

WE RULE

THE GONZAGA
BULLETIN

MARCH 9, 2023 VOL 134 ISSUE 24



THE COURT



Portland rallied back from an 11-point deficit to upset the Zags 64-60 on Tuesday at Orleans Arena in Las Vegas.

DYLAN SMITH IG: d.smithphotos

Women’s basketball remains optimistic about NCAA Tournament chances

By HENRY KRUEGER

By losing Tuesday’s West Coast Conference Tournament championship, the Gonzaga women’s basketball team failed to secure an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

This means the Zags will have to wait until Selection Sunday to know if they’re competing in March Madness.

However, there’s reason for optimism because ESPN’s latest Bracketology lists GU as the No. 9 seed in the Greenville 1 region. This placement has the Zags playing the first and second rounds in Columbia, South Carolina, home of the top-ranked South Carolina Gamecocks.

GU is projected to face No. 8 seed Baylor in the first round and likely No. 1 seed South Carolina in the second round if the Zags make it that far.

In the eyes of head coach Lisa Fortier, GU has a strong case to make the tournament after winning the WCC regular-season title outright despite numerous players missing extended time with injuries.

“This team is just now finding some rhythm from a season that was completely rhythmless,” Fortier said after the Zags lost 64-60 to Portland in the WCC Tournament title game. “That’s what our season has been. We’ve had players coming and going the entire time.”

Forward Yvonne Ejim is also confident in GU’s tournament chances, but doesn’t want her team to move on too quickly from Tuesday’s loss.

“Having the tournament just gives us a little bit more to think of,” Ejim said. “Obviously we don’t want to brush off this game so fast. We need to learn from it, dissect it and take stuff away from it in order to continue growing.”

The Zags have appeared in every NCAA Tournament since 2016, with the exception being 2020’s tournament that was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Portland, which earned the WCC’s automatic bid to March Madness, is projected as the No. 12 seed in the Seattle 4 Region. The Pilots haven’t competed in the NCAA Tournament since 1997.

The 68-team field and bracket for March Madness will be announced at 5 p.m. on Sunday. ESPN Analyst Charlie Creme will update Bracketology after each key result leading up to the selection show.

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

Stu Jackson appointed WCC commissioner

By HENRY KRUEGER

Stu Jackson has been appointed commissioner of the West Coast Conference, the league announced Monday at the annual men’s and women’s basketball tournaments in Las Vegas.

Jackson will start his new role on April 24, replacing former WCC Commissioner Gloria Nevarez, who was hired to lead the Mountain West Conference in November. Connie Hurlbut has been the league’s interim commissioner since December.

Until Jackson is officially sworn in, he will continue to serve as the Big East’s executive associate commissioner of men’s basketball.

In the meantime, the WCC held an introductory press conference for Jackson Monday morning at Orleans Arena.

When explaining his decision to join the WCC, Jackson said he respected the conference’s vision for college athletics.

“Through our discussions, it became clear we shared a commitment to build upon our existing standard of excellence for the student-athletes’ experience, while focusing on innovation to propel the conference to new heights in college basketball and all WCC intercollegiate sports,” Jackson said.

GU’s Thayne McCulloh, chair of the WCC Presidents’ Council, returned the same level of gratitude.

“Stu Jackson possesses the vision and values that will continue to elevate the West Coast Conference and we are thrilled to welcome him as the WCC’s new Commissioner,” McCulloh said.

In his opening remarks, Jackson laid

out his top priorities for improving the conference.

“It’s imperative we are creative in exploring ways we can bring about more national visibility to the conference, identify new revenue streams and improve our policies and our operations in an effort to help our schools win championships,” Jackson said.

Jackson also addressed the growing impact of Name, Image and Likeness.

“The conference role in NIL quite candidly is something at the Big East we’ve struggled with,” Jackson said. “... NIL as a subject matter going forward, there’s been little control or guardrails around it. I don’t really see any coming down the pike.”

Jackson takes over the WCC during a pivotal time in the league’s history. BYU is set to leave in 2023-24 for the Big 12, a

conference that has also entertained the idea of adding GU.

“I think one of the things we were keenly aware of is this dynamic landscape,” McCulloh said. “Certainly it’s no secret some of our members have been in conversation about what’s going to happen down the road.”

McCulloh said Monday that GU “remains open and interested and engaged” to exploring other conference options. However, he said the program would only consider moving to a league that alligns with the school both athletically and academically.

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

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Takeaways from second largest victory in WCC Tournament history

COMMENTARY
By TOMMY CONMY

The No. 9 Gonzaga Bulldogs defeated archrival No. 16 Saint Mary's 77-51 to secure a fourth straight WCC tournament title.

GU's 26-point victory ties the second largest margin of victory in WCC Tournament history. The other 26-point margin was a GU win over Saint Mary's in 2009.

Drew Timme scored 18 points to lead the Zags and break Frank Burgess's 63-year-old scoring record of 2,196 points.

Here are takeaways from GU's second straight victory over the Gaels:

The Bounce Back

When the Zags lost three of their first eight games this season, everyone from students to national basketball pundits rang the alarm bells. After receiving back-to-back No. 1 seeds in the NCAA Tournament, this iteration of the Zags seemed to have far less talent and cohesion than fans were used to.

Since a 68-67 loss to Baylor on Dec. 2, the Zags have won 23 of 25 games. One of those losses came on the road to Saint Mary's thanks to freshman guard Aidan Mahaney's late-game heroics that forced overtime.

Even though losing to the Gaels bruised the collective Zag ego, there were signs of life. Mahaney scored 18 points and finished numerous tough layups over GU's Anton Watson. The Moraga native captured lightning in a bottle, but mustered only 16 total points on 6-for-18 shooting in the other two showdowns. Half of his points came from 3-point range as he struggled to muscle his way into the lane against a physical Zags' defense.

The biggest question marks early on were the lack of defensive togetherness in addition to uncharacteristically high turnovers from the offense.

GU averages 10.6 turnovers per game this season, the 337th worst mark in DI. They cut that number to 8.9 in conference play, good enough for ninth best in the

country. That seemingly small difference has helped GU evolve back into the nation's best offensive team that has become the standard under Mark Few.

The Zags still give up 72.9 points per game, but their offensive prowess, the elimination of wide-open shots and the tightening of pick-and-roll coverages have challenged opponents to match GU's offensive skill set.

"I thought this team took a lot of flack, especially early. Obviously, we have high expectations of ourselves and within the program, but we also have belief in ourselves," Few said. "I applaud them for sticking with us and sticking with the plan and not listening to all that. There's a lot of pressure playing at Gonzaga. There's a lot of high expectations ... when you have Drew and Jules on your team, you'd expect to win every game too."

The Consummate Zag

It took Drew Timme every single game across his four seasons at GU to finally surpass Frank Burgess's record 2,196 points set over three seasons from 1959-61. The Texas native became the third Zag to score 2,000 or more points, joining Burgess and Jim McPhee.

There are no caveats to Timme's record-breaking performance.

When Detroit Mercy's Antoine Davis had an opportunity to break Pete Maravich's all-time NCAA scoring record, his potential accomplishment was attacked. Davis is a fifth-year senior thanks to an additional year of eligibility from the COVID-19 pandemic. He also played with the 3-point line, a luxury that the sharpshooting Maravich went without across his three varsity collegiate seasons.

Davis ultimately fell three points short, missing what would have been the record-tying 3-pointer at the buzzer. Though he may have the opportunity to break the record if Detroit Mercy receives an invite to a postseason invitational tournament, there would always be a metaphorical asterisk next to the record.

