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New UMEC Unity Mural to incite vibrant connections

By MARISSA CONTER

If a picture is worth 1,000 words, then how many words is a mural worth?

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, the Unity Multicultural Education Center has commissioned a mural to be displayed in the John J. Hemmingson Center. The mural will be right across from Starbucks, between Iggy's Market and the U.S. Bank.

"It's been years in the making," said Tere Graham, UMEC's program manager for social justice programming. "When I came on to UMEC two years ago, we were in conversation around art and a mural and what that may look like. I was given autonomy to explore cultural diversity and social identities and what that means via art."

Titled "The Unity Mural," Graham said the mural will not include a plaque explaining the artist's vision, as the purpose of the mural is for the viewer to form their own connection to the piece. The theme of "unity" aligns with UMEC's values of belonging and community.

The artist who will create UMEC's mural is Daniel Lopez, a well-known muralist in Spokane who helped paint the Black Lives Matter mural downtown. There are also many groups and individuals at GU that have been involved in the mural such as the Gonzaga Student Body Association, the student-faculty-staff committee, students at UMEC and the Lincoln Center, the art department and more.

"We pitched ideas of 'what does UMEC mean' as well as conducting a poll last spring," said Union Carter, a social justice programming intern at UMEC and member of the student-faculty committee. "Based off our initial concept, the artist did a mock-up collage and pitched it to us and then we would give our feedback."

Carter also said each stair on the staircase by the welcome desk will be painted with different affirmations in order to bring some more color to the area.

According to Graham, work will begin

SEE MURAL PAGE 3



Professor Jeremiah Favara adopted his Boston terrier, Darcy, in May 2020. Favara calls her a "terrible, adorable monster."

You're such a teacher's pet

We're not talking about your least favorite classmate — it's time to learn about the animal companions who round out the families of GU's faculty

By TRINITY WILHITE

New to Spokane, assistant professors at Gonzaga University Jeremiah Favara and Corinne Sugino and their animal companions share a small part of their lives with the students at GU.

Favara and Sugino moved to Spokane this summer and started their journey at GU this past fall. Along with their addition to the communications program, they brought along their pets Darcy the Boston terrier and Sam the corn snake.

"[Darcy] is a terrible, adorable

monster," Favara said. "She is a rescue and she was a breeder before I got her, so she had a challenging life before I got her."

Darcy and her owner were brought together during the pandemic as she was adopted in May 2020.

"She's a total pandemic pup," Favara said.

Their union was a quick one. Favara knew he wanted another dog — a Boston terrier to be specific. While looking on Petfinder, an app to look for adoptable pets by location, he saw a scared dog only four hours away from his location in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The next Sunday, Favara went to go meet Darcy in South Bend, Indiana.

"I came and I walk out and they just hand me this shivering, super skinny, bone-sticking-out dog ... and I was like, there is no way I am leaving this poor little creature here," Favara said.

One of Darcy's lovable quirks is a sudden movement that Favara has nicknamed "the whip."

"When I first got her, I would notice that she would lift her paw up and it would look like she would try to scratch her ear,

SEE PETS PAGE 8

Cotopaxi CEO set to share experience fighting poverty

By CLARINNE KIRK

Davis Smith, the founder and CEO of outdoor gear brand Cotopaxi, will be visiting Gonzaga University on April 13 as this year's presidential speaker. The event's theme, "How to Fight Poverty with Profits," will focus on entrepreneurship rooted in social justice.

GU President Thayne McCulloh spoke about the significance of Cotopaxi and Smith's visit in a news release posted on GU's website.

"Cotopaxi is a company founded on encouraging people to both experience the wider world and make it better," McCulloh said. "This event is an opportunity for our campus to see how Davis Smith's focus on sustainability and working to alleviate global poverty so closely aligns with our mission as a university and serves as a practical example of a successful industry serving the needs of others."

Miguel Acosta Loza, Gonzaga Student Body Association president and co-sponsor of the event, said that part of this focus on ethical entrepreneurship includes stressing that building a company upon social justice makes not only moral sense but also economic sense, helping the company to be successful in a competitive economic sector.

"Davis likes to say that doing good is profitable," Acosta Loza said. "It is not only what you should be doing morally, but also practically."

Acosta Loza said that this principle of doing good is not only what has helped Cotopaxi find success in the outdoor gear industry but can also be applied to GU's mission and business strategy.

"Gonzaga's humanistic nature gives us a competitive edge," Acosta Loza said. "The focus on the human person really places Gonzaga competitively in the field of higher education similarly to how Cotopaxi has been placed

competitively in the outdoor gear industry."

Part of the reason taking a humanistic approach to business is so profitable, according to Acosta Loza, is that the current generation places an emphasis on the morals and story of a brand.

For Cotopaxi, the brand is centered around doing good, as illustrated by their slogan, "gear for good." Cotopaxi particularly focuses its social justice efforts on fighting poverty, a mission the event's discussion will be centered around.

The emphasis on doing good and its connection to GU's humanistic mission is not the only reason Acosta Loza picked Smith to be the presidential speaker.

The emphasis on doing good and its connection to GU's humanistic mission is not the only reason Acosta Loza picked Smith to be the presidential speaker. He also

SEE CEO PAGE 3



FASU members perform a Panagbenga Festival dance.

FASU stuns at 17th Barrio Fiesta, sells out seats to 480 attendees

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

Closing the evening with standing applause, for most of the audience the annual Barrio Fiesta festival marked another opportunity for the Gonzaga University community to have fun and laugh while exploring a different cultural experience.

But, for event organizer Aaliyah Maniego Lewis and her peers in the Filipino American Student Union, the Barrio Fiesta was much more than their typical club laughter. It was a celebration of it all: the joys, suffering, connection and above all, the family made throughout the school year.

