

# The Gonzaga Bulletin

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Fr. Robert J. Spitzer was invited to campus by philosophy professor David Calhoun.

DYLAN SMITH IG: d.smithphotos

## Fr. Robert J. Spitzer welcomed back to GU

Former university president speaks on the problem of evil, God and the purpose of suffering in the world

By WILLOW COLLINS

Gonzaga University's Faith and Reason Institute welcomed back Fr. Robert J. Spitzer, S.J. and a former president of GU, to Cataldo Hall to answer the questions around the problem of evil.

The event was organized and directed by David Calhoun, a former colleague and friend of Spitzer. Calhoun, who teaches in the philosophy department, provided a brief introduction of Spitzer for the audience before the talk began.

"My welcome for Father Spitzer

is in a sense a welcome home," Calhoun said at the event.

Calhoun highlighted Spitzer's notable academic and philanthropic accomplishments to both GU and to the greater community. Spitzer helped found GU's Faith and Reason Institute. He graduated from GU in 1974 before earning a master's degree from Saint Louis University in 1978.

"Beyond his achievements and accomplishments, he is an engaging communicator of the great truths of Christianity, with a focus on an integration of faith and reason,"

Calhoun said.

Spitzer covered the topic of how a supposedly all-loving God can allow evil and suffering to inhabit the world. He used both personal anecdotes of dealing with blindness and the suffering incurred by the entire world in the wake of the pandemic to appeal to the audience.

"God actually created the possibility of suffering and evil in order to make us free so that our love could be our own," Spitzer said. "He did not create the actuality of

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## What's the buzz for GU students?

Report shows 617 substance use-related referrals were filed in 2021

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL and MARY CLAIRE PHELPS

From crowded parties to obscure fraternity initiations to small kickbacks, most Gonzaga University students have experienced some form of alcohol or drug use throughout their college experience, showcasing a growing trend of substance use throughout colleges across the country.

In a biennial report released by the university last month, 617 disciplinary referrals for policy violations related to inappropriate drug and alcohol use were filed during 2021, an increase from the 470 referrals in 2020. There were 829 referrals in 2019 and 583 referrals in 2018.

Phillip Tyler, crime prevention and education officer, said there were 77 reported alcohol violations and 29 reported drug violations in 2022. He said Catherine Monica Hall was the dorm that rounded up the most drug and alcohol violations, followed by Kennedy Apartments.

"Every contact we have with a student, we treat as an educational opportunity," Tyler said. "We are there to protect the students."

The school's biennial report comes after data reported by the American Addiction Center showed that almost 53% of full-time college students ages 18-22 drank alcohol in the past month, a growing problem according to Tyler, who believes his role as a safety officer is to keep students safe.

Tyler and Evan Padilla, a resident assistant in Kennedy Apartments, said any form of substance abuse can be dangerous for students. Students struggling with substance abuse could experience aggression, depression, lethargy, decreased personal hygiene and many more physical and behavioral problems.

"A big problem I think this could be affecting is student mental health," Padilla said. "We make it known to our residents that they can reach out to us."

For some undergraduate students, the dangers of substance use have been limited and that alcohol and drug usage has been a tool for socializing and meeting new people.

"I think a lot of drugs, especially smoking and drinking, have a lot of appeal," said an anonymous first-year student. "I feel there's an aspect of it where it's almost normalized in our culture, where it already is a social activity."

The sentiment was echoed by another anonymous first-year student, who said substance use was an easy way of meeting new people and building a friend group. Both undergraduates said most of their friends used substances and that they knew very few students who did not drink alcohol or smoke marijuana.

"It's not like they drink all the time, especially on the weekends," the second first-year student said. "It would be easier if you were to ask me, 'can you think of anyone who would not drink' and I can only think of one."

According to the report, GU has attempted a variety of initiatives, including educational, rehabilitative and deterrence measures, to challenge unhealthy drinking and drug use habits on campus, in addition to working with campus partners to offer support to students.

The Gonzaga Student Body Association has attempted

SEE DRUGS PAGE 2

## Zags prepare for upcoming baseball season

By HENRY KRUEGER

Baseball weather should be warm, but it's Spokane in February.

Dealing with the cold is a challenge the Gonzaga University baseball team faces at the start of every season, and this year is no different.

"Sometimes it's hard to be in Spokane or in the Northwest and start to think about the baseball season, but this is the environment that we know," said associate head coach Brandon Harmon. "We've been doing everything on our end to get ourselves prepped and ready to rock."

As usual, GU will escape its home climate to begin the season, opening up with a four-game series at Texas Tech that lasts from Friday to Monday.

With the Red Raiders ranked No. 24 in the nation, it will be a high-profile matchup for the Zags, who had a 37-19 record in 2022 and peaked at a program-best No. 10 in the country under head coach Mark Machtolf.

GU's season-opening road trip will also feature a stop in Phoenix to play Ohio State and Grand Canyon twice each (Feb. 24-26), before a three-game series against second-ranked Tennessee in Knoxville (March 3-5).

Third baseman and pitcher Cade McGee enjoys starting the season on the road, seeing it as a way for the Zags to channel all their focus into just playing baseball.

"I think it gives us a lot of preparation to play at home because there's a lot more distractions when you're at home because you have your friends who are on campus and a lot of other campus activities whereas on the road it's strictly business," McGee said.

McGee returns as a premier hitter in GU's lineup, coming off a season in which he was named West Coast Conference Freshman of the Year after leading the Zags with 10 home runs. He also had a .298 batting average and slugged .514 in 208 at-bats.

The Tucson, Arizona, native hopes to post even better

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 8

## Spearman brings background in Africana philosophy to classroom

By SYDNEY FLUKER

It was a book on myths from Japan found in a Boys and Girls Club in Seattle that first nudged Darian Spearman down the path he continues to follow. That book sparked his spiritual life and his interest in myth, which he continues to explore through the philosophy he studies and teaches.

Spearman's academic focus centers on Africana philosophy, which looks at the significance of Black life and the formation of a Black collective identity. His central interest branched out into other directions, leading him to study the philosophical significance of slave narratives and slavery for his dissertation.

Myth is another big point of focus for Spearman and the subject of his current research — myth not being false, but the way humans create meaningful, shared worlds. Spearman said he believes that humans need myths and cannot live without them.

"For me, part of what a lot of myths are referring to is possibilities of animal-human intersubjectivity," Spearman said. "Different communities and different peoples do that with animals and plants and trees and things like that, but our society has gone the farthest away in excluding that, not allowing people to connect or commune with other living beings."

His research looks at the relation between humans and animals in myths while finding a way to bring



JANNA PRICE IG: jannapricephotography

Spearman values the ways humans and nature connect.

that relationship into present day. Spearman said that we are reaching a point in time where the world needs new narratives, practices and vision for how we exist together as a society.

For Spearman, connection with nature is an integral part of life — one that extends beyond the pages of myths.

"It's really being able to see lots of things, to see how aware a tree really

is ... to experience the possibilities of joy and harmony that are already present there that are not necessarily ideas or concepts, but something that if you have the right frame or time, anyone can see it and maybe anything can see it," Spearman said.

His first major experience like that happened when he was a senior

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Former men's basketball guard flourishes on club team, inspiring teammates.

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# Jesuit Volunteer Corps shapes GU grads

By TOMMY CONNOLLY

Not having a postgraduate job lined up can be scary, but moving to a new city for a job you have little to no experience with while living with new people may be even more frightening. This is the setting and situation for members of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

The Jesuit Volunteer Corps is a one-year service commitment where volunteers provide value-centered service for people in underserved and underprivileged communities. The community outreach program regularly places thousands of volunteers around the country to help serve and promote justice.

Every year, Gonzaga University sends multiple students to postgraduate years of service, and the volunteer corps has been a popular route for many GU graduates. In 2021, GU had 16 graduating seniors choose a year of service through the Volunteer Corps, continuing a strong lineage of GU students committing themselves to service after their time on campus.

One of the 2021 graduates who joined the Volunteer Corps after graduation was Paulina Thurmann. Thurmann had the opportunity to live in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and worked at Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School as a campus minister and religion teacher.

“I was hired with zero teaching experience, and it was daunting at first, but it was a really good chance to learn,” Thurmann said. “I grew a lot, and I learned a lot about the realities outside my own.”

Cristo Rey is a part of a chain of schools across the country that help target and facilitate education for underprivileged students in low-income areas.

The schools make it accessible to



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Jesuit Volunteer Corps is a one-year commitment that serves underprivileged communities.

students that may not have access to the resources that are needed to go to college or land a job after high school. According to Thurmann, students pay no more than \$1,000 a school year for \$20,000 of services in return.

As is custom for the outreach program, volunteers are placed into housing locations with multiple other volunteers for the length of their stay.

“We just got thrown into a house with strangers we had never met before, and had to make do,” Thurmann said. “Which I loved, it was awesome, and I would do it again, but it is definitely not for everyone.”

Like Thurmann, former GU graduate

Meredith McKay had the opportunity to work at Cristo Rey School. McKay lived in Camden, New Jersey during her year of service, which is just across the Delaware River in New Jersey.