With Timme, there are no caveats are asterisks. He came off the bench as a



DYLAN SMITH IG: d.smithphotos

Timme points to the crowd after his layup broke Frank Burgess's all-time scoring record at GU.

freshman as GU's sixth-man behind WCC Player of the Year Filip Petrusev. Timme missed out on scoring in the canceled 2020 NCAA Tournament, but capitalized on his offensive skill set over the next three seasons to rightfully surpass Burgess.

Timme hasn't put up empty scoring stats, either. He's 118-12 in his career and has never lost back-to-back games. He reached the National Championship in 2021 and carried the Zags in the second half against Memphis last season to reach the program's seventh straight Sweet 16. This year, he's the fulcrum of the nation's best offense and the Zags will go as far as he'll carry them.

"Me personally, I took for granted winning. I won so much in my career

that it's kind of a shock to me not to win," Timme said. "I think sometimes we assumed we were just gonna win because we're Gonzaga. Going through the season with how the season's gone, it's just kind of made us appreciate the journey more."

The Zags will wait to hear their name called on CBS's Selection Sunday show on Sunday at 3 p.m. PST.

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

Strawther named finalist for Julius Erving award

By COLE FORSMAN

Fresh off his third West Coast Conference championship game, Gonzaga University's Julian Strawther was named one of the five finalists for the Julius Erving award on Wednesday.

UCLA's Jaime Jacquez Jr., Kansas State's Keyontae Johnson, Alabama's Brandon Miller and Kansas' Jalen Wilson join Strawther in contention for the nation's top small forward award.

Strawther earned All-WCC first team honors after averaging a career-high 15.1 points per game this season, second-most on the team and ninth in the WCC. The 6-foot-7 forward grabbed 5.9 rebounds per game and shot 48.3% from the field,

including 42.6% from beyond the arc. His 72 made 3-pointers led the Zags and was ninth in the conference.

Strawther had a three-game stretch during February where he averaged 27.3 points per game while shooting 58.7% from the field. After dropping 26 points at home against BYU, the junior tallied 28 points in GU's revenge matchup against Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles on Feb. 16. Two days later, Strawther had another 28-point performance in a victory over Pepperdine.

GU's Corey Kispert (2021) and Rui Hachimura (2019) are former recipients of the Julius Erving award.

Jacquez Jr., who was in contention for the award last season as well, is fresh

off winning the Pac-12 Player of the Year award on Tuesday. The 6-foot-6 wing leads UCLA with 17.5 points and 8.0 rebounds per game, both of which are top-5 marks in the Pac-12.

As for Johnson, he was awarded the Big 12 Newcomer of Year award and took home first-team All-Big 12 honors after averaging a team-best 17.8 points on 51.9% shooting from the field. He is one of two players in the conference to rank in the top-5 in overall scoring and rebounding.

The other player to boast that stat line is Wilson, the unanimous Big 12 Player of the Year award recipient and All-Big 12 first team selection. The redshirt-junior led the conference with 19.7 points and 8.4 rebounds per game while recording

10 double-doubles. Wilson is also in contention for the John R. Wooden award.

Miller took home the SEC Player of the Year award after averaging 19.6 points per game, becoming the fourth freshman in the last 50 years to lead the conference in scoring.

The winner of the Julius Erving award will be presented on a to be determined date, along with the four other positional awards. Fans can participate in the voting process starting Friday by visiting hoopshallaawards.com.

Cole Forsman is the editor-in-chief. Follow him on Twitter: @CGForsman.

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Zags in Sin City: Best moments from 2023 WCC Tournament



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With an abundance of Zags fans in the house, WCC Player of the Year recipients Drew Timme (2) and Kaylynne Truong (14) led their respective squads in the WCC Tournament in Las Vegas. Timme helped the Zags secure their fourth consecutive WCC Tournament title, while Truong and Yvonne Ejim (15) led GU to the championship round after defeating BYU in the semifinal round.

State law shifts pay for GU employees

80 positions switched to overtime nonexempt, raising concern about staff availability for students

By AMELIA TRONCONE

Gonzaga University’s human resources department reclassified 80 staff positions across campus from overtime-exempt to nonexempt, in accordance with new minimum wage laws in Washington state.

The shift was implemented on Jan. 1 after the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries released a new overtime threshold. The threshold raised the minimum amount that an employee must be paid to be classified as overtime exempt. Employees at GU who earn

less than that threshold are nonexempt, meaning that they will be paid on an hourly basis and eligible for overtime.

“There’s not that much difference, it just requires some of us to be really thoughtful about how we’re spending our time,” said SR Ross, the assistant director of GU’s Unity Multicultural Education Center.

Ross is one of the employees who is now considered nonexempt. They are also the representative for Student Affairs in the Staff Assembly Executive Council at GU and find that this shift has made their schedule less flexible.

They also said that it has opened a discussion among employees about how to balance workload and earn money on an hourly basis.

“A lot of us both in staff assembly and in general have been wondering how we are going to maintain some of the same things that we’ve been doing while making accommodations for this new rule,” Ross said.

Many of the employees and positions that were reclassified work in departments that are student-facing or work directly with students. This is especially true in

UMEC where, according to Ross, every employee except for the director has been reclassified as nonexempt.

Ross said this has raised concerns within the staff assembly regarding employees’ availability for students. They said that as much as the employees love working with students, they are also human and need to be thoughtful with their workload.

“That’s where a lot of the big feelings come in because so many [employees]

SEE PAY PAGE 2



Drew Timme receives his honor as Gonzaga's all-time leading scorer while senior guard Rasir Bolton hoists the WCC finals trophy.

DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

Champs again: Zags crush Gaels in WCC title game

By TOMMY CONMY

Drew Timme scored 18 points and set the program scoring record as No. 9 Gonzaga University blew out No. 16 Saint Mary’s 77-51 to claim the West Coast Conference tournament championship Tuesday night in Las Vegas.

The top dogs in the WCC had met in the conference tournament 13 of the last 15 seasons and five of the last seven championship games. With the Gaels fourth tournament championship in program history on the line, the Zags carried a dominant first-half defensive

performance into the second to claim a fourth-straight tournament title.

Timme was one of four GU players in double digits. Malachi Smith was the X-factor, scoring 14 points off the bench and using his size to bother Saint Mary’s guards. Nolan Hickman scored 12 and Julian Strawther added 10.

Kyle Bowen’s layup to start the second half cut the Zags’ lead to 18, but when the Gaels starting lineup couldn’t muster an offensive burst, seven bench points from Joshua Jefferson didn’t get the Gaels any closer. Instead, GU methodically executed

its offense and held Saint Mary’s to 16 second-half points before a late flurry in the last three minutes of garbage time.

The first half largely resembled the last matchup between the WCC’s top programs, where GU built a 19-point first half lead. The Gaels bounced back to trail by only 13 at the half in that game, but had none of the same offensive fortitude this time out.

Saint Mary’s entered the game ranked fifth in the country in scoring defense, but it was the Zags who were the aggressors on that end. They held the Gaels to 19

first-half points — their best mark against a Division I opponent this season. They limited standout guards Aidan Mahaney and Logan Johnson to eight total points on 3-for-13 shooting and their three-quarter court press was a constant wrench in the Gaels’ offense.

Saint Mary’s finished the last three minutes of the half scoreless. Three scoreless droughts in the first half coincided with separate 9-0 runs from GU to build an 18-point halftime lead.

SEE ZAGS PAGE 9



GU students donate blood in vehicles located outside of the John J. Hemmingson Center.

JOE O'HAGAN IG: ohagandaz

Vitalant blood drive comes to GU

By MARY SHERDEN

For some Zags, the community service is so deep, they would say it’s in their veins. This sentiment rings especially true as Gonzaga University furthers its partnership with the Vitalant blood drives.

