzaga Bulletin

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Spokane election sells a financial crisis to the public

Spokane's elections are broken. And like most problems in this city, the issue is money.

According to the Public Disclosure Commission reports, 43% of independent expenditures in Washington state went to Spokane, a city with only 3% of the state's population. Seattle — a city that has a significantly larger population — made only 33% of campaign donations this election cycle.

Five donors, all who gave at least \$150,000 individually to the conservative public action committee, donated over \$1.76 million — a majority of funds in the election. Larry Stone, a local real estate agent and developer, gave the most money in this election with a donation of \$290,000.

Candidates raised record-breaking amounts of money, but were forced to spend more money to compete with each other. Both mayoral candidates spent well over \$500,000, with Nadine Woodward, the conservative candidate, spending over \$1 million.

The record-breaking campaign funds have radically changed Spokane local elections, especially when compared to elections 10 years ago, when the campaign funds were not even proportional to the amount of money spent and raised now.

The money has transformed elections from the democratic institutions that they were intended to be by morphing the election process into a system that values an individual's money over voice. In fact, this year's Spokane elections seemed to be full of the polarizing



By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

echoes of authoritarianism.

First, the increased amount of money being spent has blocked many local candidates from running by setting a financial bar out of reach for most Spokaneites. Local candidates, even those in this election cycle, had to drop out because they could not compete with the necessary amount of funding needed to campaign and market themselves to the public.

Second, the money has also led to increased feelings of hatred and vitriol, replacing any rational diagnosis of city issues with crass propaganda and rhetoric. Campaign ads have always marred conscious debate on local political issues, but the exponential increase of funding to these has led to a far greater impact of fear and distrust.

Complex issues, such as rising crime and homelessness, have truly devolved into rhetoric that has completely dehumanized already marginalized individuals. Racist tropes around crime have raised the tensions of public discourse on these topics and made people more hateful of each other. Election vitriol has reached a peak in

this election with financed ads undercutting real public discourse.

The hatred and finances are not partisan, either, although conservatives have certainly benefited from the unlimited ability to put money into campaigns. The left-leaning PAC, Citizens for Liberty and Labor, have also put significant amounts of money into the election.

Still, the election in Spokane remains a small example of the dysfunction of broader state and federal elections, which risks even more vitriol and division as pressure from far wealthier, capital-enriched elites toss their money into these elections.

I remain grounded in the ideal that U.S. elections can be sources of democracy and that they can be free of reductionist division and hate. I also believe that we must return to a vision of politics that embraces the power of individual and collective voice.

Political officials, especially those elected in the most recent elections, have a responsibility to reimagine the systems that have given the power to create change in the first place. Our new elected officials, despite many only winning by a slim majority, must learn to value all people's rights over one individual's politics.

The finances driving the elections point to a deep flaw in this city's democratic systems and election process. Better, Spokane, there is a but way.

Noah Apprill-Sokol is a news editor. Follow him on X: @noah_sokol03.

Spokane Refillery provides new ways to practice sustainability

By EMILY NIEMANN

For small-business owner Hannah Elson, sustainability is a priority.

Her store, Spokane Refillery in Spokane Valley, is a local business focused on giving the community the opportunity to buy soaps while limiting plastic waste.

Located at 7413 E. Trent Ave., the company allows customers to bring in refillable containers or choose a community container and refill it with cleaning supplies and toiletries. Community containers are donated by other patrons and sanitized for anyone to use.

"It's just to offer another option to help the community limit their plastic waste by offering refilling instead of going to the store," Elson said.

A worker helps patrons refill their containers, making the process much more personal and social than going to the grocery store, Elson said. Since refilling takes a few minutes, Elson said that she tends to develop relationships with customers.

"We have a lot of regulars that come in, so you get to know them personally," Elson said.

Elson said she was inspired to start her business after seeing similar businesses in California, but was hesitant about how it would be received in Spokane. During the pandemic, Elson said she felt inspired and eventually took the leap to bring a refillery to the Inland Northwest.

According to Jim Simon, the director of the Office of Sustainability at Gonzaga University, the refill model gives customers more autonomy in their purchases and encourages buying in bulk.

"It's encouraging folks to take what they need, instead of what a corporation or company thinks they need," Simon said.

He said that the business model of the Spokane Refillery encourages shoppers to slow down and think about their consumption, making shopping for everyday items more thoughtful and intentional.

"It slows down the consumptive process," Simon



Spokane Refillery sells cleaning supplies and toiletries that customers fill reusable containers with.



Sustainability is a key part of Spokane Refillery's business strategy.

said. "So, I think they're gonna be good for building community and finding adjacency to consumption and capitalism that a lot of us are seeking."

Additionally, it also may help limit trips to the store, ultimately reducing vehicle-miles traveled and decreasing the amount of gas burned, Simon said.