"I think what really Barrio emphasized was how strong our community has grown together," Maniego Lewis said. "Barrio really showcases the pride that everyone has in reclaiming their identity throughout the year because when Barrio happens, we're showcasing ourselves

through music, through dance through the spoken word, in ways where we've learned throughout the year."

The theme of this year's Barrio Fiesta was, "where there is life, there is hope," a phrase that, according to Maniego Lewis, originates from her observations of the student union's deep community, which she said gives her daily hope and motivation.

Maniego Lewis said the cultural club was intentional throughout the planning process to integrate the theme into all aspects of the Barrio Fiesta, selecting specific programming and decorations that each would celebrate the life and hope that having deep connection brings.

According to Maniego Lewis, the theme led to changing how the festival has been emceed, with this year's event framed through a long, fictional conversation between a multi-generational Filipino family. Maniego Lewis said this allowed

the club to describe Filipino history, in addition to the unique role of family.

"We wanted to highlight three different generations and try to build a bridge between the three in understanding how there's a generational gap [which allows for] understanding and learning," Maniego Lewis said.

Celebrating life and hope at Barrio, according to Maniego Lewis, was seen in the dances, which showcased the rich music culture, including folk ballads and festive dances. Maniego Lewis said dance has always been a source of hope and life in Filipino culture and wanted to honor its special role.

Maniego Lewis said the energy of the dances was also matched in the performance of a romantic comedy skit, which she said was a memorable part of the Barrio festival because it was a celebration of the connection

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Drew Timme is famous. Is he the only one who doesn't know?

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Dawson Oen has worn many hats at Gonzaga, from athlete to consultant.

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SPORTS

Slugger Brian Kalmer strives to grow in numerous ways at Gonzaga.

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A new chapter for Miranda McLeod

By MARY SHERDEN

Miranda McLeod said she hated her first college English class. Now, the assistant professor of English at Gonzaga University laughs at her quick judgments. “I never allowed myself to think of [writing] as a possible career,” McLeod said. “I had this inherent preemptive guilt over the possibility of wanting to be a writer, so I graduated not knowing what I was going to do.”

McLeod’s career journey, like her path to GU, was far from linear. Throughout her life, she embarked on several big moves across the country — the first being from Los Angeles to Columbia University in New York City for her undergraduate degree. She was the first to admit that this was not an easy transition.

“I was just so aware of all the things I didn’t like about the city,” McLeod said. “But the thing about New York is that it gets in you. Once you sort of become fluent in the city, it’s hard to leave.”

McLeod remained on the East Coast while receiving her Master of Fine Arts in fiction from New York University. After working odd jobs in the publishing and editorial field, McLeod realized that in order to have the proper financial support to pursue a career in writing, she would have to work as a professor.

“I knew I liked words, but I really didn’t know in what capacity I would be able to find work,” McLeod said. “The academy is sort of the last bastion of space in which people are paid a living wage and given the space to produce their own work.”

She began her doctoral program at Rutgers University in New Jersey, where she said she truly fell in love with teaching.

“It feels magic in the same way that writing feels magic,” McLeod said. “You’re a sort of conduit for some incredible energy that is manifesting this amazing stuff. [But] when you’re a writer you often don’t get to see the eyes light up. You very rarely are witnessing the reception of your work ... but when you’re a teacher, every day you have the possibility of seeing the real benefit of someone’s mind growing.”

Rutgers University was also where McLeod met Melissa Parrish, a cherished former colleague and a lifelong friend.

“Miranda was really the one who inspired me to think more critically about politics and literature,” said Parrish, now an assistant professor of literature at Smith College in North Hampton, Massachusetts. “She was the heart of our grad student cohort — I can’t even imagine what it would have been like without her. She can transform any situation into both a learning moment and a good time, which I find to be one of the best things you can do as an educator.”

While in New York, McLeod taught a variety of different courses and workshops in writing to various populations



COURTESY OF MIRANDA MCLEOD

Miranda McLeod brings creative writing background to GU.

of students. She was honored with multiple awards for her accomplishments in both writing and teaching.

But several factors would pivot her life’s trajectory. Living in Hawaii for a year reminded McLeod of the outdoor beauty she missed while living in a big city like New York.

“I began to really want a dog and a garden,” McLeod said. “I grew up riding horses, which is not a thing you could ever afford to do in New York. Life stages were such that I began to be interested in living somewhere else.”

After returning to New York and braving a year of lockdowns and restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, McLeod and her husband set off on a yearlong road trip across the U.S. The two stayed with family and friends in Maine, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Kentucky, Texas and California, while McLeod finished her dissertation, taught classes remotely and actively searched for a job.

It was on this journey that she landed her position at GU.

“We kind of didn’t know what the ending would be,” McLeod said. “And to have the answer be Gonzaga and end up here in Spokane feels so lucky.”

She said she was also lucky for the support of her family and friends like Parrish, who actively celebrated her success.

“[Our friends] were super thrilled and excited for [McLeod’s] opportunity to be at an amazing university like Gonzaga, but also the opportunity to teach and work

“**It’s amazing how when you just change the scale of your perspective, what seems like chaos in one moment is like a beautiful and charmed path.**”

Miranda McLeod, English professor

on her craft as a creative writer, as a short story writer,” Parrish said. “That’s really unique and special that she’s in a department that lets all of her talents flourish.”

McLeod said that it can be challenging to balance both a teaching and writing career simultaneously, but her work with students in the classroom continues to inspire her.

While she finds the most joy in writing fictional short stories, she is currently working on a book-length project inspired by her own experiences. McLeod said this genre shift is a challenge, but important nonetheless.

“It’s how I know I’m on the right track,” McLeod said. “You should feel nervous and worried. All those sorts of emotions mean you’re doing something you haven’t done before — something that’s new or interesting that would be evocative or provocative. It’s a good sign.”

McLeod said she encourages her students to lean into this uncertainty as they take new strides in their writing and in their lives post-graduation. While reflecting on her own anxieties as an undergraduate, she said that her choices all led to the same passion and general path, although she didn’t realize it at the time.