Camden is historically one of the most crime-ridden cities in the United States and is regularly listed among the most unsafe places to live in the country. McKay volunteered in Camden in 2015-16.

“It was a really cool opportunity for me to put myself in a new place, and try out something different,” McKay said. “I was able to dive into my spirituality and passion for social justice and think about what role I might play in justice.”

McKay worked in a different job capacity than Thurmann at Cristo Rey and served as a transportation coordinator for the school, where she would transport students to and from job locations and activities.

For students thinking about a year of service following college, the volunteer corp is an opportunity for growth and a new experience.

“It was a year to pause and slow down for me and really evaluate what I wanted to do,” McKay said.

Thurmann and McKay also said the yearlong commitment is not for everyone, and volunteers should know what their intentions are before going into the program.

“It is important to not go into JVC being self-focused,” Thurmann said. “For anyone who is thinking about joining, the stories and people you hear and meet are real, and we are a small part of what will happen before and after we leave, and it is important to remember this after you have left.”

The Volunteer Corps gave Thurmann and McKay the chance to explore their interests with new job or occupations. For both of them, the experience proved to be rewarding and beneficial for their career paths.

Thurmann, after teaching religion at Cristo Rey School, is now a teacher in Seattle. McKay works in the Office of Mission and Ministry on campus at GU.

“The JVC has allowed me to meet so many people through the volunteer network, and it was a privilege to be part of the JVC,” McKay said.

Tommy Connolly is a staff writer.

## DRUGS

Continued from Page 1

to limit substance use on campus by hosting community alternatives to the party gatherings, including Spikenites.

According to the undergraduate students, the events were a helpful substitute to the use of alcohol or drugs to build a social community, which all student sources considered to be an important need for their university experience.

“People have threatened to tell because [they’re] kind of in a bad place, and they’re drinking more for emotional reasons than social reasons,” said the second first-year student. “[Because of] that, people will be referred to a campus resource.”

Tyler and Padilla also said campus security officers and resident assistants are to ensure that students are safe. Tyler said officers carry a StudentLinc resource card and their business card with resources listed on the back, in addition to resident assistants being trained on campus resources.

The resources consist of educational training around alcohol and drug usage, including one program that’s woven into the orientation training materials required by all first-year students, along with campus health and safety resources, such as Our House, a support group for students struggling with substance abuse.

However, the two first-year students, in addition to two sophomore students, said the ability for resident assistants and campus security officers to effectively assist students struggling with alcohol and drug use is stunted by the fear of being punished by the university.

All the anonymous underclassmen also said that the community resources for substance use have not been utilized themselves or other people that they know, although they said the resources are a potentially valuable safety option for students struggling with addiction.

“I think that’s a part of learning how to be independent, in learning your limits and learning how to function,” the second first-year student said. “College is the time to drink and to party and understand how to do it in a healthy and safe way where the people that are watching are RAs.”

GU has also set deterrent measures issued to students who received disciplinary referrals related to alcohol and

drug use. Penalties through the resolution center include varying fine amounts, essays and conduct meetings.

Two anonymous sophomore students, both who have been referred for inappropriate, underage substance use, said they had to pay a fine to the school in addition to taking safety classes. They said the penalties had little effect on their substance use habits and that they continued to drink and use other drugs.

“I am now more careful about who knows that I have substances,” one of the sophomores said. “This level of secrecy, while protecting me from potential punishment, prevents me from potentially seeking help if I need it.”

Ultimately, while GU substance use on campus remains, Tyler said students need to make sure that they are safe and responsible, in addition to knowing that there are people on campus who are looking out for their safety.

“We have to live and believe the mantra ‘Zags help Zags,’” Tyler said.

Mary Claire Phelps is a staff writer.  
Noah Apprill-Sokol is a news editor. Follow him on Twitter: @noah\_sokol03.

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## Don't pass up Summer Session

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# SPITZER

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“

God actually created the possibility of suffering and evil in order to make us free, so that our love could be our own.

Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J.

suffering, only the possibility.”

The suffering people endure, he argued, is a result of human agency. Following this, he claimed that vulnerability and suffering open people’s hearts to greater acceptance of God’s will.

“As I grow weaker, Christ grows stronger in me,” Spitzer said. “As Christ grows stronger in me, it will enable me to help others get on the path of salvation and be relieved from this darkness.”

He talked about the value of imperfection in the world to highlight human agency and the ability to choose love. The sheer existence of “unloving things” gives people the opportunity to choose love and a life of virtue, according to Spitzer.

“Love does bring about meaning in life,” Spitzer said.

Spitzer concluded his talk by giving the audience eight different prayers that can be said during times of great suffering. Using these prayers, he explained how people can become conduits of love and provide a greater path of salvation for others.

Spitzer’s talk was attended by GU students, faculty and local community members, filling the Globe Room at Cataldo. The audience was given 15 minutes after Spitzer finished to ask questions and gain a greater understanding of his message.

Despite all the talk of love and virtue, Spitzer warned the audience about evil spirits in the world that contribute to the horrible things that people see on the news daily. However, he offered a glimpse of hope for the audience.

“Believe that Jesus is there,” Spitzer said. “Believe that the Holy Spirit is opening doors even when the other door slams.”

Willow Collins is a contributor.

# SPEARMAN

Continued from Page 1

in high school in Chicago, an experience that drove him to study religious studies in college to explore more. He does not ascribe himself to a particular religion, but said he finds and incorporates from all things that speaks to him.

In a way, his mysticism drove him toward philosophy. Spearman said that he experiences God and revelation in strong ways within nature and wanted to find a way to talk about and express that.

Spearman received his bachelor’s degree in religious studies from Carleton College in 2011 before pursuing his master’s degree in philosophy from Southern Illinois University in 2014.

His mentor at Southern Illinois University was a Jesuit priest named Fr. Joseph Brown, who still serves as a mentor to Spearman a decade later. Though they rarely discussed many Jesuit topics, Spearman said he understands the Jesuit identity more since coming to Gonzaga University.

Brown helped Spearman gain interest in Africana philosophy and served as a big connector for Spearman to Africa and Blackness. Spearman said he had been interested in those topics beforehand but hadn’t found as deep of a connection to it until working with Fr. Brown.

He received his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Connecticut last April, where he completed his thesis on the philosophical importance of slave narratives and storytelling.

“Once I came to Gonzaga, I was thinking ‘oh, I get it — it totally makes sense,’” Spearman said. “I’m very well prepared to be here because these are things that I already believe and I think were just truths of trying to live a life of divine love, and to be open to grace.”

Still in his first year as professor at GU, Spearman is teaching Philosophy 101 and 201. He said he enjoys that students have to take philosophy classes because he gets to share the importance of philosophy and why he chose to be a philosopher.

“I love that Gonzaga is a spiritual institution,” Spearman said. “It is encouragement to cultivate yourself to be contemplative, to form yourself as a human being, all those themes and values that I care a lot about and respect and would want to center my teaching on but that I felt I would have to resist what was going on at other universities more.”

While at GU, Spearman plans to internalize what he can from the Jesuit tradition and engage students in meaningful conversations that introduce and build new perspectives.



JANA PRICE IG: jannapricephotography

Spearman hopes to expand the aesthetics philosophy opportunities at GU.

To reach that goal, Spearman said he plans to build a type of aesthetic program by bringing more options for decolonial and Africana thoughts into classes. He eventually wants to establish a sort of smaller organization of students and professors who want to dive deeper into such philosophies.

He also hopes to invite artists and other voices onto campus to run programming and interact with students as part of the aesthetics program.

“Really, I’m using [GU] as a place to be able to just be at ease in contemplation and to see what comes from that and to welcome other students into that and see what they share with me,” Spearman said.

Philosophy professor and department co-chair Erik Schmidt, who also focuses on the intersection of philosophy and art, said he is excited about Spearman’s aesthetics program idea.

“Darian is bringing in a fresh perspective that challenges not only the boundary between art and philosophy, but also challenges our conception of philosophy and what counts as philosophy,” Schmidt said.