Shopping locally encourages the money you spend to stay in the pockets of people and companies within the community, ultimately benefiting the entire community

as a whole, Simon said. Plus, local businesses are much more sustainable.

Spokane Refillery is one vendor located in a larger store, The Plant Project, which is focused on creating sustainable products for the community. The refillery started in a location downtown, but moved to their current location as a vendor in July. Now, Elson said, Spokane Refillery is open seven days a week with longer hours, and Elson gets a much-deserved day

off every week.

The store is owned by Crystal Priel, who started The Plant Project, a local business focused on selling compost and ethical houseplants.

What started as trading for soil and creating compost eventually grew into a whole business with houseplants and various soil options. All of the plants are sourced in other areas in Washington or propagated within the store. The Plant Project is celebrating their three year anniversary on Nov. 19.

Priel began including other vendors within her store, and now the shop features 14 local companies who are all focused on creating sustainable, earth-friendly products. Priel's store places emphasis on reusing, recycling and breathing new life into secondhand or previously used items.

"I want it to be earthy, in line with nature and locally made," Priel said.

One of the other vendors, Bungalow Candle Studio, offers to take empty jars and refills them with wax to make new candles. Another, called Lush Cotton Candy, makes hand-spun cotton candy for customers to purchase. Soon, FoFolles, a secondhand

women's clothing company, will be moving into the store. Many of the companies are women-owned.

Priel said there is a culture of support and encouragement among the vendors. She said that she thinks of them as friends and as colleagues, and that they often get their nails done together. In addition to the products and the "vibe" of the vendors, Priel said she considers personality too.

"We all work together, not against each other," Priel said.

The store hosts a Plant Swap every second Saturday of the month and various events throughout the year. They also put on seasonal events, where different vendors can host classes for the community.

The whole store is created with sustainability in mind. To the right of the front door is a little library, stacked with used books, with signs encouraging shoppers to take one and leave another. On the walls are colorful paintings by local artist Sheila Fritts.

Kayla Bren, a vendor who runs Lemon Salvage, makes jewelry by hand out of repurposed vintage toys or trinkets she finds secondhand. Bren's also started Sentimental Treasures, where patrons can bring in fabric and make it into jewelry.

"[It's] the best shop to look around in," Bren said.

Simon said that stores like this are perfect places to think about your environmental footprint when doing holiday shopping and to participate in the season in a more intentional way.

"We're about to enter into one of the most robust seasons of consumption, that's the holiday season, so I would encourage students and employees at GU to think about what they can buy locally for gifts, or better yet, maybe not buy gifts," Simon said. "There are a lot of other ways to show care and love [during] this season."

The store is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information about The Plant Project and Spokane Refillery, visit their websites.

Emily Niemann is a staff writer.

Rolling the dice: Sage's Portal brings gaming haven to downtown

By GARY FLEISCHMANN

A combination of art, strategy and food, Sage's Portal corners the downtown market of Spokane with a new take on a board game storefront.

Located at 611 E. Second Ave., Sage's Portal is two stops on the Westbound 1 City Line and a 13-minute walk away from Gonzaga University's campus.

For just over a year, Sage's Portal has catered to the tabletop game community of Spokane. Their space includes multiple gaming tables, a comprehensive game library and a café with food and beverages.

"A lot of Google reviews say we have the best boba in Spokane," said Jason Ouimette, a co-owner of Sage's Portal.

Jason and his business partner, Eric Compogno, had the idea for Sage's Portal when they noticed other game stores lacking in quality.

"Back then, there weren't a lot of nice things for gamers," Ouimette said. "We always thought it'd be cool to have a nice, upscale — not only products — but a storefront you can come into that's nice and doesn't smell funny and isn't dirty."

Ouimette and Compogno grew up together playing board games such as Dungeons & Dragons. When noticing the state of shops they would frequent, they saw the value in quality presentation.

"Other places are like that and it has been like that for years," Ouimette said. "Our clientele here is 60-70% female because at other shops they don't feel comfortable there."

Sherry Marcy, an Eastern Washington University student who plays Magic with her friends at Sage's weekly, said that she especially liked the atmosphere.

Sage's Portal holds events throughout the week, creating an environment for those new to the board game phenomenon.



Board game café Sage's Portal offers table top gaming equipment as well as boba and food.

Their "looking for group" sign-up board gives newcomers a way to find a game group that fits their schedule.

"I really like the sense of community here," Anderson said. "I'm still getting used to all the regulars, but seeing them come in and connect with each other in different events and become friends is really great."

The shop's game library is where customers can partake in casual gameplay, organized from level one to four. Patrons can rent games here for \$5 an hour.

Anderson said that level-one games are shorter and can be easier to pick up.

"Personally, I would choose Munchkin," said Cammy Anderson, an employee at the shop. "It's a fantasy-based game that's pretty fun. It's a level-one game, so it's quicker and easy to pick up."