“I would tell my college self that I am on a path,” McLeod said. “It was the path of storytelling. I’m just interested in people and the things that they do. That’s what creative writing is, that’s what literature is and that’s what teaching is. It’s amazing how when you just change the scale of your perspective, what seems like chaos in one moment is almost like a beautiful and charmed path.”

Mary Sherden is a staff writer.

FASU

Continued from Page 1

she formed with her other peers performing in the skit.

“I was just so proud of everyone,” Maniego Lewis said. “We were able to display Filipino culture in multiple ways — through humor, through singing, through dancing, through acting. It was just so special.”

Maniego Lewis said Barrio Fiesta capstoned the student union’s work this school year, yet her and Dawson Oen, senior

advisor for the club, said Barrio has always been future-focused, centered on growing the club and inspiring underclassmen to commit to the mission of the student union.

Oen, who was recognized in a senior dance as graduating at Barrio, said he recognizes the continual impact of the club in shaping the college experience for Filipino American students at GU and he said the event highlighted the ongoing potential of the cultural club to be a greater source of community.

Maniego Lewis also echoed this sentiment, saying that the Barrio Fiesta affirmed the themes in her spoken word

piece about the role the student union has in building community through the continual support of younger students.

“As a senior, you can see that there are those seeds you’re planting in the freshmen or even newer members, giving them a spark for them to take,” Oen said. “It is a lot of planting a seed and giving them that glimmer, that invite to the community. And from there, they can take it and grow it as big as they want.”

Oen said the community of the cultural club gave him life and hope and that while the Barrio festival was a showcase of Filipino culture, it was also a celebration of the

community of this cultural club, which has made his college experience memorable.

“As much as Barrio is a cultural showcase, I really like to look at it as a celebration of our culture, instead; all the work that we put into it all, like dance practices and skit rehearsals,” Oen said. “Barrio fiesta is a celebration of our culture and our hard work, even more than it is simply a show. It truly is like a celebration of our cultures and I’m just glad that everyone got to see it.”

Noah Aprill-Sokol is a news editor. Follow him on Twitter: @noah_sokol03.

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April green out: Tips to be sustainable

By CLARINNE KIRK

As days get longer and flowers begin to blossom, Gonzaga University students and community members will begin to flock outdoors to hammock near Lake Arthur or explore the nature surrounding campus.

With the increased focus on spending time outdoors comes Earth Day, a time when sustainability is stressed and can often leave individuals questioning — what is sustainability? And how can I approach sustainability?

Jim Simon, the director of the Office of Sustainability at GU, said that sustainability is important because it not only helps communities understand how to mitigate their harmful impacts on the environment but also helps them consider the intersection between environmental and social justice.

"Sustainability is important because it's a way to frame how we as individuals and a community can create a better future," Simon said. "It's enough for all forever. So, making sure that there are enough resources for the most amount of people for the longest amount of time."

Christina Garbuz, the sustainability chair of the Gonzaga Student Body Association, said she believes taking individual action to increase sustainability is critical as it creates a groundswell of action that can have a substantial impact.

"If we see ourselves as different [from corporations] then it's easier to put the blame or responsibility on someone else," Garbuz said. "The only person whose actions we can control is ourselves."

Emmy Wagner, president of Gonzaga Environmental Organization, added that while it may not be fair that the responsibility of taking sustainable actions falls on students, students are ultimately the ones who have the drive and power to hold institutions accountable.

"If institutions and companies aren't called out for their actions, they are never going to stop," Wagner said.

Simon said sustainable action can happen on an individual level, such as being a mindful consumer by buying ethically when possible, or on a communal level by participating in elections and volunteering with community groups involved in sustainability efforts.

At GU, the Office of Sustainability's main sustainability efforts includes educating and supporting students and



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

With the incoming spring weather, there are many ways to practice sustainability.

community members on how to be more sustainable, according to Simon. One way Simon and the Office of Sustainability attempt to accomplish this goal is through workshops in which students and community members can learn sustainability skills, such as how to ride the bus or how to properly sort and dispose of waste.

Simon is not only trying to participate in sustainability through his work at GU but also in his personal life. Some ways he is trying to be more sustainable is through composting, making the switch from single-use to reusable items and riding his bike instead of driving when possible.

For individuals who are looking for an easy way to incorporate a sustainable habit into their daily lives, Wagner said composting is a great place to start, especially since students have access to composting bins on campus.

According to Garbuz, one way

students can get involved in sustainability on campus is through Green Fund, an organization that allows students to pitch and get funding for sustainability-based projects.

"If you see an issue, apply for Green Fund to utilize those resources," Garbuz said. "That's a huge way you can get funding for your own initiatives and ideas."

These sustainability initiatives are not only beneficial to the health of the environment but can also increase the health of our communities, according to Garbuz.

"[Sustainable] materials are typically nontoxic, which makes our health better," Garbuz said. "If we have good health, then we live for longer and will be able to impact the world differently as we can actually take care of others because we're not too busy taking care of ourselves."

Another added benefit of increasing sustainability practices is a deeper sense

of community, Simon said. Sustainability efforts often bring people from diverse backgrounds together.

"You'll get to know more people because if you are operating on a community scale, that means you are going to start talking to more people and interact more with the people around you," Simon said. "I think when you create community, that is almost synonymous with sustainability."

Wagner additionally said that sustainability's impact goes beyond the environment, noting the intersection between sustainability and social justice.

"If we are trying to make the world a sustainable place, it has to be sustainable for everyone," Wagner said. "Sustainability doesn't count if everyone isn't included."

While Earth Day or Earth Week can serve as an important reminder to consider the benefits of sustainability and the ways we can be sustainable, Simon also said to consider sustainability year-round.

"There's the hope that we get inspired during Earth Month or Earth Week to make some changes over the next year, but the need to take personal and community scale action around climate change and sustainability is year-round," Simon said.