Schmidt said that Spearman is a disciplinary complement to him, as Spearman approaches art from a phenomenology perspective while

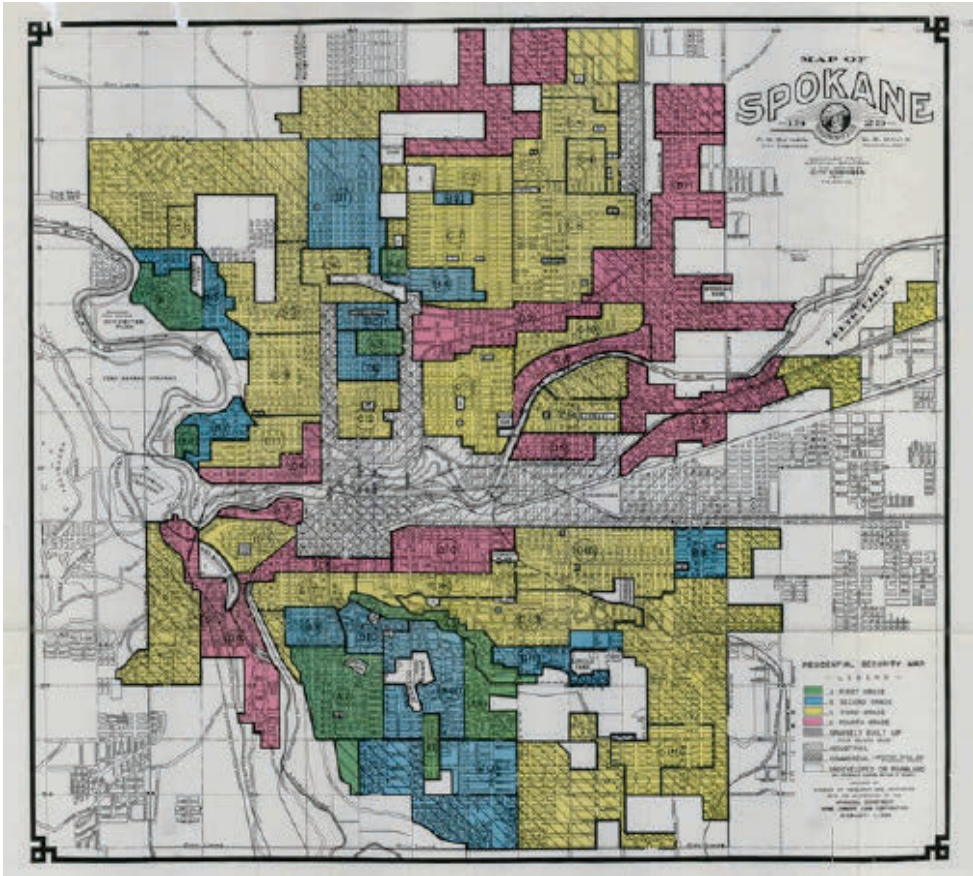
Schmidt approaches art from an analytic perspective. He said he is thrilled to have someone else in the department who sees art as vital, important and central to what the department strives to do.

“One of the things I appreciate about Darian’s approach is the seriousness and legitimacy that he gives to myth, to cultural embodiments of thought and expression and an engagement with the human spirit and with human dignity that go well beyond the European traditions that we’ve used to in many of our courses, but not all of our courses, at Gonzaga,” Schmidt said. “That’s what I really have appreciated. His focus on myths is a helpful counterpart to broaden the way that we engage in questions of human dignity, human thought.”

Outside of teaching, Spearman loves to be in nature and hike the surrounding area, especially at Mount Spokane and People’s Park, as well as gaming and watching anime. He also likes to cook, and especially loves experimenting with different curries.

Sydney Fluker is managing editor. Follow them on Twitter: @sydneymfluker.

# A RECKONING WITH HISTORY: THE MAPPING PREJUDICE PROJECT



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Dr. Delegard is a historian at the University of Minnesota. Her presentation will be followed by a panel discussion on racially restrictive housing covenants and policies. Panelists include Dr. Larry Cebula (EWU), Logan Camporeale (Spokane’s City Preservation Office), Jillisa Winkler (The Carl Maxey Center), and Jennyfer Mesa (Latinos en Spokane). Dr. Veta Schlimgen (Gonzaga University) will serve as moderator.

For more information, contact Robert Donnelly, donnelly@gonzaga.edu, 509-313-3691



# 'ChatGPTroublesome': Right now AI isn't a force for good, or your midterm essays

It sounds like it's straight from sci-fi — Artificial Intelligence is now capable of writing essays for your English class and completing your math homework.

I remember first hearing about ChatGPT, an AI software that could answer nearly every question and complete writing tasks.

It was the Thursday of finals week. All my finals had finally been completed. If you're anything like me, you spent weeks in the library studying from dawn to dusk, occasionally for so long that the staff had to kick you out once it closed for the night.

Imagine my surprise when, after spending weeks and hundreds of hours toiling away at long form essay prompts, I discover that there is an AI program that could do it for me.

I was told it is called ChatGPT. Most of my peers had dubbed the software as a great way to get out of tough assignments. I remember learning that the software could write essays, so I typed in one of the prompts from one of my final papers that I had completed days before.

I watched as the AI typed out, with quotes and page numbers, some of the exact research I had spent hours compiling for my final paper.

I am sure that some people see this as a saving grace. Finally, there is no need to spend hours writing essays.

For some, that is not the case. Most professors and teachers have become aware of the software generator, now strictly imposing in-person essays or using AI-detection software. In-person essays take away valuable time of reviewing and refining the details in one's essay, not to mention that it is 10 times more stressful working with a shorter time limit.

However, I think automation has the potential to do good in the world through scientific and mathematic discoveries beyond human understanding. I additionally think that automation can lead to innovation, relieving the burden of



By KAELYN NEW

manual labor for many, but I fear that it will disproportionately impact disadvantaged communities and even lead to anti-intellectualism.

In the past two decades, careers in the arts and humanities have dwindled given the rise of technology. Now, even art and stories can be generated by AI.

According to CNN, Stability AI, an AI art generator, is being sued by Getty Images for stealing photos to use for its art. This is not rare, as most AI art generators steal work from artists to code the technology, ripping off their work for free.

At Gonzaga University, a Jesuit school, we are inclined to become well-rounded individuals, with required classes in the humanities that help us navigate life despite our area of

study. I fear that with AI programs like ChatGPT, we run the risk of discarding what we are learning in our classes out of convenience.

Obviously, it is so much easier to have a generator write an essay for you, but the humanity classes that require essays are often teaching on social justice and ethical questions that matter outside of the standard college classroom. I have found my own morals questioned and challenged through much of the coursework in my classes.

It is simultaneously important that we ask ourselves: Which jobs will become automated with the rise of AI? It is more likely that AI will replace blue-collar, "unskilled" labor before the large business CEOs, which would disproportionately impact marginalized communities and people who are poor.

That said, AI has the potential do good, as aforementioned, but since it is a multimillion-dollar industry, I doubt that we will see any form of collectivized or socialized AI intended to help the general population in the workforce.

Much like Big Pharmacy, I foresee AI becoming a tool for the elite to cut labor costs in their businesses. After all, you don't have to pay a robot wages.

ChatGPT is already cutting labor costs by outsourcing workers in Kenya for less than \$2 an hour to make the program "less toxic," according to a TIME article from January.

Ultimately, AI is capable of good in the right hands (the hands of the people), but under capitalism, it will only be used to further push marginalized and low-income workers out of the workforce.

So, please write your own essays. Don't let a robot think for you.

Kaelyn New is a news editor. Follow her on Twitter: @kaelyn\_new.

# 'Who let the guns out?': More dogged pursuit of gun control severely lacking in America

Only in America is it commonplace for a 6-year-old child and a literal dog to have access to guns and shoot people. Something has to change.

Yes, you read correctly. In the state of Kansas on Jan. 25, a dog stepped on a rifle in the back of a truck and killed passenger Joseph Austin Smith. Smith was on a hunting trip with his friend when on the way back the weapon fired. Medical services and police were called to assist with CPR; however, Smith died on-site from injuries.

I have to ask, why was the gun not properly stored? Why was the safety lock not secured? Why is this the type of person able to purchase a gun in the United States?

Kansas has some of the weakest gun control laws in the nation. There is no law requiring background checks from unlicensed firearm sales and the state permits concealed carry without a permit. According to Every Town for Gun Safety, 401 people died from gun violence in 2021.

The recent conversation in Kansas concerning gun control pertains to ghost guns, which are firearms that are untraceable and lacking serial numbers. A ghost gun was used in the Olathe East High School shooting in the greater Kansas City area, when 18-year-old Jaylon Desean Elmore



By BROOKE BOWEN

shot his school resource officer and assistant principal with a ghost gun.

In a more pro-gun state, it does not appear that Kansas will produce any further action to hold perpetrators of gun violence accountable.

Gun control laws cannot be the only solution to gun violence in the United States, but it has to be the first step in ensuring safety in schools and other public spaces.

The second step is taking reports of potential threats seriously.

At an elementary school in Virginia, a 6-year-old was able to obtain access to a gun and shoot his teacher, even after multiple people cited a threat of violence to the school administration.

Abby Zwerner, the teacher who was shot, was failed on every level. After multiple reports, the only action that occurred was a bag check. At this point, the gun was held by the boy and not in his bag.

According to ABC News, the firearm their son accessed was secured, but I have to wonder how the 6-year-old accessed the firearm if it was 'secured'. If a child is able to access a gun, it is nowhere near secure.

Parents are there to guide their child's behaviors. Children's actions are a direct reflection of their parents' ability to teach them from right or wrong. It makes me question what that child is seeing and hearing at home to want to shoot his teacher for whatever reason.

The parents should not only be held accountable for their child's behavior, but looked into for child neglect because the young child was able to access a gun.

According to ABC News, the 6-year-old suffered from an acute disability and was

under a care plan at the school that included his mother or father attending school with him and accompanying him to class every day.

I see this as neglect on the parent's part. If they accompany their son to school every day, they should have noticed a change in their son's behavior.

Students need to feel safe at school, teachers need to feel safe at school, and parents should feel safe sending their children to school.