For game levels three and four, rentals can last multiple

hours.

"Somebody played Skyrim, the board game, yesterday," Ouimette said. "That's a level three game. They played for 5 hours and they weren't even halfway finished."

Ouimette said their most popular events are their Intro to Dungeons & Dragons nights. These events give beginners a foundation to build from when it comes to intimidating games.

For \$20, participants are given a free set of dice, a 40-minute tutorial of the rules, a pre-generated character and are taken on a mini-adventure.

"It's a really valuable event for people because if you're just starting out, you have to go through a big book and you never know where to start," Ouimette said. "Going through a crash course gives you solid hands-on experience."

Ouimette said one group of players just finished their game of

"Curse of Strahd," a Dungeons & Dragons campaign.

"They decided they wanted to fight Strahd, a vampire beast, on Halloween," Ouimette said. "Everybody dressed up. Eric, the other co-owner, dressed up as a vampire, and the group had their final battle with Strahd after six months of playing together."

Sage's Portal also puts on Magic the Gathering events where players use trading cards to battle each other. Ouimette said that because Magic the Gathering can bring a competitive edge out of players, Sage's created a new tournament format that focuses on the fun of the game.

Players experience a non-competitive event that follows a series of quests to earn points. With enough points, players can cash in for any of the available prizes. The grand prize for most weeks is a \$100 gift card.

"The quest format is a lot of fun," said Hunter Barton,

a member of the EWU Magic group. "I think that's the best part about it."

In addition to snacks and a board game library, Sage's Portal also sells unique, hard-to-find dice made specifically for Dungeons & Dragons.

Originating as an online dice store, Sage's Portal grew large enough to open as a brick-and-mortar store. The shop currently works with four different dice-makers that give customers a wide variety to choose from.

"We have over 400 different models of dice including gemstones, wood, liquid cores, resin, metal, hollow metals, all sorts," Ouimette said. "Some of the dice can range from \$10 to \$80. Some of the special ones made of dichroic glass are handmade."

Anderson gave the shop praise because of this vast selection. He said that Sage's has the widest variety and most unique offerings out of the other stores in Spokane. One popular product that the store is known for, according to Ouimette, is dragon journals.

"These journals are hand-molded and painted by an artist that works with Sage's Portal," Ouimette said. "But because they're made in limited quantities, they sell out quickly."

Sage's Portal has had steady growth since it first opened its door, Ouimette said.

"We're not in a really busy area so we rely on word of mouth," Ouimette said. "Another obstacle would be the bad economy, especially in downtown Spokane. Other than that, business is steady and we're expecting a busy Christmas year."

Sage's Portal is open daily from noon to 8 p.m. and closed on Mondays and Thursdays. For more information about the store, visit its website.

Gary Fleischmann is a contributor.



JOSHUA GARCIA IG: @flamedlicks

The festival featured musicians of many genres and cultures, ranging from traditional blues to Japanese drumming.

Fall Folk Festival uses culture, art to connect diverse community

By CLARINNE KIRK

A chorus of ukuleles' soft strums fills the crowded room at the Spokane Fall Folk Festival. Among the crowd, adults sing along, their voices joining the chorus from onstage. College students sway and nod their heads to the beat as young kids twirl in the aisles.

According to Tom Rogers, a member of ukulele group Ukestra Spokane, witnessing people "jamming out" together at the Fall Folk Festival years prior is what inspired him to pursue music.

"I watched all these people with no music in front of them, and everyone getting together and playing along with each other," Rogers said. "And I thought, 'this is really cool.' So, I decided at that point that I wanted to learn to be able to do that."

Put on by the Spokane Folklore Society for its 28th consecutive year, the Spokane Fall Folk Festival is a two-day event held at Spokane Community College that connects the community with music, dance and art from around the globe. Attendees packed into rooms to watch dancers glide across the stage or listen to bands perform traditional

blues. Throughout the halls, vendors sold colorful, handmade jewelry and pottery, as groups of musicians formed informal semicircles, joining together to provide a backdrop of music for those passing by.

Part of what makes the Fall Folk Festival unique, according to Rogers, is the non-judgmental, supportive atmosphere, which makes performing accessible to all experience levels. Having this type of close-knit community helps everyone learn and develop, Rogers said.

"We all become a kind of big community who support each other," Rogers said. "Getting together and playing with other people, it helps make you better."

The close-knit community of the Fall Folk Festival is what vendor Martha Burris said she appreciates most about the festival. Burris said she got involved in the Fall Folk Festival through her husband, who is a musician, and has been selling her homemade goods at the festival for nine years since.

"The people that come here really enjoy earthy, homemade things," Burris said. "It's a great show every year. It's fun seeing the same people every year."