Simon suggested that one way to maintain a year-round focus on sustainability is to set periodic goals throughout the year.

"Set a goal around consumption, public participation, or waste reduction and start to implement those," Simon said. "Then, those goals will become habits, and the habits are a form of practice that will become a tradition."

Garbuz says another way to continue sustainability efforts is to mitigate burnout by emphasizing progress over perfection.

"Sometimes you have to weigh your options in what area you can choose to be more sustainable," Garbuz said. "It's taking it one step at a time and having grace and love towards ourselves and other community members rather than being judgmental."

To get more involved in sustainability on campus, more information can be found through Gonzaga Environmental Organization, a club that meets every Wednesday, or reach out to the Office of Sustainability for more information.

Clarinne Kirk is a staff writer.

CEO

Continued from Page 1

thought Smith would be impactful to the community given the relevance of Cotopaxi gear throughout campus, including wide use by students and in GU's own clubs.

"You can see the influence that [Smith's] company has on this campus just by looking at what people are wearing [and] at what our own GU Outdoors office uses," Acosta Loza said.

Cameron Messke, an office assistant at GU Outdoors, said that a large reason GU Outdoors uses and sells Cotopaxi products is that Cotopaxi's emphasis on sustainability and social justice aligns with the mission and values of GU Outdoors.

"This event is significant for Gonzaga Outdoors because we use and sell some of their products," Messke said. "This ties into some of our program initiatives surrounding diversity and inclusion."

In addition to influencing the purchasing habits of GU community members, Acosta Loza said he also hopes that Smith will influence the community by demonstrating an example of nontraditional entrepreneurship. Even though Smith did not study business as an undergraduate, he was still able to join the business world while incorporating his passions for cultures and social justice into his entrepreneurship.

"Anyone who has a passion, who wants to fight a social evil has a place in business," Acosta Loza said. "You can start a business with any background while following your passions. I hope people take away the encouragement and empowerment to go into the business world or use



COURTESY OF GONZAGA UNIVERSITY'S WEBSITE

David Smith has designed his company to value sustainability.

entrepreneurial skills in whatever area they're in."

Messke said he hopes the event will help individuals learn to be more sustainable consumers.

"I hope people can learn more generally about what a B-corporation is and what sustainability and ethical responsibility can look like in a corporation," Messke said.

Not only does Acosta Loza believe that Smith will have an impact on the GU community, but he also hopes the influence will be mutual with Smith being impacted by GU.

"The whole purpose of the presidential speaker series is for [the speakers] to experience our community as much as it is for our community to experience them," Acosta Loza said.

One way Acosta Loza has tried to enforce this purpose is through the format of the event — a fish bowl-style question-and-answer discussion rather than a formal, scripted speech. In this way, community members will be able to

ask Smith the hard-hitting questions that matter most to them, steering the discussion into areas relevant to attendees.

Messke and other GU Outdoors employees are hoping to utilize this format to ask Smith about how consumers can ensure that corporations are actually living up to their claims of sustainability or social justice.

"For Davis Smith, an overarching question we have is 'how can consumers hone in on if a company is actually sustainable and ethical beyond what the company may claim,'" Messke said. "How do you, as consumers, hold companies accountable?"

The event will take place in the Hemmingson Ballroom on Thursday, April 13 from 4-5 p.m. Individuals interested in attending the event can register for the free event on GU's website.

Clarinne Kirk is a staff writer.

MURAL

Continued from Page 1

on the mural shortly after Easter break. The mural will be officially revealed at a Unity Mural reveal event on May 3 from 4-5 p.m. The event will take place in the Hemmingson Rotunda and will be open to anyone who wishes to attend. Lopez, the artist, will speak about his work on the mural and then the silk fabric covering the mural will be unveiled.

"I can't express enough that art is an investment for our future and without having that, we have no guidance of what we want," Graham said.

As UMEC approaches its 25th anniversary date on May 5, Carter reflected on how the center has played a role in her time at GU, citing it as one of her favorite hangout spots over the years as well as an overall learning experience.

"I would definitely say that UMEC has been like a second home to me," Carter said. "It's a space where you can let your guard down and be comfortable — I've definitely taken a nap on the couch before. UMEC has also served as a place for personal growth for me. Through putting on and attending events, I've learned more about the world and different cultures and social issues."

In terms of expanding upon the center's progress, Graham said UMEC is interested in developing more scholarship opportunities.

"We just came off the heels of Diversity Monologues, which was a wonderful event and it was a lot of work," Graham said. "I would love to see writing and performing arts scholarships for Diversity Monologues. We've had incredible ideas coming up around scholarships, sustaining our programs and saturating avenues that we haven't yet."

Carter said that she hopes the mural brings some more recognition to UMEC and what the center represents.

"My hopes for the mural is to not only provoke thought about diversity or community within Gonzaga, but I really hope it also draws more attention to UMEC because I think right now, it's a lot of students of color, which is really great, but I want all different types of students to engage in UMEC as it really deserves attention and funding because they're doing really great work," Carter said.

Marissa Conter is an A&E editor. Follow her on Twitter: @marissaconter.