GU’s Center for Community Engagement joined forces with Vitalant Blood Donation Centers last Wednesday, with the intent to bring student volunteers and community partners together for a common goal.

“Our goal is to ensure that we have enough blood for our local hospitals,” said Erin Baker, Vitalant’s donor recruitment manager. “We need about 200 to 250 units [of blood] a day just to supply the hospitals in this area — and that doesn’t even

include trauma.”

To participate, donors must fill out a series of questions to ensure eligibility. After the blood donation is collected, they are directed to rest and fuel up on complimentary snacks and juice. The whole process takes 45 minutes to an hour.

“A whole blood donation is one pint and that splits, potentially, into three products — red cells, plasma and platelets,” Baker said. “If you donate, you’ll save up to three lives.”

Once the donations are in the hands of local hospitals, they are used in cancer treatments, heart surgeries and a multitude of other day-to-day procedures.

SEE BLOOD PAGE 2

GSBA Election Results

- *****
- GSBA President:** Griffin Reittinger
- GSBA Vice President:** Kainoa Evans
- Speaker of the Senate:** Kylie Mizoguchi-Mukai
- Treasurer:** Bradley Tate
- A&S Senators:** Kevin Pinkelman
- Engineering Senator:** Sanjana Sanjay
- Nursing Senator:** Ethan King
- Business Senator:** Charlie MacDonald
- Education Senator:** Grace Ann Hart
- TVRAS Senator:** Lauren Piel
- International Senator:** Ash Gong
- On-Campus Senator:** Olivia Betzen, Madelyn Derr
- Senior Senator:** Gus Ringo, Lucy Kramer, Zach Nagy
- Junior Senators:** Lillian Holland, Rafaela Lindnau Noronha, Sabrina Miriy
- Sophomore Senators:** Emma Larson, Nathaniel Mongan, Claire Aigner

Amendments to the constitution did not pass to not reaching the required 25% of the student body voting.

**Read article online for further update on student government election results.

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Zags baseball takes to its new field in home opener vs. UC Irvine.

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Solar charging table to be installed

Two GU students spearheaded a project that will bring green technology to campus

By CLARINNE KIRK

A new solar-powered outdoor charging table will be installed in front of College Hall in March, thanks to a project led by seniors Emma Gashi and Abby Dodd.

The table, manufactured by the company Sunblot, uses a slanted solar panel to power charging ports, allowing students to study outside while also charging their electric devices.

The project originated in spring 2020 in the Sustainable Student Leadership Program, where Gashi and Dodd said they first presented their campus sustainability initiative to a group of their fellow peers.

Yet, it was not until Gashi observed an increased need for usable outdoor study spaces their sophomore year that the pair decided to pitch the project to Green Fund, a grant students can utilize to implement sustainability projects on campus. Gashi and Dodd's pitch was rejected due to the table's high cost.

"Green Fund told us that the project was too expensive and that we should go back to the drawing board and find a way to develop it ourselves," Dodd said. "We explored every option, including wind power, putting solar panels on buildings, the whole nine yards."

Gashi and Dodd explored new options but still found that their original idea remained the most logical and feasible, especially after receiving encouragement from Tomson Spink, the head of GU's Plant Services who helped Gashi and Dodd with the project.

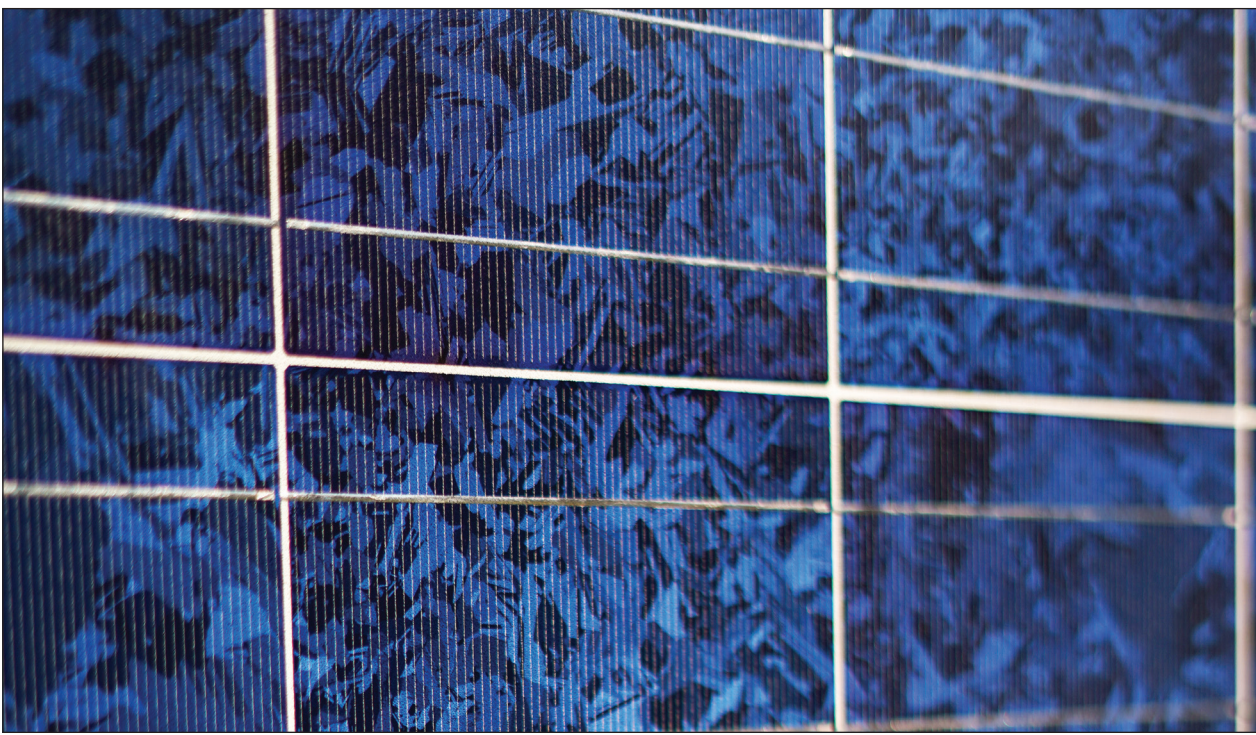
"Tomson really encouraged us to stick with our original idea," Dodd said. "He saw it as the easiest and most logistically feasible idea because all you need to do is buy the table and put it on a flat surface, not build your own."

Spink said that collaborating with students often involves adjusting their plans to be more practical while trying to find what is possible within the logistical confines of running a campus.

"[The solar panel table] project took a few years from when it was originally proposed as we talked through the best option, which eventually morphed into finding a manufacturer that can provide something sturdy with the necessary amenities," Spink said.

Spink said that he sees work with students as mutually beneficial. Not only does he help students implement their projects, he sees students as a driving force to improve campus sustainability and to support Plant Service's environmental efforts.

"There is an emphasis on campus to focus on how to make us carbon-free and more environmentally friendly," Spink said. "The students themselves really push us to do better which then makes it easier to get things through the administration. There's that groundswell of support with an interest in doing better."



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

The new solar-powered charging table should appear on campus by the end of the month.

Dodd and Gashi decided to double down on their original idea and reapply to Green Fund in November, despite fears that their project would once again be rejected.

"We went into our presentation not knowing the fate of [our project] at all," Dodd said. "We were told that it was supposed to cost less or be different than the original idea, but we came back with the same idea."

Despite these hesitations, Gashi expressed in their Green Fund presentation confidence in their idea, especially after confirming that their idea remained the best long-term investment.

"We were very confident in our idea," Gashi said. "We had checked all our bases and knew there were no loose strings. We tried to stress that though the table is expensive up front, it is a good investment."