In the United States, I have a hard time believing that guns will be banned — there are too many and most are not registered.

If a dog and a 6-year-old are able to gain access and shoot the firearm, background checks are either not good enough or are simply nonexistent. It is insane that even after these truly terrible gun-related events, we will still see next to no action toward protecting the people of this country from violence.

Brooke Bowen is a staff writer.

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## The East Coast is weak

For years, an intense battle has roiled the United States. From L.A. to New York, Miami to Portland and Seattle to Boston, one question has stoked anger everywhere it is posed — Which coast is better, the East or the West? Now, decades after this conversation began, I have found an answer to (part of) this question.

In an attempt to compare and contrast both the coasts and their cultures, most people point to foods, sports and language as the primary points of contention. However, one consistent stereotype of East Coasters stands out as seemingly universal: — Gritty New Yorkers and Bostonians are much tougher than sun-bleached Angelenos and hipster Seattleites.

The reality is that this supposedly obvious truth is wrong — people on the West Coast deal more effectively with the disasters that come our way and can persevere through much tougher and more difficult environments.

On the East Coast, the snow and the cold are yearly concerns, but the levels of winter weather they deal with are small when compared to the several feet of snow that places like Spokane deal with every winter.

Even in a relatively warm year, Spokane residents still deal with several inches of snow, and this weather does not stop our daily routines. On the other hand, in New York, warm years mean that the city will remain snow-free throughout the winter; in fact, this year has broken the record for the longest snowless streak in the Big Apple.

When it does snow in New York City, it is much lighter and thinner than what we deal with on the West Coast. In addition to the snow, East Coasters are often more reticent to deal with rainy weather than people in Portland, Seattle or San Francisco.

When I went to college on the East Coast, several people were confused when I only wore a raincoat during stormy days; everyone else had umbrellas and several layers when they traversed the rain. Clearly, if they cannot handle a little bit of rain, people from the East Coast don't really live up to the gritty and tough description that has historically followed them.

In addition to weather, the places we live on the West Coast are much more treacherous in terms of natural hazards. All states on the West Coast are volcanically and seismically active; earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are far harder to predict than the disasters of the East Coast — like hurricanes — and are more damaging to a wider area.

Even with these dangers, we have adapted really effectively to the dangerous tremors we have endured over the years.



By JACKSON HUDGINS

Forest fires are also a yearly concern for every state and every city on the West Coast. Air quality in Seattle and Spokane during fire season is worse than some of the largest industrial centers, and yet we still survive and live through the worst months. New Yorkers complain constantly about the stagnant air during the summer, and many flee to more temperate climates like Massachusetts and Maine during the hot and humid months.

Western states also occupy some of the most hostile places for humanity, from the deserts of California to above the Arctic Circle in Alaska; West Coasters can create oases of warmth or cool like Palm Springs, Anchorage and San Bernadino. We have created our culture from nothing, despite being in dangerous places.

The desert heat, the snow-filled winters and the relentless rain have enabled us to create a strong and unique culture that the east coast can't compete with.

We are strong in our own way, and it is much more meaningful that the supposed toughness of east coasters. Our strength can be proven with a simple observation; more people on the East Coast move to the west than vice versa, and that's as plain as it gets in regards to proof.

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



# GU art students GUUAC: Senior artists round out over a year of creative energy

By KAYLA FRIEDRICH

Eight graduating seniors within the Gonzaga University art department have spent over a year pushing the creative capacities of their minds to put together some of their most innovative and meaningful work for their capstone projects.

Each project holds a different meaning for the artists and viewers and invokes a different set of styles and techniques to create each body of work.

Ashley Castleman, a senior fine arts major, is using the method of screen printing to convey her messages and said that she has been working on her capstone since early last year, but it wasn't until fall semester of her senior year that she began to buckle down.

The ideas she settled on in the fall are the ideas and feelings that she is sorting through in this specific collection of work.

For her final project, Castleman decided to work with a 2D art medium called screen printing — the method of creating intricate stencils and pressing ink through a fine screen onto a surface that places that stenciled image.

“I’m focusing on thoughts and feelings that have been pent-up as I’ve grown here at Gonzaga,” Castleman said. “There’s a lot of stuff that my inner child wished she could’ve just screamed out, but instead I had to filter that and just say ‘no.’ It’s just a lot of pent up emotions that needed to get let out.”

Castleman dug deep for the sake of the final project and herself, making the project something that has been a catharsis for her inner child.

Castleman said the idea isn’t that these frustrations still exist in the same intensity that they once did, but rather an acknowledgment of their presence at some point or another.

Each screen print will be framed separately but displayed together. The contents of each frame reflect a quick snapshot of one particular emotion or thought.

“I like to add words and phrases — just little thought blips,” Castleman said. “Sometimes it can be hard to communicate a feeling with only images. I like to simplify my stuff so that way I’m not doing realism. Sometimes I can lose some of that seriousness that realism brings so I like to put in text and different types of things.”

Even though each screen print will display different images and text, the



HAYATO TSUJII IG: hayatoarchive

Bri Covert (pictured above) and other graduating seniors of Gonzaga University's art department round out over a year's worth of artistry.

intention of Castleman’s color scheme is to round out the cohesiveness of the work.

With red, black and white dominating in different ways over each individual piece, each color’s meaning holds the same value throughout the entire display.

“All of the pieces are going to have black, red and white and I’m putting gold in there too,” Castleman said. “This red string of fate winding and getting tangled goes through each of them, so the red is pretty important. Black is a really grounding color and white is a good contrast and provides clarity between all of that.”

The goal is to evoke feelings of a sort of discomfort in her viewers.

“I hope that when people see the work that I’m putting out, they’ll feel something light up inside,” Castleman said. “It can be painful. It can be whatever. I feel like people grow up and they don’t remember what it was like to be a kid ... I hope that people can reconnect with their inner selves after seeing my stuff.”

Bri Covert, a GU senior with a double major in art and English writing, is hoping her project will be one of the ways she can start growing roots in the Spokane arts community.

During her time as an art major at GU, Covert has explored a number of 2D art mediums, and said she has primarily chosen to work with different printmaking techniques and painting — a certain theme also dominating her artistry over the last year and a half.

“I’m on a journey of exploration, trying to interrogate our cultural and personal understanding of home and family in a way that will result in understanding myself,” Covert said. “That’s what my work has been aiming towards and what’s going to be in the show primarily.”

In an attempt to incorporate the interdisciplinary mission of GU, Covert is finding this theme as it pushes into her writing as well.

When revisiting both visual and written work, she has picked up on patterns that give small meanings to seemingly unconnected ideas and in turn, leave room for more questions on this journey she has undertaken.

“Working with both of my projects together feels like an ongoing process in that way, and it feels like a lot of discovery in that way,” Covert said. “Being able to ask those questions, knowing that there’s not

going to be an answer that I’m seeking, but recognizing patterns is a big one.”

Covert said this body of work in particular is going to be a big part of her portfolio and one of the most personally meaningful bodies of work that she’ll have as she moves on from GU.

“I’m hoping to set some roots here as a local artist so I’m really excited to see where this body of work takes me as well,” Covert said.

While this final project may be finished in some sense, the journey to understanding and completing these ideas is never-ending for an artist.

“Art is important,” Castleman said. “People have emotions and that’s not a weakness. I’d say it’s a strength.”

All eight artists will display their respective bodies of work at the Gonzaga University Urban Arts Center in April.

Kayla Friedrich is an A&E editor. Follow her on Twitter: @friedrich\_kayla.

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level **1** 2 3 4

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

Solution to Last Week's puzzle 3/5/23

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

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

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## Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19					20					21				22			
23					24					25				26			
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53					54					55				56		57	
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109						110					111				112		
113						114				115					116		
117						118				119					120		

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### EXCUSES, EXCUSES!