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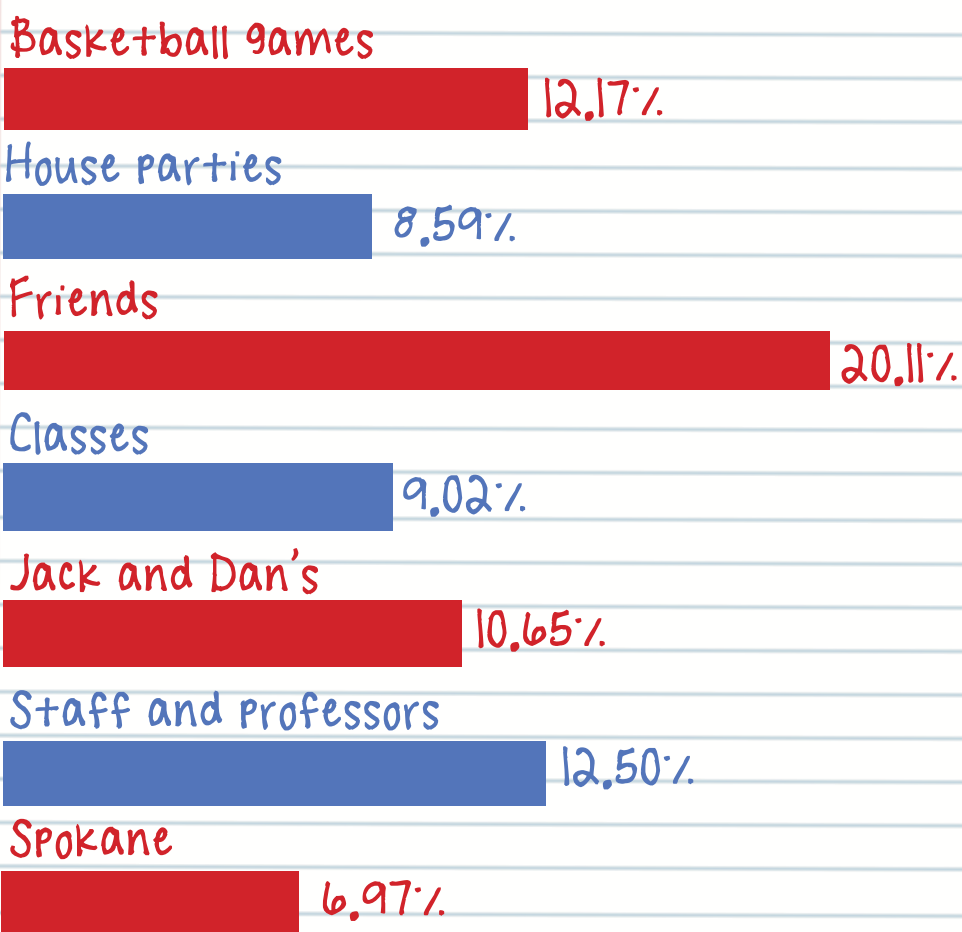
Describe college in one word.

fun life formative
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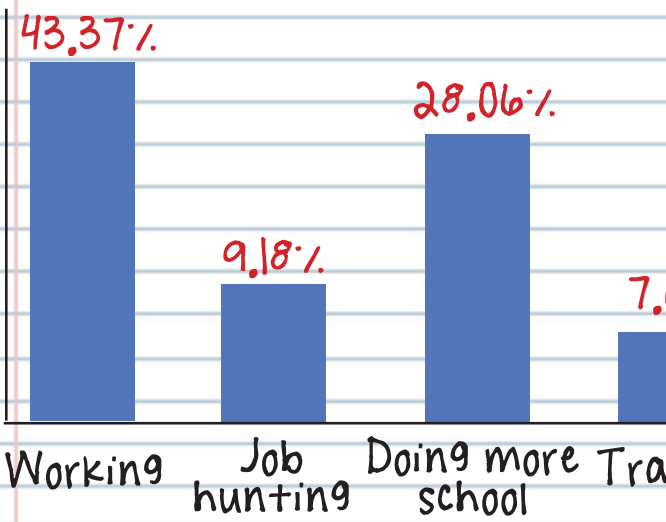
What best describes your feelings of leaving college?

"Heartbroken! I never want to leave!" **8.6%**
26.9% "I wish I had another year"
 "I'll miss it, but I'm ready to leave" **53.85%**
7.61% "Finally! It's about time!"

What will you miss most?



After college, I will...

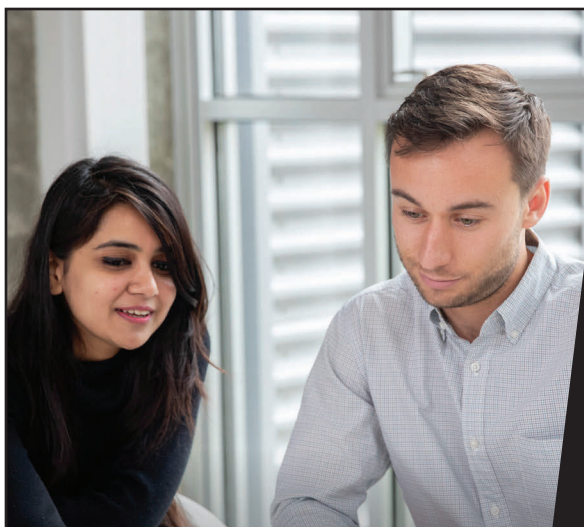
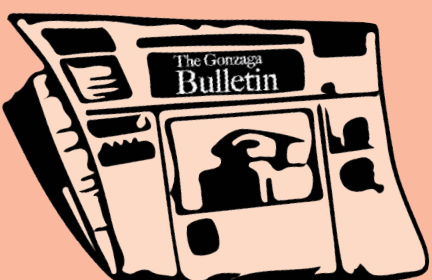


How prepared are you for post-college life?