Gashi and Dodd also emphasized the widespread campus support they had gathered over the course of their project, including partnerships with Jim Simon and the Sustainability Office, Gonzaga Sustainable Energy and the Institute of Electrical and Engineers Club.

Dodd and Gashi said their project can boost students' mental health, especially during winter when seasonal affective disorder can be severe.

"I think people are realizing that mental health is

more important," Dodd said. "Our project has an aspect of allowing people to spend more time outside while on their computer rather than in a confined space. People really need to get outside more, especially due to seasonal depression."

With the improved pitch, Dodd and Gashi received funding for their project and turned their focus to working with Spink to implement the installation. According to Spink, the table has been ordered and is expected to be installed by the end of March.

While this project was limited to just one table due to the expenses, Dodd hopes that the project will continue with one new table being installed each year.

"We're hoping to pass this project off so they can continue to apply for the Green Fund and get more tables," Dodd said.

Gashi also hopes that this project will inspire others to try and improve the campus, even if it seems too daunting or fail at first.

"Don't limit yourself," Gashi said. "Be bold, have big deas. Because people told us our project wouldn't be accepted—which it wasn't at first – but it succeeded in the end, so be emboldened."

Clarinne Kirk is a staff writer.

PAY

Continued from Page 1

come into these roles because we like spending time with students," Ross said.

The shift to nonexempt classification has posed other challenges as well, according to Ross. One challenge is that nonexempt employees' ability to teach classes might become limited.

Typically, the university offers additional compensation for staff to be able to teach classes or facilitate training. According to Ross, under the new regulations, there seems to be a feeling that only exempt employees will be able to receive additional compensation.

Another struggle of the reclassification is the expectation to track and record hours. Being an hourly employee means marking every single hour, Ross said.

Although these challenges can be

frustrating and disheartening, Ross believes that it is also important to remember that nonexempt classification is necessary to protect workers.

"At the end of the day, this rule is meant to protect people," Ross said. "This is a labor law that is meant to protect the lowest paid people from getting overworked and being asked to work hours that are unpaid."

They also said that reclassification is healthy because it establishes a better work-life boundary. They referenced not answering emails late at night and not working through lunch as ways that being a nonexempt employee has created a better balance.

Kelly Reither, the compensation analyst for GU's human resources, said the shift in compensation also ensures that employees are paid for all the work they do for their job.

"If you are logging on and you are truly doing your work duties, you need to be

compensated by the university for that," Reither said.

The reclassification came as a result of an increase in Washington state's minimum wage, which was raised to \$15.74 per hour. This increased the minimum salary requirement for exempt employees, which according to a 2020 L&I news release, is set by multiplying the minimum wage by two.

On Sep. 30, L&I announced that the new yearly salary threshold for businesses with more than 50 employees in 2023 is \$65,478. This is \$9,000 more than the 2022 salary threshold and a more than 24% increase.

The threshold increase is not something new, according to Reither, as L&I has established new salary thresholds since 2020. What is new, she said, is how much the threshold was increased.

"What happened in 2023 was that the rate increased dramatically, which is why it impacted a wider cut of our population,"

Reither said.

Since the threshold has in the past been increased in smaller increments, the more dramatically increasing new threshold is a bigger change to manage, according to Reither.

L&I has a schedule of forecasted increases out through Jan. 1, 2028, which projects the salary threshold by 2028 to be \$93,288. This is \$27,000 more than the current threshold. The rate of increase will depend on the size of the employer, the L&I news release reported.

"The threshold will continue to increase, and we see a majority of our staff will be overtime-eligible by 2028," Reither said. "So, it's something we're continuing to adapt to and work through just based on where the state of Washington is going."


Amelia Troncone is a staff writer.

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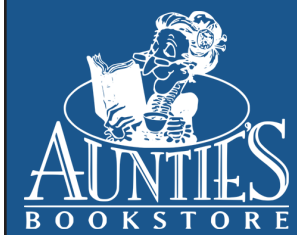
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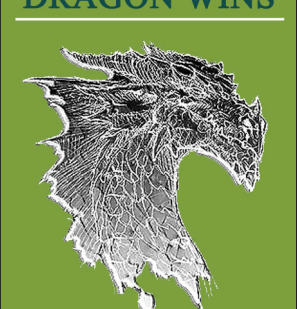
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MAKOA DE ALMEIDA IG: makoadealmeida

ALAS members perform a folklorico dance at their annual festival, which complemented salsa, merengue, bachata, cumbia and reggaeton performances.

Rompiendo Fronteras breaks barriers

ALAS festival underscores intersectionality and diversity of Latin American culture

By EMMALEE APPEL

Gonzaga University’s Association of Latin American Students highlighted a beautifully diverse collection of cultures from across Latin America in its annual festival on Saturday evening.

The event packed the John J. Hemmingson Ballroom with people from the GU and Spokane communities.

The festival theme, Rompiendo Fronteras, translates to “breaking barriers,” which ALAS President Odalys Sanchez Cedillo said is a reflection of the club’s hope to move toward a more intersectional outlook for both its activities and membership.

“We’re talking about challenges that ... have pervaded through whiteness and stereotypes, so just breaking all those things down and really showcasing who we are,” Sanchez Cedillo said.

This focus on intersectionality and support of all cultures was prevalent in everything from the event’s organization to the choice of food served.

The festival included a variety of spoken-word performances, songs, dances and games which welcomed audience participation. A collection of souvenirs like jewelry, pottery and snacks could be purchased. Attendees were also welcome to visit a table representing Mujeres in

Action, a Spokane organization dedicated to aiding Latinx victims of domestic violence.

Sticking with the theme, featured dances had origins in several Latin American countries. The first of these dances was folklórico, which has its roots in a mix of Indigenous Mexican culture, as well as European and African influence.

The folklórico dance also highlighted a partnership between ALAS and the Spokane Hispanic Business Professionals Association, which, according to Sanchez Cedillo, is an excellent reminder of community support.

Other dances included merengue and bachata from the Dominican Republic, cumbia from Colombia, reggaeton from Puerto Rico and salsa from Cuba.

Every dance was choreographed and performed by ALAS club members and used a variety of music to fit each style of dance.

Speaking of music, the festival additionally hosted a “cultural club riff-off,” putting representatives from several GU cultural clubs on the spot and testing their knowledge of Latin music.

Audience member Jaidyn Melby, who attended to support a friend in ALAS, said the event moved her to tears.

“It was gorgeous ... I really loved that all of the other

cultural clubs were here to support,” Melby said. “That was really nice to see.”

In addition to the dances and games, there were also four song performances and two spoken-word performances.

The first spoken-word piece, performed by Anjie Elguero-Mateo, was titled “Inchuch inmam tx’woche tx’inyab” and explored themes of her family’s history of immigration to the United States from Guatemala, poverty and how she navigates the legacy of those hardships today.

The second was titled “Echale Ganas” (“Make it Win”) and was performed by Odalys Sanchez Cedillo and Jacky García-Angulo. The duo spoke back and forth about their relationships with their immigrant parents and their experiences being Mexican American. They joined voices to say, “we are not aliens — we are natives.”

The evening closed with an Isang Bagsak, which is described as a unity clap expressing ALAS’s focus on intersectionality and allyship with all cultures.

To stay up to date with ALAS and its meetings and events, check out its Instagram page @gu.alas.

Emmalee Appel is a digital editor. Follow them on Twitter: @emm_appel.

BLOOD

Continued from Page 1

“The reality is, there’s no substitution for human blood,” Baker said. “You can’t get it anywhere else. And it has to be volunteer, so we need donors.”