Having a combination of artists and

musicians creates a coalition of art lovers, Burris said. She said that having this support is especially important in a time when homemade and local goods are often less valued than cheaper, online products.

"When you get a bunch of artists, whether they're musicians or crafters, or whatever, in the same place, it's great because you support each other," Burris said. "Most of us would rather buy something someone makes instead of something that they've ordered online. And so, [the performers] appreciate our art just like we appreciate theirs."

Donna Graham, the publicity chair for the Fall Folk Festival, said what she finds most significant about the Folk Festival is its ability to unite individuals of all ages, backgrounds and cultures around a mutual love of art.

"I was just watching a performance, and down in the front are all these young people, and then there were people with kids in the middle and all of us with grey hair towards the back," Graham said. "So, it's multicultural and diverse ages."

Not only is there a diverse group of ages, there is also a diverse group of cultures represented in the art and performances, ranging from traditional

Japanese drumming to Celtic dancing.

An attendee of the event, Bill Howard, said the diversity of the performances was what stood out to him, exposing him to new cultures. Howard said that the highlight of his time at the Fall Folk Festival was a "spectacular" performance of marimbas from Zimbabwe.

"It's a great event, and it's good for our country, that diversity is really good," Howard said. "It's really nice to see the different cultures and backgrounds."

In addition to diversity, Graham said accessibility is another core value of the Fall Folk Festival.

"It's part of our mission to make this a free event because there are a lot of people who can't afford it," Graham said.

When asked what he thought was most significant about the Folk Festival, Rodgers' response was simple.

"We're all just having a grand old time," Rogers said.

Clarinne Kirk is a copy editor.

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level **1** 2 3 4

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Solution to Last Week's puzzle 12/3/23

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

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Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

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114					115					116					117	

GAINS

By Amie Walker & Hoang-Kim Vu

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 "Couldn't agree more!"</p> <p>5 Tapenade, e.g.</p> <p>8 Pride</p> <p>12 Chicago daily, familiar</p> <p>16 Forum robe</p> <p>17 Bread with falafel</p> <p>18 Princess Tiana costume</p> <p>19 Taiga or tundra</p> <p>20 Collage of fabric swatches, paint chips, etc.</p> <p>22 Birch kin</p> <p>23 Send payment</p> <p>24 Nearly fails Poseidon's shop class?</p> <p>27 Considerate of others</p> <p>28 Iowa State town</p> <p>29 Activity in a humidified room</p> <p>30 Corp. leader</p> <p>31 Monopoly pair</p> <p>33 Desertlike</p> <p>35 "What's the ___?"</p> <p>36 Karaoke outing that won't allow Aretha's classic song?</p> <p>41 Twirl</p> <p>45 Some saxes</p> <p>46 ___ Eiseley; spaceport in the "Star Wars" universe</p> <p>47 Take to court</p> <p>48 ___ Island</p> <p>49 Harris, e.g., informally</p> <p>50 Shout at the slots</p> <p>52 Best Original Song, e.g.</p>	<p>54 Gretzky, once</p> <p>55 Blunder</p> <p>56 Nursing ___</p> <p>57 Time in the Peace Corps?</p> <p>60 Close securely</p> <p>61 High card, often</p> <p>62 Skeptical expression</p> <p>63 The x- or y-axis, perhaps?</p> <p>69 Fizz liquor</p> <p>70 Weeding tool</p> <p>73 Native New Zealander</p> <p>74 Numbered clubs</p> <p>75 Pound sound</p> <p>77 "The Powerpuff Girls" voice actress Strong</p> <p>78 With 79-Across, entry in the periodic table's last column</p> <p>79 See 78-Across</p> <p>80 Auction action</p> <p>81 Gets, as a job</p> <p>82 Flushed</p> <p>83 Request to an ophthalmologist on a busy afternoon?</p> <p>88 Curling surface</p> <p>90 "I Will Wait" band Mumford & ___</p> <p>91 lo or Europa, for Jupiter</p> <p>92 NCAA champion swimmer Thomas</p> <p>93 Clipped</p> <p>97 Hurt feelings?</p> <p>99 Pot sticker kin</p>	<p>101 "Use all your strength!" or an alternate title for this puzzle?</p> <p>105 Problems for pipes or PR firms</p> <p>106 Insertion mark</p> <p>107 Carrot, so to speak</p> <p>110 Penn pals?</p> <p>111 Locale for llamas</p> <p>112 Alum</p> <p>113 Library offering</p> <p>114 Relayed</p> <p>115 Long-standing rivalry</p> <p>116 52-Across honoree for "Fight for You"</p> <p>117 Fangorn Forest beings</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Note dispenser</p> <p>2 Low in the field</p> <p>3 Bit of self-promotion?</p> <p>4 Federer rival</p> <p>5 "Talk of the town"</p> <p>6 "Nice job!" reply</p> <p>7 Lakshmi who wrote the children's book "Tomatoes for Neela"</p> <p>8 Enters one by one</p> <p>9 Chaps</p> <p>10 Zone</p> <p>11 Brooks of country music</p> <p>12 Colorful garment that might feature a peace sign</p> <p>13 Shakespeare character in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's "Love Story"</p> <p>14 Chatting online, for short</p> <p>15 Bright aquarium fish</p> <p>17 Wax finish?</p> <p>18 "Any ___?"; "Who's in?"</p>	<p>19 Brolly carriers</p> <p>21 "Say Yes to the Dress" figures</p> <p>25 Stockpile</p> <p>26 Sound defeat</p> <p>27 Mixology tool</p> <p>30 Desire</p> <p>32 Pal of Big Bird and Julia</p> <p>34 Decathlon equipment</p> <p>37 Fizzy drink</p> <p>38 Ages and ages</p> <p>39 Avocado dish, for short</p> <p>40 "Wish me luck!"</p> <p>42 Casual top</p> <p>43 Brainchild</p> <p>44 Geeky type</p> <p>48 Batman's boy friend</p> <p>50 Modern location of Nineveh</p> <p>51 Evil doppelgänger in the Mario games</p> <p>52 Some apex predators</p> <p>53 Reindeer pal of Olaf the snowman</p> <p>56 Suit well</p> <p>58 Pocket</p> <p>59 Skeptical expression</p> <p>60 "Didn't mean to open that can of worms"</p> <p>63 Mideast title</p> <p>64 Prefix between micro and pico</p> <p>65 "Easy ___ it"</p> <p>66 ___ Sea; former endorheic lake</p> <p>67 Rice pancakes served with sambar and chutney</p> <p>68 Bed size</p> <p>70 L'Occitane product</p>	<p>71 Appoint, as a rabbi</p> <p>72 Undemanding class</p> <p>76 Leslie ___ Jr. of "Glass Onion"</p> <p>77 Roof goo</p> <p>80 Pho garnish</p> <p>81 "Imagine" singer</p> <p>83 View as</p> <p>84 Heavy favorite</p> <p>85 Passes, as legislation</p> <p>86 Longtime luxury sedan</p> <p>87 Partner of hollered</p> <p>89 Irritable</p> <p>93 Share, as an appetizer</p> <p>94 Parte de un platillo "ranchero"</p> <p>95 Online business</p> <p>96 Coffee choice</p> <p>98 Whinny</p> <p>100 Proof of ownership</p> <p>102 Thick tresses</p> <p>103 Lahore language</p> <p>104 Memo opener</p> <p>108 Chocolate factory tub</p> <p>109 Nine Inch Nails quartet?</p>
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12/10/23