"I have no idea how to be an adult. My diet is mainly cold pizza and cups of noodles." **14.95%**
 "Sort of prepared. I've got a job but I've never been up before for 2 years..." **20.10%**
 "Pretty good: I got a job, a car, and a place to live, but how do I pay taxes?" **39.18%**
 "More than prepared. I've already started my retirement." **20.10%**



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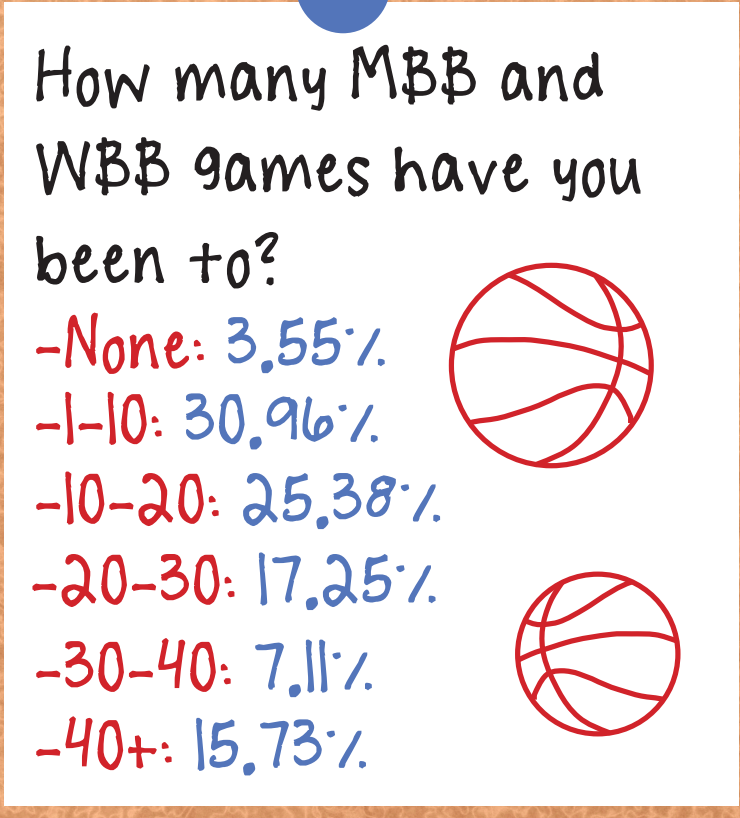
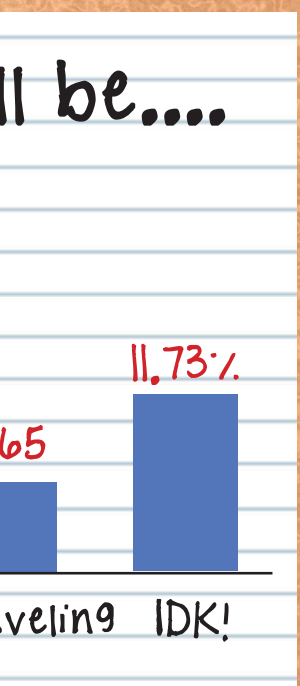
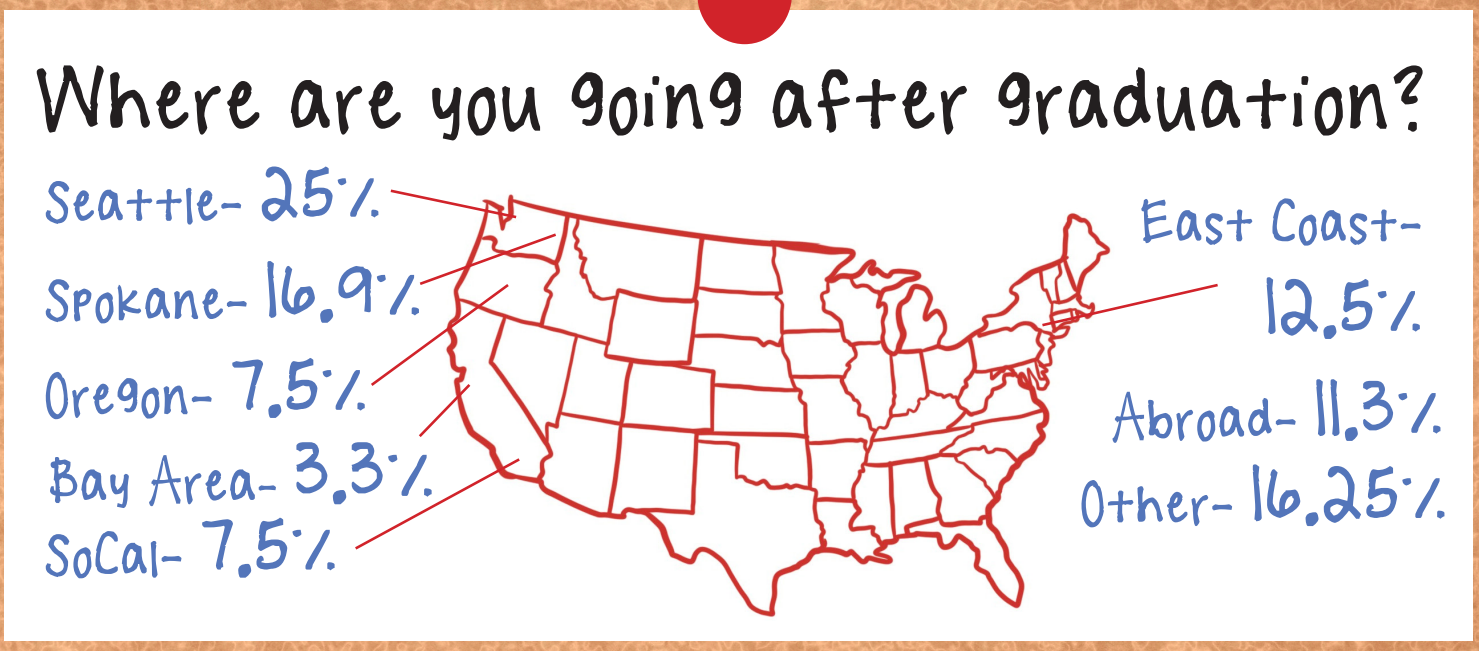
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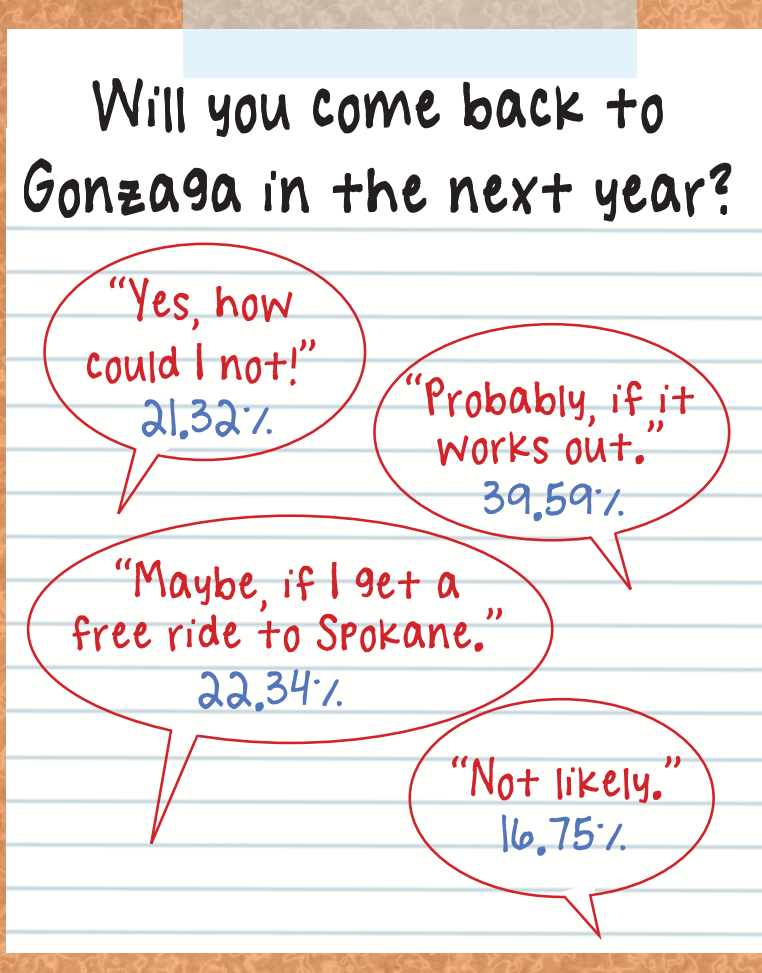
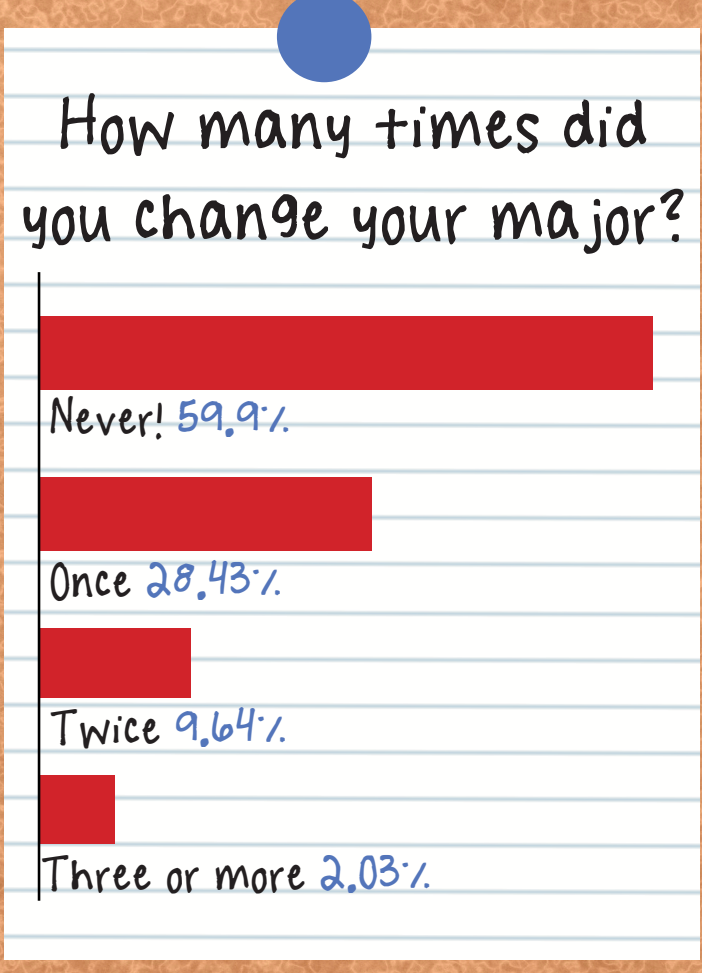
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The Zag, the myth, the legend: Timme's era is unforgettable