According to Baker, the COVID-19 pandemic negatively affected donation numbers and Vitalant is still working to build this network back up.

“Pre-COVID, we used to see about 100-200 students a semester, now we’re seeing about eight people a month,” Baker said. “We were getting about 35% of our blood from colleges and now we’re at 11% ... it’s a significant decrease.”

In past years, Vitalant has worked with GU’s ROTC program and the women’s basketball team. This year marks the first time they partnered with CCE.

Sarah Marr, Community Engaged Learning coordinator and GU alumnus, works with community partners like Baker to bring volunteering opportunities to CEL-designated classes.

“The service component in CEL classes bring some of that learning to life,” Marr said. “It’s a great way to build some skills, build a network here in class and deepen [students’] understanding of critical reflection.”

In CEL classes, GU students work with local community partners and volunteer to further their coursework. They research

organizations and log their hours on Gonzaga Connected, the university’s service organization platform.

CCE’s new partnership with Vitalant will allow the site’s mission and blood drive dates to be accessible to students, faculty and staff on Gonzaga Connected. Interested donors can schedule an online appointment ahead of time to make the donation process more efficient.

GU clubs and organizations, as well as individual students, can also work with the CCE to volunteer for Vitalant in ways other than giving blood, such as tabling in John J. Hemmingson Center and signing in donors.

According to Marr, the opportunity to volunteer should not be neglected.

“It’s a chance to be part of something that’s a little bit bigger than yourself,” Marr said. “It’s an opportunity to see the world in new ways and see what’s going on outside of your perspective. At the end of the day, we’re all here in a community. We have our GU community, we have our Spokane community and we can continue to build that and support one another in our missions.”

Vitalant will be back on campus on April 20 from noon to 5 p.m. More information can be found on Gonzaga Connected.

Mary Sherden is a staff writer.

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Going to the movies has changed, is it time we did too?

In February, AMC Theaters announced it would soon begin demanding higher ticket prices for better seats, drawing controversy and apathy from audiences. For a company that so narrowly escaped defaulting on its debt, AMC somehow managed to shock once more with both overconfidence and ignorance.

Going to the movies has not been the same since the pandemic. Though we treat them like a two-hour (really 3 1/2 hour now) vacations, going to the theater can be a demanding experience. How often can we still ignore the rest of the moving world, the light of day and of course, checking our phones?

The streaming industry shares that last issue. Theaters guilt trip you into putting your phone away right before the movie starts. You don't get the chance to even think about checking before your attention plunges into the opening shot. Streaming struggles from being inside the home.

The convenience of having some of the best cinema all within your living room is good — too good. Whether watching film or television from the comfort of our couch, we forget that the media on-screen was designed for its medium.

Our phones are designed for keeping our attention fixed on them. If I'm not being told that my phone has to go away, I'll be using it while watching. Whatever I sat down intending to watch blurs into background noise or just another part of the TikTok cacophony of Family Guy, Subway Surfers and a rolling ball game that is advertised everywhere but never actually played.

Watching in theaters is just a better experience. Sound designers and engineers carefully construct the



BY MICHAEL BEIRNE

perfect balance to bring the picture's sound to life with theater speakers. Theater employees protect society from having to face the horrors left behind after showings.

Without getting too close to the Nicole Kidman AMC monologue, going to the movies really is a special experience. Not only serving as a staple of America's recreational culture, movies are the closest thing we have to recreating life (virtual reality games don't count until we can stop worrying about melting our eyes).

The familiarity of the process rewards repetition. The better the experience, the more likely you are to return

— even if the movie isn't good but the experience as a whole is. Even if it's just worth the time or the toll on your wallet, you'll most likely come back anyway for a better movie next time.

The cost continues to rise though. At the nearest theater to campus, River Park Square AMC, almost everything from the concession stand will cost about as much as your ticket. The cheapest popcorn you can buy is \$9.29 before tax. I'd rather bring my own snack instead.

Netflix is just as guilty. Along with steady price hikes over the past few years, Netflix recently schemed a means of ending account sharing across households. Somehow managing to make both the cost and the experience worse, Netflix has set an unfortunate precedent much akin to AMC.

Ultimately, I'm not going to spend \$15 per month alone to watch the depleting amalgam of loose IP's that have managed to fall into Netflix's cash-seeking hands. At the same time, I'm not going to pay for a better seat.

As someone who heads to the theater fairly often, I have still not seen a theater full since the pandemic. Though I'll now be going to the movies less, I'll continue to make it for the movies I find worth seeing. There's just no substitute.

Michael Beirne is a staff writer. Follow him on Instagram and Twitter: @Mtbeirne.

'Do it for the culture': Zags ought to stay involved

I committed to Gonzaga University because the leaves on the trees change colors. This doesn't happen in Southern California. Ask almost any GU student and their reason for committing will fall under a great basketball team, the best scholarship offer, an older sibling attended or simply because it's GU — a phenomenal school with a great success rate.

I committed to GU because my first step onto campus was memorable — seeing a person bike into a bike rack and managing to knock over all of the bikes is something you don't see every day. What makes this story great is the person who knocked the bikes over got right back up and carried on to ride away. Seeing GU students come together and help pick up all the bikes while laughing about the situation gave me a true sense of community.

Two years later, I feel the same way about my choice to attend GU.

GU would be nearly perfect if we had a “natty” under our belt and if the snow fell while the sun shined, but since we are not quite perfect yet, GU can definitely be improved. For starters, maybe have stronger bike racks around campus.

With over 150 clubs to choose from, GU does a pretty good job of allowing students the chance to get involved on campus. SpikeNites and GSBA put on great events that get some students excited to attend ... but why not most students? Are the events too repetitive? Is the word not getting



BY GILLIAN MELENDEZ

out to all students? Or are students just not interested in what's being offered?

Human nature is all about competition.

When events are being advertised “show up for free candy” or even offering a free ticket to see a movie, something must be wrong if no one is jumping at the opportunity to do something for free. This may be due to time conflicts or the fact that it's less captivating for students to show up because there is no enjoyment in winning something.

Yes, it's free, but there is no incentive to make students want to go.

When there is competition, this attracts more bodies to show because rather than just receiving a prize, you are gaining the satisfaction of winning something, which gains more memories down the road.

Student involvement numbers have been going down since the COVID-19 pandemic, which makes it hard for all organizations on campus to cater to students. There needs to be a desire from the students for great events to be held. Perhaps planning simpler events that are located on campus, offering more times to hold the events and all around just making it easier for students will raise attendance numbers.

The Transfer, Veteran, Returning Adult Services and First-Generation Initiative on campus is a great way to welcome transfer students and introduce them to one another, but what happens after orientation week? All the events take place with the same group of people, making the transition hard for transfer students to meet other students around campus.

How are transfer students supposed to be introduced to GU's community when they only plan events with people who also know nothing about GU? Two of my roommates happen to be transfer students and they have expressed that the immigration process of adjusting to campus life was very difficult for them and the program lacked connecting transfer students with one another. Being seen on campus can be hard, and getting involved is

easier said than done.

It feels safe to stay in your comfort zones and to stick with the same people you know.

You can't get struck by lightning if you're not standing in the rain, but it takes jumping over a puddle to get closer to making your voice heard. GU's programs give students the umbrellas they need for the rain, but what happens when they run out? The programs lack the fundamentals it takes to make all students feel welcomed throughout the whole semester.

Students have mixed feelings about the COG, which for some mysterious reason tastes better when parents are in town, or how the Rudolf Fitness Center can be a tad bigger and the Kennel can use a few new chants at sporting events. The list can go on and on, but what is important is the involvement GU is willing to offer students, and the effort students are willing to put in. With involvement numbers going down, it makes GU's community slightly harder to find.