Kianna Oda finds continued success in her final tennis season at GU

By EMILY FROMAN

Kianna Oda's final season with women's tennis is driven by a combination of her hard work and passion for the game.

Oda is a senior on the GU women's tennis team. She came to GU as a five-star recruit from Waiakea High School in Hilo, Hawai'i.

This year, Oda is one of the most experienced players on the team, along with fellow senior Tiegan Aitken.

"I'm kind of in a different role, I feel more of a leadership role," Oda said.

Oda began playing tennis when she was around seven years old. In high school, she was awarded a sportsmanship award, one of only two recipients in Hawai'i that year.

"I think sportsmanship is really big in any sport," Oda said. "How you represent yourself and how you represent those around you and those who support you is really important."

One of the best parts of tennis is its flexibility in terms of being both a team and individual sport, Oda said.

"I really love to be around people and be part of a team," Oda said. "I really like the fact that it's individualized, so I get to work through things within my match."

The unpredictability of tennis opponents is another aspect of the sport that Oda enjoys.

"There's always a different obstacle I kind of have to overcome, because no player plays the same," Oda said.

Oda said she has been successful throughout her four years at GU.

During her sophomore season, she achieved the second-highest winning percentage that season for singles competition at GU.

Last season, Oda achieved the fourth-most wins for a No. 3 singles player in program history. During the same year, she also achieved a 4-0 record for the season during doubles competition.

According to Caitlyn Williams, assistant coach for the GU women's tennis team, Oda shares her experience with younger players through her natural leadership tendencies.

"She's a natural leader," Williams said. "She's a very vocal person, and obviously that's amazing for college tennis."

Throughout this fall season, Oda said she has focused on the mental side of the game. This has involved a focus on breathing and being able to reset after



JANNA PRICE IG: @jannapricephotography

Oda achieved the fourth-most wins for a No. 3 singles player in program history last season, also going 4-0 in doubles play.

“

[Kianna is] a natural leader. She's a very vocal person, and obviously that's amazing for college tennis.

Caitlyn Williams, women's tennis assistant coach

points while competing, according to Oda.

According to Williams, Oda consistently puts in the effort to listen and learn.