It was the day before the biggest home game of Drew Timme's collegiate career. Prior to a top-5 matchup between the Gonzaga men's basketball team and the Texas Longhorns, media and reporters filled the Volkar Center to get extra coverage of the most anticipated game of the season. As players got loose for the practice that ensued, there was no sign of GU's star power forward.

The sports information director informed reporters Timme was running a tad late to the scheduled media availability session, but no explanation was given.

Moments later, the mustachioed Texan waltzed through the facility doors holding a half-eaten Jimmy John's sandwich with his practice jersey slung around his neck like a cape. A sight for sure, Timme explained the choice in style gave him superpowers that he'd need for a GU win over No. 5 Texas. It was the first major test against a worthy opponent of the 2021-22 season.

The Zags won 86-74 behind a then-career-high 37 points from Timme. Maybe he wasn't lying about the cape.

After all, he never fell short of telling it like it is during his legendary career. When he showed up to a postgame news conference holding a red solo cup, his only remark was "big frat guys," as he took a sip of what one could assume was a sports drink. In postgame interviews, there was no filter for the national TV audience watching at home, though he deferred to "flying fs" and "soft dudes" in his best efforts to maintain a PG-rating.

His colorful vernacular couldn't be contained when describing the Zags' desire to keep the Sweet 16 streak alive. Though that viral f-bomb wasn't suitable for the TBS crowd watching, it felt genuine — the shame of letting down those who came before, that set the standard of what it means to be successful, was on full



BY COLE FORSMAN

display in the heat of the moment.