GU doesn't lack a lot in my eyes, but for this vision to stay at ease, GU's programs need to make students feel welcomed and heard from day one and up until the day of graduation.

Gillian Melendez is a staff writer.

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Silver hair, don't care; aging politics hurts everyone

On Jan. 20, 1981, Ronald Reagan was inaugurated as the 40th president of the United States; he was the oldest person to hold the office at 69 years old.

His mental acumen and political talent were questioned for years because of this and formed a focal point of debate during his presidency. However, when compared to today, the concerns raised in this time are relatively trivial; both Joe Biden and Donald Trump are older than 75, and the average age of our U.S. senators is 65 years old.

With age comes political experience, but also the inevitable physical and mental declines that come with getting older. Despite this, we as Americans have come to value the political costs of retirements and recovery as more important than the well-being of individual politicians as well as the country. This is, was and will continue to be the worst approach.

A prime example of our misplaced priorities is the situation regarding Sen. John Fetterman of Pennsylvania. Just before the primary elections of 2022, he suffered a stroke while on the campaign trail. Rather than letting him rest and recover, his family and the national party pushed him to continue campaigning, especially after he won the primary.

At the time, several people raised concerns over this move, but they were often dismissed as being ableist, with media members who pointed out his speech impairments receiving especially heavy criticism.

Regardless, Fetterman won the election over Mehmet Oz in November and took his seat as a senator. His cognitive abilities are still impaired and he has stated in several interviews that he still cannot fully hear his colleagues at times, even with the closed-captioning that was installed specifically for him.

Despite this, people close to Fetterman as well as the media have continued to assert that he is healthy and questioning this assertion is wrong and inconsiderate.

Finally, in February, Fetterman was hospitalized twice — first for feeling light-headed and then for inpatient treatment for clinical depression, where he remains today. This second visit is expected to last for two months, according to his aides; his wife and family left on vacation soon after.

This situation is indicative of a terrible culture regarding health and age that we have perpetuated in this country, and it is not the first instance of politics taking precedent over well-being. Mark Kirk, a Republican from Illinois, still sought reelection after a stroke in 2016, and both Sens. Diane Feinstein of California and Chuck Grassley of Iowa opted to



BY JACKSON HUDGINS

seek reelection despite being in their mid-to-late 80s.

The reality is that these people should be encouraged to retire, so that they are not forced to continue performing an exhausting task. The U.S. government provides many difficult jobs to its legislators and at some point, their age or health will lead to them being unable to perform their job effectively.

Sen. Fetterman could retire today, and the Democrats would continue to hold the seat until 2024 as the governor of Pennsylvania is a fellow Democrat. This would allow Fetterman to recover on his own and spend much-needed time with loved ones. However, this will not happen, as Pennsylvania law dictates that his seat would once again be up for election in 2024 should he retire and for some Democrats, the potential of losing that seat is too great to bear.

We as voters and Americans should make sure that we put an end to this. It is not compassionate or healthy to allow (or tacitly encourage) those with health or age-related problems to continue to campaign or legislate if they can no longer do the job effectively.

It is not fair to deprive them of whatever recovery time they need or personal well-being they have — people should be more important than whatever subjective sense of political importance we have.

Jackson Hudgins is a staff writer. Follow him on Twitter: @judge_hudge3.

Integrated Media professor doubles as documentary filmmaker

By TONY HEIN

Creating films and establishing film festivals from the ground up, Matt McCormick, an assistant professor of art and integrated media at Gonzaga University, has made a name for himself in the competitive art world.

According to Matt McCormick's IMDB biography, "McCormick is a filmmaker and artist whose work blurs genre distinctions to construct witty, lyrical observations of history, culture, and geography. Working at the intersection of documentary and artistic production, McCormick investigates forgotten histories while exploring experimental cinematic formalism."

One of McCormick's most significant works is his feature-length documentary, "The Great Northwest," which explores the history and culture of the Pacific Northwest through a series of vignettes that are both humorous and insightful. McCormick also added that this documentary was the most fun he had directing.

"Two things I've always enjoyed — one is going on road trips and [two is] going to thrift stores," McCormick said. "One day I was in a thrift store and found this old scrapbook from 1958 by four women from Seattle. They went on a 3,000 mile road trip and documented everything from receipts to brochure guides and even ended up going to Yellowstone National Park."

The documentary attempts to replicate this journey, stemming from the passion of McCormick's love for road trips and filmmaking.

"It's not a perfect re-creation — my trip was 50 years after the fact, and back then they didn't have the interstates at all and their trip was before some of the dams were built around here as well," McCormick said. "The changes to the landscape and geography was immense."

The film is a testament to McCormick's unique perspective and his ability to capture the essence of a place and its people.

In addition to his work in film, McCormick is also an accomplished photographer. He has been exhibiting his photography since the 1990s and has published several books of his work. McCormick's photography is characterized by its raw and unfiltered quality, which captures the beauty and imperfections of his subjects.

McCormick's mixed-media work combines elements of film, photography,



MAKOA DE ALMEIDA IG: makoadealmeida

Matt McCormick's passion for film has landed him in the professional and educational filmmaking landscape.

sculpture and installation to create immersive and thought-provoking experiences for his viewers. His installations are often site-specific and are designed to engage with the architecture and history of the space in which they are displayed.

One of McCormick's most recent mixed-media works is his installation "Some Days are Better Than Others," which was exhibited at the Portland Art Museum. The installation consisted of a series of sculptures and video projections that explored the concept of memory and its relationship to place.

McCormick's work is often inspired by his time living in Portland. His love for the city and its people is evident in his work, which often celebrates the peculiar and unconventional aspects of the Pacific Northwest.

In addition to his artistic practice, McCormick is also the founder and curator of the PDX Film Festival, which showcases independent and experimental films from around the world. The festival, which began in 2003, has become a significant

cultural event in Portland and has helped to promote independent filmmaking in the Pacific Northwest.

"I saw what was going on in the music scene in the Pacific Northwest and I thought, there should be something like this for films," McCormick said. "All the kids going to see these rock shows would totally be into going to see a program of these short local films."

McCormick began planning and putting on shows that drew interest. With this newfound success, McCormick was receiving calls from around the world to help curate film festivals ranging from the United States all the way to Venice, Italy.

McCormick's influence on the art world extends beyond the Pacific Northwest. His work has been exhibited in galleries and museums around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Venice Biennale and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

McCormick said another factor of his journey as an artist is his commitment to collaboration. He would work with other artists such as musicians including The

Shins, Sleater-Kinney and Broken Bells.

McCormick described directing music videos as "self-contained projects" and "just an exciting experience overall."

McCormick said that music videos are such a unique aspect of the filmmaking industry that he assigns students projects to create their own videos as a part of the courses he teaches at GU.

A former student of McCormick, Jackson Scallen, described his experience in the classroom as "an eye-opener."

"Professor McCormick would recognize the level you were at and fit the lesson to you, which I thought was very special," Scallen said. "McCormick's dedication to his craft and his love for his hometown has made him a beloved figure in the Pacific Northwest."

His passion for film has landed him in the professional and educational filmmaking landscape in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

Tony Hein is a contributor.

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Spokane's House of Brunch reimagines brunch classics

By CATE WILSON

Calling all brunch lovers — House of Brunch is open in downtown Spokane. What was formerly Sushi Sakai has been transformed and reimagined for a creative dining experience.

A soft launch was held on Feb. 28, with its hard open on March 2. Open daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., House of Brunch's menu caters to both the breakfast and lunch crowds.

Jackson Connery, owner and executive partner, has been in the food industry working his way up the chain since he was 15. It has been his dream to open up his own restaurant since he was 18 years old, and two years ago, the dream began to form into a reality. Connery and Executive Chef Wade Watkins have joined forces to create a unique menu.