"She's always in here, in the weight room, working extra," Williams said. "On the court, she's always listening, trying to gain knowledge and then transition that into when she plays. We call it being a student of the game."

Oda finds the tennis coaching staff and larger Zag community to be special aspects of GU.

"Our coaches are amazing," Oda said. "Gonzaga's just really special. The community's the biggest part. It just feels like home, even though my parents can't come and watch me all the time."

Oda finds time to maintain academic success along with her athletic success, Williams said.

"She's been top of the list — President's List, Dean's List," Williams said.

Oda is studying kinesiology and plans on attending nursing school after GU, she said.

"I really have a passion for helping people, and I think I really like the medical field," Oda said.

When she's not on the tennis court, Oda enjoys being an active member around the community. She takes part in Habitat for Humanity and other community service efforts, along with her teammates.

One of these efforts involved civic engagement in the local community.

"We did like a civic engagement day and we read and taught kindergartners and first graders what it means to vote and why it's important," Oda said.

The team wrapped up their fall season with the last of four tournaments on the weekend of Nov. 3 at the Michigan State Hidden Dual tournament.

According to Oda, this tournament was her best this fall.

"She's a very fiery tennis player and it's really cool to watch in matches," Williams said.

Though the fall season for women's tennis has concluded, the spring season begins in January.

"I'm really excited to play with this new team," Oda said. "I think we're all ready to compete and I think we're gonna have a lot of fun."

Emily Froman is a staff writer.

Gonzaga women's soccer secures historic first-round victory over Idaho

By CAM MCCANN

The Gonzaga University women's soccer team had a historic day, advancing to the second round of the NCAA Tournament following a 1-0 victory over Idaho.

The eighth-seeded Zags (14-3-2) achieved their first postseason victory, while also showcasing the program's first tournament goal in front of a record crowd of 1,874 fans at Luger Field on Saturday.

"I was happy with our performance all the way through every position, we did a good job tonight, on a night we needed to and we did it," said GU head coach Chris Watkins.

The only goal of the match came from Marissa Garcia's free kick in the 16th minute on a foul drawn by Chelsea Le. The shot found enough room in the top of the net to get past the keeper's fingers for Garcia's eighth goal of the season.

"I feel confident in myself and I was working on it," Garcia said. "Once I hit it I was like, 'Wow, this is an amazing feeling.'"

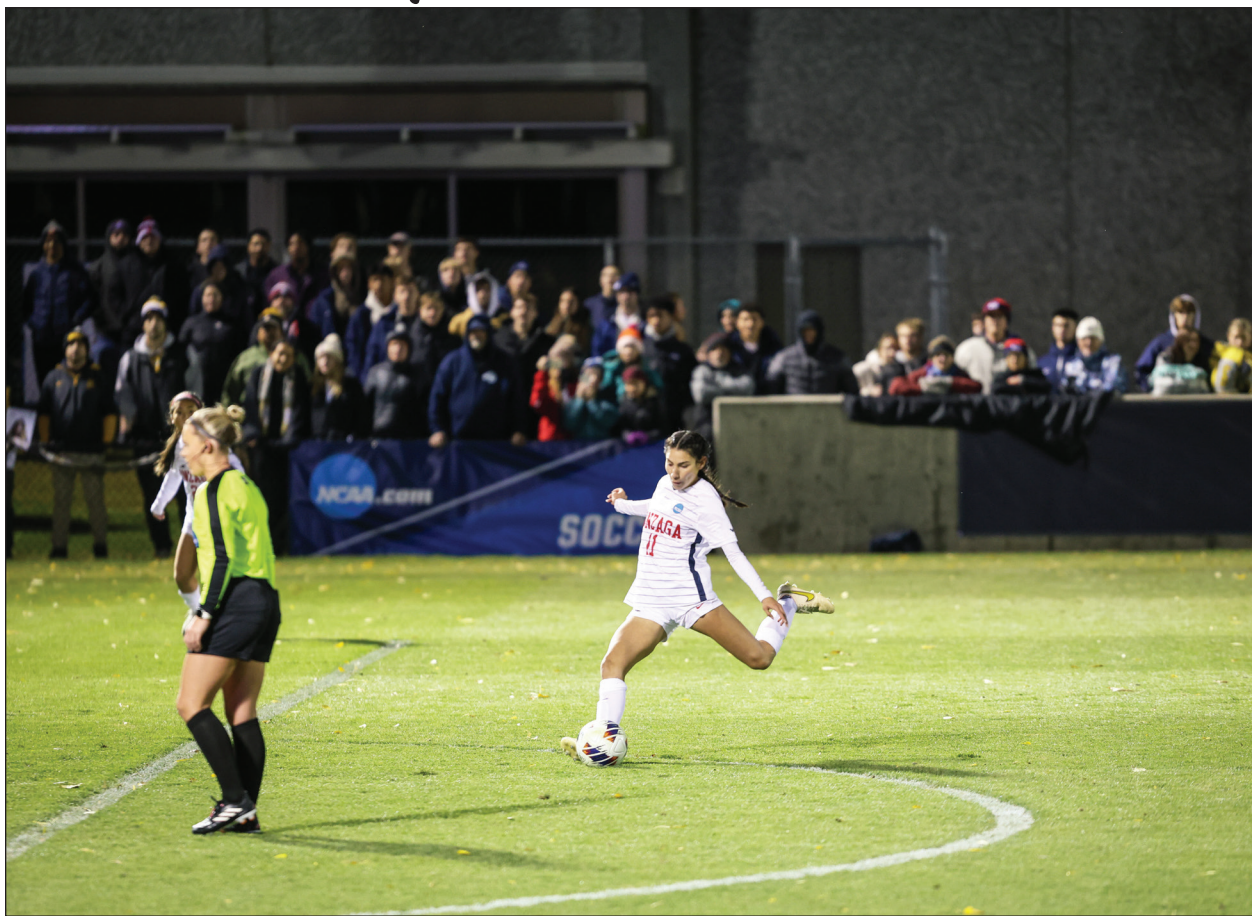
The game was a defensive one, as GU mostly kept Idaho off its side of the field. The Vandals (12-5-2) only had one shot attempt through the first 60 minutes. The Bulldogs struggled to get good looks as well, registering just five shots in the first half of the game.