By Robin Stears

**ACROSS**

1 Jorts fabric  
6 North Africa's — Mountains  
11 Cranberry sites  
15 TV ads for good causes  
19 One who may live by the Strait of Hormuz  
20 Go  
21 Old Testament twin  
22 Actress Wilson of "His Dark Materials"  
23 "I always wanted to be a ballerina, but I ..."  
27 Specimen for a volcanologist  
28 Gown  
29 Long Beach's location, informally  
30 "I ...": Election Day sticker  
31 North Carolina university  
32 Uniform accessory  
33 Ambulance wailers  
34 "I always wanted to be a baker, but I ..."  
40 bar  
41 German article  
42 Northeastern octet  
43 Show clearly  
46 Small tastes  
48 Vega, e.g.  
49 Phony  
53 "I always wanted to be a Gregorian monk, but I ..."  
57 Undefeated boxer  
58 Means of access  
59 Goatee spot  
60 Key of Beethoven's "Eroica"  
62 Soy-based frozen dessert brand  
65 Think of, as a solution

67 " — Place": 1990s TV drama  
69 Classic Windows catchphrase  
70 Bygone Dodge subcompact  
71 Messy scuffle  
72 Customizable Wii  
73 Sports avatar  
73 "I always wanted to be a perfumer, but I ..."  
81 French infinitive  
83 Give more than a darn?  
84 Midway  
85 On the clock  
86 Setting for many Stephen King novels  
88 After the whistle  
90 Wallpaper hanger's calculation  
91 "I always wanted to be a gardener, but I ..."  
98 Sugar shack  
99 Actress Mireille  
100 MLB stat  
101 Massive old computer  
102 Amazon crime series based on Michael Connelly novels  
104 Fanny pack's spot  
106 Needle a bit  
109 "I always wanted to be a wedding officiant, but I ..."  
113 Not aweather  
114 Canine pal of Nermal and Garfield  
115 British elevators  
116 Pie feature  
117 Young 67-Down  
118 Batik artist  
119 Sherwin-Williams product  
120 Toast opener

**DOWN**

1 "Say So" singer — Cat  
2 Some Down Under sprinters  
3 Graham in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame  
4 QB misfire  
5 —of-the-road  
6 Pasta specification  
7 Till stack  
8 Muscles near delts  
9 Bating stat  
10 Vacillate  
11 "You \_\_\_!": "Yep!"  
12 Dept. of Labor arm  
13 Fine \_\_\_ Irish political party  
14 Dine by candlelight, maybe  
15 "The Canterbury Tales" character  
16 Beverage brewed with solar energy  
17 Go to  
18 Gets rid of  
24 Appliance in some hotel room closets  
25 Reggae pioneer  
26 Like a ram or a lamb  
31 Balanced  
32 Curry of the NBA's "Splash Brothers"  
33 Bypass  
34 Home with cells  
35 Tel \_\_\_ Israel  
36 Main points  
37 Taking action  
38 Captain of industry  
39 Novelist Turgenev  
40 Family room  
44 Pants part  
45 Award quartet for John Legend, for short  
47 Grapefruit wedge  
48 \_\_\_ guard  
50 Lighting effect  
51 "Poor, pitiful me!"

52 Puny parasite  
54 "\_\_\_ \_\_\_ quilt!"  
55 Sulu player John  
56 Choose  
61 Routes without tolls  
62 Person of the Year designator  
63 Skip over  
64 So-so  
65 Some med. plans  
66 Company abbr.  
67 Guys  
68 "Frozen" sister  
70 Advent  
71 Ramadan, e.g.  
74 Essential fatty \_\_\_  
75 Brooks's country music partner  
76 Gets into shape?  
77 Castle trench  
78 Standard  
79 Koala hangout  
80 Genre of the Mighty  
81 Mighty Bosstones  
82 Tries to live up to  
87 Smart \_\_\_  
89 Most uncanny  
91 Cooking oil option  
92 Weighed in  
93 "The Addams Family" uncle  
94 Foot part  
95 Totally worthless  
96 Recipe amt.  
97 Built for NASA, say  
98 Athlete's award  
102 Soul mate?  
103 Scrape covered with a Paw Patrol bandage, e.g.  
104 Library convenience  
105 Memo abbr.  
106 Cowpoke's poker  
107 "Will there be anything \_\_\_?"  
108 Dampens  
110 Drift off  
111 Fjord kin  
112 One of five principal resources in the game Catan



# New clubs offer community for GU craft and film lovers alike



Lucy Klebeck (left) and members of Gonzaga Film Club had set up a table at the club fair to attract potential attendees to be a part of their laid-back atmosphere.

By SAMANTHA MCKIERNAN

With over 150 clubs on campus, knowing where to begin as a member or club leader can feel daunting. Gonzaga Film Club began in the fall of 2021 while the Gonzaga Crafts Club began hosting meetings last fall. These two clubs, while they’ve recently begun, are providing the Gonzaga community with a new space for connection.

In fall of 2021, Film Club President Lucy Klebeck recognized a need for a Film Club.

“I wanted to be a film minor, but it was too late in my degree,” Klebeck said. “I wanted film to be an option for students and I felt that we needed a club that provided that.”

Klebeck began gathering a team and doing the paperwork and necessary logistics for beginning a club.

Film Club leader Logan Birkenseer came to GU seeking a place to further his love for movies and found the Film Club.

“I was interested in film and I came by myself to the first meeting,” Birkenseer said. “I love getting to show people movies that I like, in an environment that you don’t usually get unless you’re going to see new movies. It’s fun to see old movies in that same environment.”

Uncertainty regarding the clubs attendance and participation was relieved after the club’s first few meetings, where it became obvious that a Film Club was desired by the GU community.

“It’s a space where people aren’t afraid to laugh out loud or people are comfortable crying over a movie,” said leaders Kate Ferrell and Alexi Fogo. “And it’s OK either way. The conversations carry outside the doors of Jundt 110 and you hear people discussing, arguing and laughing. It’s the best feeling.”

The Film Club is a casual, low commitment club that shows a wide range of movies with various themes throughout different genres. More information about the Film Club’s meeting times, trivia nights and more can be found on their Instagram: @gonzagafilmclub.

Gonzaga Craft Club began last fall and is sporting an email list of 145 people.

“I thought we needed a Craft Club at Gonzaga,” said Club President Riley Palmer. “I’ve always been a really crafty person and alongside the other leaders, we thought there was definitely a need for this and a craft for everyone.”

From embroidery to origami, the Craft Club has a craft for everyone.

In the first weeks of the club, the leaders were struck by the turn out and the way so many different groups of

people were brought together.

“The vibe is cool and if people need help, they ask,” said club secretary Delaney Taylor. “It’s not just one group of people who come. It really brings people of different majors together and you get to meet people you normally wouldn’t.”

Access to materials and crafts is a priority for Craft Club, which provides its members a chance to try different crafts without committing to buying all the materials.

“People not being afraid to try new things and fail is cool to see,” said Craft Club Vice President Giuliana Espinoza Pas. “If you spend money on something and it fails, you don’t ever do it again. Here, people actually have a chance to try new things and let their creative side show.”

If there is a craft you’ve been hoping to try, Craft Club is hopeful to give you an opportunity to crochet, paint, embroider or fold your way into a new hobby.

Craft Club is a relaxed club that provides all of the necessary materials for the week’s crafting and asks for feedback on what crafts the members would like to see. Club meetings are every Wednesday at 7 p.m. The club’s Instagram, @gu.crafts.club, highlights all their crafts, events and what craft to expect next week.

Samantha McKiernan is a staff writer.

## A Zag's design dreams come together in new small business Treedle Prints

By SOFIA SANCHEZ and KAYLA FRIEDRICH

With a passion for design and the willingness to start something new, Gonzaga University senior Maddie Butz began a creative new business venture — Treedle Prints.

Butz works in the GU Student Media Department as a graphic designer and said she has had a creative eye ever since she was a little girl.

“Ever since I was little, I have always had a creative eye,” Butz said. “Whether that was taking random pictures or doodling or anything.”

Butz officially opened Treedle Prints in January with the goal of sharing her doodles and graphic designs. Her work ranges from creating posters to thank-you cards.

Butz said one of her main motives for Treedle Prints was doing something meaningful with her work.

Treedle Prints wasn’t the original name of the business that Butz had in mind. She said that every time she thought of a name for her business it was already taken — until she came up with the name Treedle Prints.

“I would choose like the most random things and they were taken,” Butz said. “I was driving myself insane over what I was gonna name it and then I remembered that I had this thing where I ask people is it called a pine needle or a treedle.”

According to Butz, the first design that she sold was her Spokane collage, which contains nine pictures that are all different areas located around the Lilac City.

Butz sells notepads, posters, postcards, Valentine’s Day cards and thank-you cards — standard “cheesy” thank-you cards inspired her to create designs with a more minimalist approach.



COURTESY OF @TREEDLEPRINTS INSTAGRAM

Gonzaga University senior, Maddie Butz, took on a new business venture this spring with the opening of her small business, Treedle Prints.

Hailey Shoda, graphic designer in the GU Student Media Department, has worked alongside Butz for a year and said her designs are something that no one could replicate.

“Her design style is very flirty and that’s what I really like about her style,” Shoda said. “It definitely shows in her prints and her art in general.”

The art speaks for itself. As a fellow designer, Shoda said the natural look on Butz’s postcards, stationary and notebooks is a reflection of honest dedication and effort from the artist.

“She’s very passionate about what she does,” Shoda said. “I’m glad she’s able to make her own business and make something out of what she really enjoys.”

Butz said running her own business requires a lot of work but is ultimately worthwhile. Doing her own marketing through social media, work connections or reaching out to friends and family have helped word get around about the newest print designs in town.

Being a student and starting a small business has forced Butz to ask herself the hard-hitting questions.

“It’s kind of on my mind all the time,” Butz said. “Whether that’s thinking of different designs to come up with and creating different ways to market it and get the word out. What prices I should set for my things. I think it varies, like the prices I want to aim for if I’m selling on campus versus off campus.”

Butz described some of her challenges, beginning with her finances. She had spent more money than she has earned, which was challenging for her to overcome. However, what kept her on a more positive note about her business was her faith that everything was going to turn out in the end.

“Run with it and believe in yourself,” Butz said. “You have it all in your hands. No one else can execute your vision, but you. Go do it and hopefully it doesn’t fail. But if it does, who cares. You try again.”