"We've been able to collaborate on a menu that mixes both of our styles," Connery said. "I enjoy lighter fare with small plates and Wade brings a different, new energy to the table."

The menu is almost entirely locally sourced. The bread comes from Spokane's Rind and Wheat. The tea comes from Revival Tea Co. located down the street from House of Brunch. The coffee is from Tubbs Coffee Roasters just across the state line in Hayden, Idaho. Even the microgreens are from right here in Spokane.

"We want to make sure we are a part of the community, not just in it," Connery said.

Ryli Warnock, one of the first servers hired, is enjoying the culture that House of Brunch is building as a team.

"It's so neat we are all a part of something new," Warnock said. "We are all starting this together which is really cool. Every other place I've been at was already established or is a corporate chain, so I love seeing friends that came together to make something amazing here in town that no one has done before."

Warnock applied after seeing the application called for "culinary gangsters."

"I was super intrigued and I feel like there is nothing like this in Spokane," Warnock said. "The menu is essentially fun, fine dining for brunch."

The food menu includes "subtle," "sweet," "savory," "chill" and a la carte options. The menu features creative items unique to House of Brunch in the Spokane area. For example, the "Roll" is a new take on chicken and waffles that wraps Nashville chicken inside a bubble waffle and includes slaw and honey.

Alongside the food, there is a variety of drinks to accompany any meal. Juice, smoothies, wellness shots, mocktails, Italian cream soda, coffee and tea are available for non-alcoholic beverages. Cocktails, beer, wine and



COURTESY OF HOUSE OF BRUNCH INSTAGRAM

House of Brunch is offering a reimagined brunch menu in downtown Spokane.

champagne are also available to order behind the bar. The bloody mary is made with fresh-pressed tomato juice instead of out of a can.

The décor incorporates earth tones to accentuate a light and airy space that includes a cherry tree at its center. Connery and his partner Brad Duffy were involved in selecting each meticulous detail down to the foam density of the booths. They chose the wallpaper, art, color scheme, light fixtures and every little thing that is visible to guests.

"We wanted to do brunch not necessarily more upscale, but have some cool food I like to see in a relaxed environment where you feel like anybody can come in any clothes," Connery said.

House of Brunch is located 818 W. Riverside Ave., Suite A and reservations can be made via phone or by visiting its website.

Cate Wilson is a staff writer.

Gorillaz call in the features for latest album "Cracker Island"

By ANTHONY MAUCIONE

Gorillaz, the virtual band, are back again with another album titled "Cracker Island" that features some eye-catching featured names. Singer and songwriter Damon Albarn brings out his familiar sounds of hip-hop, synth-pop and electronic music, but this time with the help of artists such as Tame Impala, Thundercat, Beck, Stevie Nicks and several others.

The album opens with the energetic title track that attempts to introduce the concept of the "Cracker Island." Thundercat provides arguably the best-backing vocals in this album, which helps elevate the funky vibes carried throughout the song.

Halfway through the album, Tame Impala also brings his signature style with psychedelic melodies in "New Gold." This song especially shines with a catchy chorus paired alongside vibrant and lively tunes that is perfect to dance to on repeat. However, the song almost seems more of a Tame Impala song featuring some added vocals from Damon Albarn rather than the other way around.

While there are several songs that stand out as catchy and worthwhile of a relisten, there are equally as many songs that fall short. Songs like "The Tired Influencer" and "Skinny Ape" among others were decent enough not to press the skip button on, but I will most likely not listen to them anymore than that.

One of the main gripes I have with this album is the lyrics themselves. It seems the album "Cracker Island" is supposed to be a concept piece with an overall narrative. However, the lyrics are



COURTESY OF GORILLAZ'S FACEBOOK

The virtual band Gorillaz dropped feature-heavy album "Cracker Island" on Feb 24.

often confusing as to what the message is supposed to be.

For the average listener, the rhythm and beats will be what one would listen to rather than trying to decipher the lyrics. One could try to work towards finding the narrative but it would take looking up the lyrics, reading reviews and possibly even watching the music videos in order to formulate a perspective on the overall story.

Gorillaz probably should have saved some tracks like "New Gold" for the release of the album. This would make the album a lot better, because it is best not to release one of the better songs from the

album before the full album even comes out. Sometimes it really is best to save the best for last.

However, I do understand that this decision to release "New Gold" before the album might have not been up to Damon Albarn, but rather the studio producers trying to squeeze more profit from the project. Regardless, this decision made the listening experience worse for fans of the band.

Some of the music videos that accompany the songs in this album present entertaining visuals that pair nicely with the upbeat melody. However, these videos also do not contribute much to the audience's understanding of the story Gorillaz is trying to put forward.

While this new album fails in some respects and is nowhere close to some of their past albums such as "Plastic Beach", the groovy yet familiar beats are enough to give "Cracker Island" a listen even if it is just to hear the well known featuring artists.

Rating 6.7/10

Best Song: "New Gold"

Honorable Mentions: "Possession Island", "Cracker Island"

Anthony Maucione is a staff writer.



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Spokane Art School moves location to University District

By CLARINNE KIRK

Communities of artists, students and local Spokane residents gathered Friday evening to celebrate the Spokane Art School's move to the University District and the opening of a new exhibit, "The Feminist Experience," a show honoring Women's History Month.

Featuring food trucks, live music from the Whitworth University String Trio and art of varying mediums, the event offered the opportunity to experience art and build community.

Since its founding in 1968, the Spokane Art School has been providing classes led by local professional artists in a variety of mediums including watercolor, pottery and basket weaving. In addition to teaching classes, the art school features a gallery and holds events to fulfill its mission of allowing others to enjoy art.

The new art school is located at 503 E. Second Ave., at the corner of Second and Sherman in a space three times the size of the old Garland District location. Tad Wisenor, the Spokane Art School board president, hopes that the increased size of the space will allow for more class offerings and event opportunities.

"We had over 400 students last year taking a class and could not fit any more students in the old space," Wisenor said. "So, the idea is we wanted to be in a space where we could expand our class offerings."

The new location not only provides expanded space to teach classes but also better fits in with the Spokane Art School's mission of education, according to Wisenor.

"We love being in the University District because of its focus on education," Wisenor said. "We also feels like it's a neighborhood that's on the way up. There's a great opportunity for us to be in on the ground floor of something that's really great for Spokane."

In addition to providing more opportunities for the Spokane Art School, the move to the University District will also bring an increased cultural depth to the district. University District CEO Juliet Sinisterra highlighted this cultural depth as a core aspect of the University District's mission, according to a statement published on the Spokane Art School's website.

"Developing an innovative, culturally-rich district around education is central to our mission," Sinisterra said. "The



The art school's new space is three times larger than the old location, with the hope that more art classes can be offered as well as more events.



The art school's new location features "The Feminist Experience" exhibit in honor of Women's History Month.

art school will serve as a fantastic public destination for all ages."

One attendee of the event, Madison Pearson, similarly expressed how the opportunities provided by the Spokane

Art School better the community.

"I think that having doors wide open for anyone to walk in and experience art is so important to community, community values and community togetherness,

especially after the past few years that we've had as a nation and world," Pearson said.

The event not only celebrated the opening of the Spokane Art School's new location but also Women's History Month, with the exhibit "The Feminist Experience." This exhibit features art from nine local women, providing differing perspectives on femininity through varying mediums ranging from ceramics to photography to oil painting.

Pearson noted that these varying perspectives enriched the influence of the exhibit.

"It's very interesting to see how different artists portray feminism," Pearson said. "Seeing how people think about feminism in the same way or differently as me is a good way to expand knowledge of the topic."