GU's ability to possess the ball for long amounts of time helped to nullify Idaho's offensive attack. The Zags excelled at finding open teammates and moving the ball around.

"I think [keeping possession] is something that we've gotten a lot better at," said junior centerback Grace Courter. "We've had practices this past week just wanting the ball, keeping the ball, just being possessive players, and I think over the games, we've gotten collectively better at that."

Another place GU found an advantage was in its depth, fielding 16 total players in the first half alone. Katelyn Rigg, a former walk-on, played a crucial 37 minutes for the team, even recording a close shot on goal.

"We have a great team," Watkins said. "Years ago, we struggled with keeping possession and we had a hard time with replacing our starters with great players. Now we have that luxury of having people come off the bench."



MAX VOLLE IG: @vollphotography

Junior forward Marissa Garcia scored the game's only goal from a free kick to lift GU over Idaho

The game in the second half found Idaho slowly gaining momentum by holding off numerous attacks from GU. The Vandals' goalkeeper, Kira Witte, finished the day with five saves.

As the game wrapped up, the game was firmly controlled by the Zags until the clock hit zero, and the roar of the crowd after the historic win was beyond

enthusiastic.

GU will face off against UC Irvine in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Friday. Irvine knocked off top-seeded UCLA 1-0 to advance to the second round.

"We're just starting this climb," Watkins said.

Cam McCann is a staff writer.

Men's basketball remains at No. 11 in AP Top 25 poll

By HENRY KRUEGER

The Gonzaga University men's basketball team stayed put at No. 11 in Monday's Associated Press Top 25 poll despite notching a 15-point victory in its season opener last week.

The Zags (2-0), who defeated Yale (2-1) 86-71 on Friday, dropped five points from the preseason poll to 825. The team is positioned behind No. 10 Florida Atlantic and ahead of No. 12 Miami.

GU notched an emphatic win over the Ivy League favorites just days after losing

expected starter Steele Venters for the season with a torn ACL. Freshman Dusty Stromer started in place of Venters and scored eight points in his college debut.

Redshirt freshman forward Braden Huff led GU in scoring with 19 points, while also tallying nine rebounds in 20 minutes off the bench. Ryan Nembhard added 16 points, seven assists, four rebounds and one steal in 40 minutes.

Nembhard and Huff were among six players who debuted for the Zags against Yale. The newcomers combined for 54

points. GU will travel to Hawai'i for the Maui Invitational. The Zags will play No. 2 Purdue in the first round of the tournament next Monday.

Sitting atop Monday's poll was Kansas, which is also set to compete in the Maui Invitational. Other nationally-ranked programs headed to Hawai'i include No. 4 Marquette and No. 7 Tennessee.

Here's the full AP Top 25 for week 1 of the 2023-24 season:

1. Kansas (2-0) 51; 2. Purdue (2-0) 7; 3. Arizona (2-0) 3; 4. Marquette (2-0); 5. UCONN (2-0) 1; 6. Houston (2-0); 7.

Tennessee (2-0); 8. Creighton (2-0); 9. Duke (1-1); 10. Florida Atlantic (1-0);

11. **Gonzaga (2-0)**; 12. Miami (FL) (1-0); 13. Texas A&M (2-0); 14. Arkansas (2-0); 15. Baylor (3-0); 16. USC (2-0); 17. Kentucky (2-0); 18. Michigan State (1-1); 19. Texas (2-0); 20. North Carolina (2-0); 21. Villanova (2-0); 22. Alabama (2-0); 23. Illinois (2-0); 24. James Madison (3-0); 25. Colorado (2-0).