Sofia Sanchez is the online editor. Follow her on Twitter: @ItsSofia2021.

## Storytellers reminisce on 'Heartbreak' at Story Slam

By CATE WILSON

Gonzaga University students wore their hearts on their sleeves at the “Heartbreak” Story Slam event.

The first Story Slam of second semester took place in Jepson’s Wolff Auditorium on Monday, Feb. 13 from 8-9 p.m.

Before speakers began to share, the question “what makes your heart flutter?” was posed to the audience as a way to engage with the event’s theme. Answers were shared to begin and conclude the event, as well as in between each speaker.

The stories remain in the space they are shared in by their narrators, while the audience takes away lessons from the important messages and themes that were touched on by each storyteller.

Event coordinators Noah Wong and Kellyn Pattee spend time brainstorming themes, selecting storytellers

and curating an event that helps capture the genuine essence of GU student voices.

“Kellyn and I look around and feel out our surrounding environment when we brainstorm potential themes for Story Slam,” Wong said. “Hopefully people can get inspired by the theme that speaks to them.”

This month’s theme, “Heartbeat,” gathered inspiration from Valentine’s Day and the month of love. Those who shared discussed the importance of mental health and staying true to who you are while personal anecdotes made the crowd laugh and cry.

Each storyteller wore socks without shoes to show a comfortable and judgment-free environment.

“Story Slam reminded me that there is a community here that is willing to be vulnerable,” Pattee said. “It means so much to me because it helps students share a more authentic experience than they may normally show every day in a safe, accepting space.”

Attending Story Slam as an observer has even inspired those to try their hand at being creative.

“I’ve been to Story Slam before and seeing everyone be so brave showed me that I can be brave and get up there and do it,” said storyteller Grace Spiegel.

Any GU student can apply to share their story by contacting Pattee and Wong. After Monday night’s event concluded, attendees were welcomed and encouraged to get involved with Story Slam on a deeper level.

March’s theme, “Twisted” is in the works and more information will be released as the event approaches. Continue to check @storyslamgu on Instagram for more details.

Cate Wilson is a staff writer.





Courtney Vandersloot earned the John R. Wooden Award All-America and Associated Press All-America honorable mention at GU.

# Vandersloot's No. 21 jersey honored in ceremony

By TRINITY WILHITE

Courtney Vandersloot is everything a Gonzaga Bulldog should be, said head coach Lisa Fortier in her speech dedicated to the former Zag before the women's basketball game against Portland on Feb. 11.

As the only women's player in West Coast Conference history to be named the conference's player of the year three times, Vandersloot is the most decorated women's basketball player in GU history.

Before unveiling Vandersloot's No. 21 jersey in the rafters to a sold-out McCarthy Athletic Center, the athletic program showed a video to honor Vandersloot's career at GU and in the WNBA.

"She proves you can come to Gonzaga and develop and become one of the best players in the world," Fortier said of Vandersloot in the video.

Fortier, who was an assistant coach from 2007-14 when Vandersloot was at GU from 2007-11, also praised the former Bulldog with a speech at center court.

"She has done things that no player has ever done before," Fortier said. "Courtney has achieved all that she has through hard work and dedication and just putting in the time and always did it humbly and with a lot of humility."

After former women's head coach Kelly Graves left in 2014 to coach at the University of Oregon, Vandersloot has always believed in Fortier's ability to lead the team to greatness.

"Everything that she does, the way she

carries herself on the court, the way she carries herself off the court, the things she stands for and stands up for are things that we hope to inspire our players to do, our fans to do, and simply something I've been inspired to follow in her footsteps," Fortier said.

Fortier and Vandersloot spent a lot of time together while Vandersloot was on the team. Vandersloot said Fortier knew exactly what she needed and when to be pushed as a basketball player.

Putting on a GU jersey and playing in the Kennel is like no other experience, according to Vandersloot. The former Zag extended thanks to the GU fans for their support since she was playing in the Kennel back in the 2000s.

"The truth is I know you guys have been showing up here well before I was here and you continued well after I was gone, and that's what makes this place so special," Vandersloot said.

The former Zag also took the time to thank her teammates, family and coaches.

"I really do mean this from the bottom of my heart — my jersey would not be up there without them," Vandersloot said. "You guys push me every single day to be better and elevated me to be the player I am today."

During her time with the Zags, Vandersloot was an All-American and three-time WCC Player of the Year. In the summer of 2009, she was invited to the USA World University Games Team Trials. Vandersloot was one of 29 players to accept the offer and the first woman in GU history

to receive an invite.

Vandersloot holds program records for the most points, assists and steals in a single season and the most assists and steals in a career in addition to the most free-throws made and the best field goal percentage in an NCAA Tournament game.

In 2011, Vandersloot won the Nancy Lieberman Award award, which acknowledges the top point guards in women's Division I basketball. The standards for the award include floor leadership, play making and ball-handling skills.

Vandersloot is the first NCAA Division I player to accumulate more than 2,000 points and 1,000 assists in a career. She finished with 2,073 points and 1,118 assists.

At the end of her college career, Vandersloot was selected third overall in the 2011 WNBA Draft to the Chicago Sky. She played in Chicago from 2011-2022 before signing with the New York Liberty on Feb. 2.

"I always wanna play with great players and I have been really fortunate my entire career, you know, starting here at Gonzaga and playing with really great players," Vandersloot said. "When I went into free agency, that was my main thing is that I wanted to play with the best because I think they are gonna elevate my game and I look to do the same...I want people to think like me, play like me and put as much into it as me."

Vandersloot encourages people to dream big — the scarier the better. The former Zag attributes most of who she is

GU SPORTS

Thursday, Feb. 16

➔ Women's basketball vs. Pacific, 6 p.m.

➔ Men's basketball at Loyola Marymount, Los Angeles, CA, 8 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 17

➔ Baseball at Texas Tech, Lubbock, TX, noon

Saturday, Feb. 18

➔ Women's tennis at Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA, 9 a.m.

➔ Baseball at Texas Tech, Lubbock, TX, noon

➔ Women's basketball vs. Saint Mary's, 2 p.m.

➔ Men's basketball at Pepperdine, Malibu, CA, 4 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 20

➔ Women's tennis at Georgia State, Atlanta, GA, 7 a.m.

➔ Men's tennis vs. Montana, 11 a.m.

➔ Baseball at Texas Tech, Lubbock, TX, noon

Monday, Feb. 20

➔ Men's golf at The Joust, Jurupa Valley, CA, all day

➔ Baseball at Texas Tech, Lubbock, TX, 9 a.m.

\*Home games in bold\*

# Wil Smith sets school record in 3000 at Husky Classic

By TRINITY WILHITE

Wil Smith broke his own school record in the 3,000-meter run, running 7:53.57 at the Dempsey indoor Center at the Husky Classic in Seattle, Washington, last weekend.

The Zags also boasted an abundance of season bests and personal records as they traveled back home to Spokane.

A week ago, Wil Smith became the first Zag to break sub-four minutes in the mile. On Feb. 11, Smith stepped back on the track to break his own record, an 8:06.60 3,000 time that he set at the Spokane Indoor Challenge in January. Smith shattered his record, running a 7:53.57 and placing 10th.

Smith's time beat out teammate James Mwaura's time in 2022 of 7:54.50 at the UW Invitational.

Senior Yacine Guermali kept his spot in GU's record books, recording the fourth fastest 3,000 time of 8:02.47, placing 26th. Guermali broke his record that he set at the UW Invitational in 2019 by 3.59 seconds and beat

Dominic Arce's time of 8:05.65.

In the women's mile, Caramia Mestler ran a personal record and recorded the third fastest time in school history, running a 4:51. Mestler got the highest standing out of the Zags in the mile, placing 8th in her section and 56th overall.

In the 5,000-meter, Mestler finished 29th overall with a time of 16:23.54. That time was the fastest indoor 5,000 time in program history, breaking Shelby Mills' 16:25.35 mark set in 2016.

Sadie Tuckwood and Kate Donaldson set new personal bests and finished in the top 10 in program history for the women's one mile. Tuckwood ran 4:56.92, placing 85th overall and moving her to fourth all-time. Donaldson ran a 4:58.59 to claim the seventh fastest mark all-time.

Junior Alicia Anderson ran a season-best 4:52.08 mile, placing 63rd. She holds second place in GU's top 10 with a time of 4:45.96 that she set in 2022.

Sophomore Ellie Armbruster was third place in the women's 400m, running 57.45 seconds and beating her own record.

Rosina Machu ran sub-10 minutes in the 3,000-meter, placing in the top 55 with a 9:35.01 effort. Machu improved to fourth all time at GU in the event. Brittney Hansen ran 9:44.18 and landed at No. 10 all time.

Anna Grabowski placed 80th, running a personal record of 9:53.18. Behind Grabowski was senior Makenna Edwards, running 10:02.06 and placing 94th.

In the men's 5,000-meter, all the Zags finished top 75, with sophomore Bryce Cerkowniak setting a new personal record and finishing 56th with a time of 14:28.68. Only two places behind Cerkowniak was sophomore Aidan Baughan, finishing 58th with a time of 14:29.65. Riley Moore ran his season best in 14:36.19, placing 64th. Nicola DiMartino finished 72nd with a time of 14:49.01.