The Spokane Art School will continue to offer a variety of classes and display a new art exhibit on the first Friday of each month. The old Garland District location may be demolished and turned into a restaurant and retail space, according to the Spokesman-Review.

Clarinne Kirk is a staff writer.

The ZAG DINING Dish

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GU Multicultural Group Parnternships

In February we partnered with GU's Asian American Union and Black Student Union to cater the food for their spring events. Thank you both for being such great partners!

Asian American Union Night Market

Black And Elegant Together - Black Student Union Awards Night

Sodexo Employee Appreciation Day Party

This year we are celebrating our Employees the Friday before Spring Break with an all-employee party where they will have the opportunity to celebrate and have a lunch with all of their peers.

Check out the photos from the event on our social media!

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Zags host UC Irvine for home opener on Saturday

COMMENTARY
By AIDAN CHRISLEY

After 11 road games to start the year, Gonzaga baseball returns home on Saturday for a three-game series against UC Irvine.

The Zags started the season on the road to avoid the harsh Spokane climate early in the season. How successful they will be in avoiding it is to be determined, but the team is focused on the series ahead of them.

It has not been the ideal start to the season for the Zags, who are coming off a historic 2022 season where they finished 37-19 and peaked at No. 10 in the country, the highest ranking in program history.

After losing four in a row against Texas Tech to start the 2023 season, the Zags traveled down to Arizona where they went 0-2 against Grand Canyon and split the series 1-1 with Ohio State. GU was swept in its three-game series against Tennessee.

“We just need to keep in mind that it’s the beginning of the year,” said starting center fielder Enzo Apodaca. “We have 45 games ahead of us and just understand that we are taking each game at a time.”

Despite the team’s overall struggles, Apodaca has gotten off to a hot start. He has a .313 batting average with an on-base plus slugging of .999. Apodaca also has one home run and is 2-for-2 on stolen bases.

Starting third baseman Cade McGee has a batting average of .412 with an on-base plus slugging of 1.365 due in part to his four home runs. Brian Kalmer, a transfer from Wabash Valley and starting first baseman for the Zags, has a batting average of .370 and an on-base plus slugging of 1.355 in his first few games as a member of GU.

The Zags are averaging a little over six runs per game to start the year, which includes a 16-run outburst against Grand



DYLAN SMITH IG: d.smithphotos

Enzo Apodaca leads GU in runs scored this season with 13 while posting a .237 BA.

Canyon despite the loss.

“We definitely have not pitched the ball to the capability that we’re going to,” said associate head coach Brandon Harmon. “It’s a little bit of a younger, inexperienced team playing some really good teams.”

The Zags lost four pitchers to the 2022 MLB Draft, including three of their top starters. A lot of weight is now falling on the shoulders of a very young pitching staff.

“We have to get back to commanding the strike zone,” Harmon said. “It’s gotten a little contagious of giving up way too many walks.”

The Zags have issued 84 walks so far, which is more than the number of runs they have scored, giving up over seven

walks per game.

“There’s a lot of baseball games left to be played,” Harmon said. “That’s the beauty of baseball. We have talented kids in our group, they’re going to keep getting better and hit [their] stride when it matters down the stretch.”

The Zags have a chance to come out and start a fresh slate at home against UC Irvine. The Anteaters have started the season 7-1, but GU hopes the cold weather will cool their hot start.

“Just come out,” Apodaca said. “We’re looking forward to having our home crowd watch us play. Check out the new place and see what we can do.”

Aidan Chrisley is a staff writer.

ZAGS

Continued from Page 1

Johnson led the Gaels (26-7, 14-2) with 20 points. Alex Ducas added 10.

With a post hook over Jefferson at the 10:14 mark of the first half, Drew Timme surpassed Frank Burgess as GU’s all-time leading scorer. Burgess’s mark of 2,196 points stood since his final season in 1961. Timme is only the third player in program history along with Jim McPhee to surpass 2,000 career points.

Watson continued to shrug off his All-WCC snub, delivering a superb nine point, 10 rebound and five assist performance to earn All-WCC Tournament team honors. Strawther and Timme were also voted to the all-tournament team, with Timme taking home Most Outstanding Player honors.

The Zags are projected as a three seed in the NCAA

Tournament, but could claim a two seed if No. 7 Texas or No. 8 Arizona lose early enough in their respective conference tourneys. Such losses could allow the Zags to stay in the West region with first and second round games in Sacramento, California, and the Sweet 16 and Elite Eight in Las Vegas.

Saint Mary’s is projected as a five seed in the West region, setting up a potential fourth and final meeting against the Zags if both teams survive and advance. The Gaels have lost two of four games — both to GU — ahead of the NCAA Tournament.

The Zags will wait to hear their name called on CBS’s Selection Sunday show on Sunday at 3 p.m. PST.

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

GU SPORTS

- Friday, March 10
- Women's tennis vs. Montana State, 1 p.m.
 - Baseball vs. UC Irvine, 6 p.m.
 - Women's rowing vs. Minnesota, Chula Vista, CA, all day

- Saturday, March 11
- Baseball vs. UC Irvine, 6 p.m.
 - Track at West Coast Quad (women only) Outdoor Season, San Francisco, CA, all day

- Sunday, March 12
- Baseball vs. UC Irvine, 1 p.m.

- Monday, March 13
- Men's golf at Grand Canyon Invitational - Day One of Three, Phoenix, AZ

- Tuesday, March 14
- Women's rowing vs. Oklahoma, Chula Vista, CA, all day
 - Women's tennis at Southeastern Louisiana, Hammond, LA, noon
 - Baseball at Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 6 p.m.

- Wednesday, March 15
- Men's tennis at UTSA, San Antonio, TX, 9 a.m.
 - Women's tennis at Louisiana Lafayette, LA, 2 p.m.
 - Baseball at Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 3 p.m.

Home games in bold



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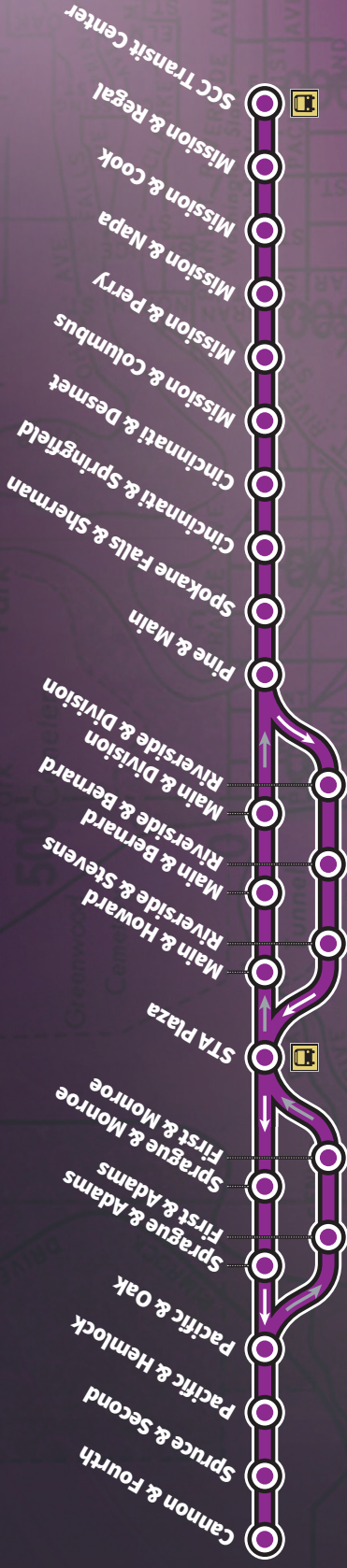


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