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



Courtesy of Paul Merca

The GU men's cross country team earned an automatic bid to the NCAA Championships.

Men's XC places second, women take fifth at Regionals

By CLARINNE KIRK

The Gonzaga University men's cross country team took second at the NCAA West Regional Championships Friday in Sacramento, California, earning a spot at the NCAA Championships for the fourth consecutive year. The GU women's squad placed fifth.

Fresh off its first West Coast Conference title, the men's team registered 98 points and finished behind Stanford, who won its third straight regional title.

The Zags were led by redshirt junior Wil Smith's sixth-place time of 29:14.1. Redshirt junior Drew Kolodge and redshirt sophomore Bryce Cerkowniak took 12th and 15th, finishing in 29:25.7 and 29:34.0 respectively. Smith, Kolodge and Cerkowniak earned All-West honors for their efforts.

Smith has been GU's top finisher in all of his races in 2023. The Spokane local has stepped up as a leader after the program graduated several key seniors from last season.

"This year, I've felt like I've had a lot more responsibility, as we've had a lot of older guys leave this past year or graduate," Smith said. "I've had the experience to step into that [role] with confidence, and that's been super fulfilling to take the younger

guys under my wing and mentor them a bit more."

Smith said that Friday's outcome highlights the driven character of the relatively young team.

"This team is young and a lot less experienced than our past couple of years," Smith said. "It is a testament to the culture and competitiveness of the guys racing that we were able to fight for another auto qualifier after a challenging start to the season."

To men's head cross country coach Pat Tyson, the meet was a "fairytale story." Tyson said he was proud that despite the team's youth, the runners were able to work cohesively and defy expectations.

"The team just plain ran with so much heart," Tyson said. "Wonderful team running. Incredibly proud that they shocked the college setting today."

In their second-place finish, the Zags knocked off three nationally-ranked teams, including No. 4 California Baptist, No. 22 Washington and No. 26 Oregon. Prior to the regional meet, GU was unranked and only received five votes in the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association National Coaches' Poll.

Improving from last year's 7th-place finish by two spots, the GU women's team edged out nationally-ranked Portland and

Oregon State. With a score of 173, the Zags finished with the second-best score at the NCAA West Regionals in the program's history.

The women's team was led by sophomore Rosina Machu, who placed fourth with a time of 19:15.7, breaking the program 6K record for the third time this season.

Machu earned her second consecutive All-West honor while also receiving an individual bid to the NCAA Cross Country Championships. Her performance adds to an already accomplished season, including a first-place finish at the WCC Championships.

While Machu's spot at the NCAA National Championships is secured, the women's team failed to earn an at-large bid to the competition.

Behind Machu for the Zags was senior Sadie Tuckwood, who placed 18th with a time of 20:01.2. Freshman Jessica Frydenlund was third on the team after finishing 36th with a time of 20:28.6.

Going into the regional meet, women's head coach Jake Stewart acknowledged that the West is a highly competitive region, with five nationally-ranked teams.

"There's six teams getting some type of national notoriety, and that's as deep of a region as you're going to get in the United

GU SPORTS

Thursday, Nov. 16
 ➔ Volleyball vs. Portland, 6 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 17
 ➔ Women's soccer vs. UC Irvine in second round of NCAA Tournament, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 18
 ➔ Cross country at NCAA Championships, Charlottesville, Virginia, 7:20 a.m. (women), 8:10 a.m. (men)
 ➔ Volleyball at San Diego, San Diego, California, noon
 ➔ Women's basketball vs. Wyoming, 2 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 20
 ➔ Men's basketball vs. No. 2 Purdue at Maui Invitational, Honolulu, Hawai'i, 2 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 21
 ➔ Men's basketball vs. No. 7 Tennessee or Syracuse at Maui Invitational, Honolulu, Hawai'i, TBD

Wednesday, Nov. 22
 ➔ Men's basketball vs. TBD at Maui Invitational, Honolulu, Hawai'i, TBD

Home games in bold

States," Stewart said. "For us, we have to go into it and not get caught up in comparing ourselves within the race to other teams and just go run ... We have to understand that being in the top 30 or 60 is a really good run individually."

The NCAA Cross Country Championships will take place in Charlottesville, Virginia, on Saturday. The men's team starts the 10K race at 8:10 a.m. PST.

Clarinne Kirk is a copy editor.

CAUGHT

★ READING ★

Josue R. was caught reading *The Gonzaga Bulletin* last week and won a \$25 gift card and goodie bag to Huckleberry's. Read *The Bulletin* today and you could get caught too!

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