The women's and men's teams will compete in the Sam Adams Classic on March 18 in Spokane to begin the outdoor season.

Trinity Wilhite is a staff writer.

# GU T&F posts record day at Whitworth Invitational

By TRINITY WILHITE

The Gonzaga University men's and women's track and field team set new personal records and recorded numerous season bests at the Whitworth Invitational this past weekend.

GU swept the top three spots in the women's mile, with freshman Anna Lanigan taking home the gold in a personal record time of 5:04.57. Junior Ireland Robertson placed second with a personal record time of 5:05.05 as freshman Jorun

Downing took third in 5:06.33.

Jasmine Nguyen placed fifth (5:11.50), Emily Phelps placed 14th (5:19.28), Karina Smith placed 23rd (5:26.61) and Kate Ferrel finished in 44th (5:44.24).

In the men's mile, sophomore Carp Mukai took second in a personal record 4:11.94. Jacob Alfonso finished fourth (4:14.71), Caleb Richardson finished ninth (4:20.37) and Quentin Rickey came in 10th (4:20.75).

In the men's 3,000-meter, Ansel Tucker

finished third in a personal record 8:23.37 as Mason Kissell placed fourth (8:27.06). Will Thorsett placed sixth (8:29.11), Paul Talen placed seventh (8:29.77) and Jaxon Mackie placed 11th (8:36.21) to make it five Zags in the top 11.

Elizabeth Brands ran a season best 2:19.23 to place ninth in the women's 800-meter. In the men's 800, James Powers ran a season-best 2:00.91 for 29th place.

In the women's 200-meter, junior Grace Dalton and senior Taylor Biondi rain their

season bests. Dalton ran 28.02 to place 51st and Biondi ran 29.64 for 67th place. Biondi followed up her 200 performance with a season best 1:03.78 in the 400, placing 37th overall.

The Whitworth Invitational concluded the indoor track and field season for GU.

The women will compete in their first outdoor meet – the West Coast Quad – on March 11 in San Francisco, California.

Trinity Wilhite is a staff writer.

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# On and off the court, Evan Inglesby continues a distinguished Zag legacy

By ZACH WHITE

For senior Evan Inglesby, Gonzaga University basketball is his family heritage.

A former member of the Division I men's basketball program, Inglesby now embraces a new challenge in the form of the men's club basketball team.

Inglesby is the grandson of Bill Suter, a legend in the GU men's basketball program. Known as the "little big man," the 5-foot-9 Suter earned four varsity letters each in basketball and baseball.

Not only does Suter rank sixth in scoring all-time at GU with 1,354 points, his teammates voted him as the most inspirational player four separate times.

When it came time for Inglesby to make a decision on his basketball future, he opted to follow in his grandfather's footsteps and become a Bulldog.

"I was always kind of a Gonzaga fan growing up," Inglesby said. "So when this opportunity came up, and I talked it over with friends and family, it was a no-brainer. It was kind of a dream come true."

The boyhood Zag fan grew up playing basketball in Gresham, Oregon, just outside of Portland. Inglesby is not only a legacy student at GU, but also at his local Sam Barlow High School.

"I went to the same high school my dad went to way back in the day," Inglesby said. "Through kindergarten to eighth grade, he was my coach. It's pretty cool that ever since kindergarten up until my high school run, I was with my dad the whole entire way, at the school that he played for. That kind of history and that kind of tradition was really special in my family."

Inglesby had a standout prep career where he finished as the third-highest scorer in Barlow High School's history. His other accolades include being named to the Class 6A State Second Team, earning first-team all-Mt. Hood Conference honors, earning MHC Co-Player of the Year as a junior and an all-state honorable mention selection.

"Our high school team was very successful," Inglesby said. "We were top five in the state during my junior and senior year. We're all friends off the court, it's a super special bond and we found success together. To see some of the individuals branch off and have success individually, it's pretty cool."

Inglesby was recruited by former GU assistant coach and current Arizona head coach Tommy Lloyd. He was discovered when his Barlow team faced off against Battle Ground High School and current Zag Kaden Perry.

Following the conclusion to his high school career, Inglesby was offered a place in GU's program as a preferred walk-on. Upon enrolling, he joined a team that featured future NBA talents Jalen Suggs, Corey Kispert and Joel Ayayi.

The magnitude of the move to a program like GU was not lost on Inglesby, who quickly took to his new surroundings in Spokane. Inglesby embraced the competition and worked hard to compete with NBA-caliber players.

"For me, it was a bit of a big jump," Inglesby said. "It speaks volumes to the talent and recruiting at Gonzaga. They have the best players, best athletes and best coaches.



NICO LOPEZ IG: nlopez\_photography

Inglesby's grandfather Bill Suter is sixth on GU's all-time scoring with 1,354 points.

[Competing] wasn't too bad. The transition just kind of felt like I was a half-step slower than I used to be. I was able to hang in there and compete just based on my overall skill and the well-roundedness of my game."

Inglesby fought to retain his roster spot through a combination of a grueling practice schedule and a lack of playing time, which ultimately led Inglesby to reconsider his position as a member of the team.

During a tumultuous and socially-distanced 2020-21 season, COVID-19 protocols often prevented Inglesby from traveling with the team. Furthermore, as a preferred walk-on, Inglesby's roster spot did not include an academic scholarship.

As his opportunities with the men's basketball program decreased, Inglesby focused his attention toward academics and professional development.

"I wanted to feel like I was actually on the team rather than just a practice player," Inglesby said. "It wasn't looking like things were gonna change like before the season. I decided that I don't necessarily love this anymore. I love basketball, but I didn't feel like I was playing to the ability I can or getting the opportunities that I can."

Inglesby made the decision to leave the men's basketball program after the 2020-21 season.

While the choice was a difficult one to make, Inglesby found his decision to leave the program to be the right one.

"I wanted to take a step back from the Division I team,"

Inglesby said. "Luckily the club team was in place ... much less of a commitment for me. It gives me a lot of time to finish up school, look at job stuff. Looking back on it, I'm very happy with the decision. I'm very thankful for my time that I played [at GU]. I just think the best decision for me was to spend my time a little bit elsewhere."

Inglesby now plays basketball for the GU men's club team. Inglesby is one of several team members who played basketball at a collegiate level.

The club team has given Inglesby a new ability to express his talents on the basketball court, while also giving time to focus on his academics and job prospects.

Senior Robby Brodar, Inglesby's club basketball teammate, spoke about Inglesby and how the club team has embraced him.

"Evan's just a super great guy, real solid guy ... definitely happy to be his teammate," Brodar said. "He's like a coach's dream, because he doesn't really do anything wrong and he can do everything right. He's really all-around, he can kind of do everything and it helps to have his size and athleticism."

Like his grandfather before him, Inglesby continues to inspire his teammates on and off the court.

Zach White is a staff writer.

## Owen Wild ready to lead Gonzaga pitching staff in 2023

By HENRY KRUEGER

Around this time last year, Owen Wild was gearing up for a relief role on Gonzaga University baseball's pitching staff.

The junior right-hander logged 2.2 innings in the 2021 season and wasn't expected to crack a starting rotation that featured three future MLB draft picks.

Wild quickly proved himself as a reliable reliever, allowing one run in 10.1 innings. However, his stint in the bullpen ended after three weeks, when a finger injury to William Kempner left GU without a No. 3 starter.

The open spot was filled by Wild, and the rest is history.

Wild made eight starts for the Zags in 2022, finishing the season with a 9-1 record and a team-best 3.03 ERA, while tallying 83 strikeouts in 74.1 innings. He was GU's top performing pitcher in postseason play, sporting a 1.28 ERA across 14 innings in the West Coast Conference Tournament and the NCAA Blacksburg Regional.

"He played a humongous role on a really good team last year," said GU associate head coach Brandon Harmon. "Looking for him to probably take another step forward this year."

With GU's season opener on Friday, Wild was voted to the Preseason All-Conference Team in the WCC coaches' poll released Tuesday.

It still wasn't the most prestigious honor Wild received this offseason, as he was named to the preseason All-American Second Team by Collegiate Baseball Newspaper in December.

Wild said he didn't anticipate any preseason recognition, but Harmon believes it's well deserved.

"He's a great worker," Harmon said.



Courtesy of Gonzaga Athletics

Wild was named a WCC Honorable Mention after posting a 3.03 ERA last season.

"He's put a lot of time and energy into honing his craft. He made a big jump and did a lot of work on his own and I think the biggest thing now is that he's going to make another jump here to be a premier Friday night guy."

Wild credits his rapid improvement to his teammates, emphasizing the benefits of competing alongside elite talent.

"Seeing how they worked, the way that they went about their day and how they went about practice and throwing and how

they were trying to get better every minute — I'm just trying to take some of that with me to hopefully make me a better pitcher as well," Wild said.

The Zags start the season on an 11-game road trip, beginning with a four-game series against Texas Tech that runs from Friday to Monday.

Wild is starting in game one, which indicates his status as the ace of the staff.

"We feel comfortable that he is going to come in and do well and have the bull's-

eye on his chest now from day one," said GU head coach Mark Machtolf. "He is a very mature, tough kid, so we feel good on a Friday night that he will give us a good chance to win."

After visiting Lubbock, Texas, the Zags travel to Phoenix to play Ohio State and Grand Canyon two times each (Feb. 24-26), before a three-game series against No. 2 Tennessee in Knoxville (March 3-5).

"That's the way that we do things at this program," Wild said. "We choose to play the best teams we can to get ready for the postseason and I think it does a great job of letting us know where we are at."

GU returns to Spokane on March 10 for its first home matchup against UC Irvine, which will be a three-game series that ends on March 12.

The home opener will debut the program's new turf field at the Patterson Baseball Complex. Wild and his teammates have been working to get acclimated to the updated playing surface.

"It is a little different," Wild said of the new field. "I am a big fan of the dirt mound, so I was a little sad to see that we put the turf in, but I understand it was totally necessary. It is going to let us practice in the rain and snow in Spokane, which I think is a huge advantage for us."

After Wild's season debut against Texas Tech on Friday, Nathan Deschryver will take the mound on Saturday, followed by Bradley Mullan on Sunday and Ty Buckner on Monday.

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

## BASEBALL

Continued from Page 1

numbers in 2023, but expects opposing pitchers to get more creative to limit his production.

"I was kind of the new guy on the block last year and guys threw me a lot better pitches than I'll probably get this year," McGee said "I know that I've got a target on my back."

McGee is one of a few starting infielders coming back to GU, which includes shortstop Connor Coballes and second baseman Savier Pinales.

Coballes was named WCC Defensive Player of the Year in 2022 and helped GU finish tied for No. 1 in the conference with a .979 fielding percentage. He played in all 56 games, starting in 55 of them.

Pinales, a WCC Honorable Mention last season, hit .297 and had a team-high 15 stolen bases after transferring from Wabash Valley College.

Also returning to GU's lineup are WCC Honorable

Mentions Enzo Apodaca and Ezra Samperi, along with Grayson Sterling, who was named preseason All-WCC in the WCC coaches' poll released Tuesday.

The annual conference poll picked the Zags to finish No. 1 in the WCC, awarding the team six of the 10 first-place votes to total 78 points. San Diego received the four remaining first-place votes and finished second in the poll.

The Toreros defeated the Zags in the championship of the WCC Tournament last season, earning the automatic qualifier into the NCAA Tournament, while GU earned an at-large bid. Both teams went 1-2 in the regional round of the NCAA Tournament, leading to their respective eliminations.

GU had four players selected to the Preseason All-WCC team: Sterling, McGee, Pinales and Owen Wild.

Wild is the lone returning starting pitcher from last year's staff, which lost four players to the MLB Draft. He finished the 2022 season with a 9-1 record and a team-best 3.03 ERA, while tallying 83 strikeouts in 16 appearances.

To rebuild its starting rotation, GU recruited several arms through the transfer portal, such as graduate student Ty Buckner from Missouri State.

In eight outings last season, Buckner had a 1.10 ERA and 14 strikeouts. He pitched 106.2 innings in his career at Missouri State, but made three starts in his junior year before undergoing Tommy John surgery in March of 2021. Buckner returned to the mound in April 2022.

"He's got a lot of Division I innings under his belt, so you have a lot of stability with Ty," Harmon said. "He's battled some injuries throughout his career, but so far he's good and I think he's going to have a significant role for us."

Buckner and GU's 15 other newcomers will get tested during their 11-game road trip that begins on Friday, something Harmon feels is beneficial to their development.

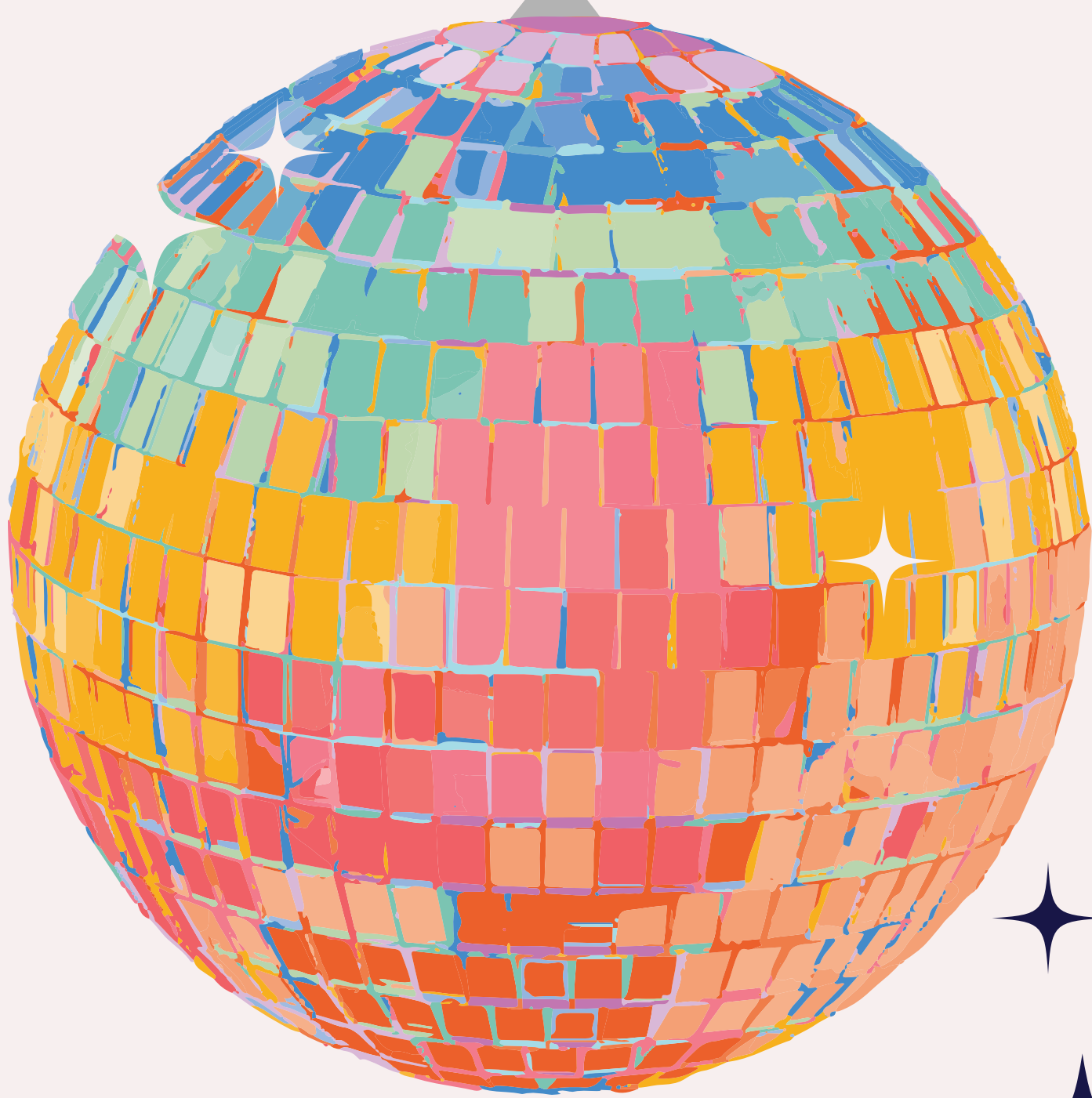
"It puts them right into the fire early," Harmon said. "With a young team, there's a little bit of anxiety to that, but it gets them in those moments where they're going to have to perform."

The first three games between GU and Texas Tech begin at noon, while the fourth and final matchup is at 9 a.m.

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



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# DICE EVENTS CALENDAR

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**Building An Inclusive Brand:  
Social Justice in Social Media Spaces**  
6-7:30 p.m • HEMM Auditorium

**Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine**  
6-7:30 p.m • HEMM Auditorium

**3/21**

**3/22**

**The Legacy of Matthew Shepard**  
6:30-8 p.m • MWPAC

**Building a Bridge**  
6-7:45 p.m. • Wolff Auditorium

**4/3**

**4/11**

**Out and Proud Care: LGBTQ+ Panel**  
6-7:30 p.m. • HEMM 314

**Lavender Graduation**  
4:30-6 p.m. • HEMM Auditorium

**4/28**



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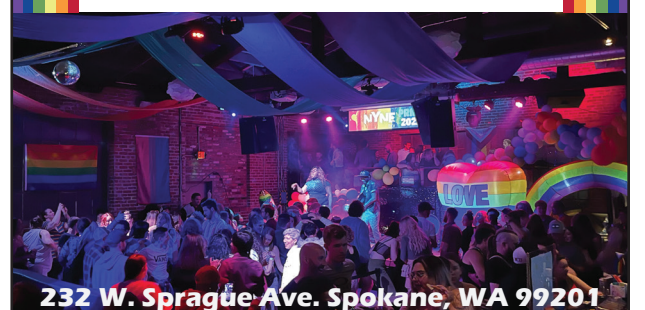
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