Unapologetically himself, as always, like so many legendary Zags before him. It takes a special type of player to succeed at GU, a place known for its intimate and family-like atmosphere, and Timme's honesty with everyone and himself was the backbone of a legendary career. It's how all the greats have found success; they didn't conform to the standards or expectations of others despite scrutiny from those on the outside.

Throughout his storybook career, the three-time All-American, two-time conference player of the year and Karl Malone Award winner never once took the time to reflect on what he had accomplished as a Zag. Wins mattered more than individual accolades. Anytime he was asked about the significance of passing GU's greatest

players in the record books, he acknowledged it was cool but always said he wouldn't appreciate it until it was all said and done.

When asked if he would take the time to reflect upon his career following his last game as a Zag, Timme replied "Yeah" with the same enthusiasm one has when it comes to doing chores. Being arguably the greatest player in modern day college basketball didn't matter, though, compared to what being a Zag meant for Timme.

"I'm just so thankful that a program and a place took me for who I was," Timme said. "They didn't ask me to be anybody but myself and I'm just so appreciative for the program and just the people, the fans, that watched me grow up and just become the man I am today and I'm forever in debt for Gonzaga."

He was never in it for individual accolades — the only thing he wanted for himself was a place where he could be himself.

While some outside of GU aren't as fond of his personality and the Zags, Timme never stopped being himself because it was just people who didn't appreciate him for who he was. But GU and the Spokane community did, and an everlasting bond has been formed between Timme and a place he can call home for years to come (though he really is a big Texas guy, so who knows). We celebrated and cheered along with every mustache flick and muscle flex and chuckled at every candid interview, and in those moments, we were reminded to always stay true to who we are, and great things will follow.

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

Odd food combinations: Customers don't bite

Money can often make us do strange things and our corporate restaurant industry is just as susceptible to this as we are.

In their endless pursuit of profit, companies will try innumerable methods to capture and keep customers' attention and dollars. One of these methods is providing strange and untested food and drink concoctions to their patrons.

As much as one can admire the creativity and speculative bravery of a lot of these companies, more often than not these creations are questionable at best and culinary monstrosities at worst. To make matters worse, none of these creations are truly necessary to maintain a customer base.

A prime example of how this desperation has permeated almost every food and beverage corporation is the introduction of olive oil coffee at Starbucks — known as Oleato.

Any reasonable person can and should question the practicality of such a combination — why would anyone add oil to coffee, already among the more bitter and acidic substances we consume?

For most customers, the answer to



BY JACKSON HUDGINS

this question is still a mystery.

The beverage does not seem to be particularly popular, and among people that have tried it, the reviews are not exactly positive. Many of the criticisms are simply that oil does not add anything to the coffee and produces more bitterness and acid than it does a harmony of flavor.

Starbucks is not alone in the odd combo game, however, and Oleato

seems like a revelation compared to some of the other combinations.

The American staple fast food restaurant McDonald's has served chocolate with french fries in Japan, a roasted pineapple burger with cheese for Catholics during Lent and fried onion nuggets at various times. All of these did not sell well and are seemingly hodgepodes of leftover ingredients that the company didn't want to waste.

Most of these food campaigns wind up being a large waste of money for these companies and do little to boost profits. Clearly, for the American consumer, random combinations are just not what people are hungry for. However, there is hope for many companies in maintaining market share through new ideas, and some restaurants have already succeeded in this manner.

Chipotle is an excellent example of how a company can introduce new menu options in an exciting and economical way by using its seasonal menu. It introduces a new protein to its menu on a seasonal basis, like adobo chicken, and these menu additions allow for a more exciting experience that brings more customers in the door.

Other restaurants have followed this method, such as Panda Express and MOD Pizza.

By using these methods, restaurants create more exciting menus without sacrificing taste — which is the most important aspect of food — or cost, which is leaps and bounds above the current method other companies use of throwing combinations at the wall to see what sticks.

There shouldn't be a question when it comes to companies looking to increase their popularity and profit; quality is what matters. As consumers, we care much more about a good product than a flashy, photogenic experiment when we go out to eat. If companies keep things simple and continue to serve what made them successful, they will have no trouble staying afloat.

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

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Nothing is quite as sweet as the last eight weeks

What tastes better — the first delicious bite of a hot fudge sundae or the last? Choosing one over the other is virtually impossible because they both taste so sweet.

The same is true when deciding whether the first or last eight weeks of the school year are better. However, just as the last bite of the sundae satiates all your desires and brightens up your life, so do the last eight weeks of the school year.

The first eight weeks of school definitely have their perks. Juniors celebrate making it halfway through their college career. Sophomores relish the fact that they get another year of eating at the finest establishment in Spokane — the COG. First-years bombard campus bringing a fresh spirit that fires everyone up for the year. Even seniors can hardly contain their excitement for making it to their final year as a Zag.

Still, there is a key difference between the first and last eight weeks of the semester — the proximity of summer break. Throughout the trials and tribulations of the spring semester, students can always find comfort in the thought that summer break is right around the corner. Fall semester, on the other hand, is tainted by the painful reminder that summer is over and an ominous school year lies ahead.

Once students survive the grueling winter months and arrive at the last eight weeks of the school year, the worst is arguably behind them. What lies ahead is the highlight of being a Zag.

March brings great fortune to students with a generous spring break and steadily improving weather. They also get to celebrate



BY WILLOW COLLINS

the best time of year at GU — March Madness. For many zealous Zags, cheering on the basketball team during March Madness is the reason they came to GU. This riveting tournament helps alleviate stress for students as they approach their final weeks of school.

As the tournament comes to an end in April, students are graced by Easter festivities. As a Jesuit institution, GU awards its students with two extra days off from school to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Students essentially get a second spring break to boost their morale before they are burdened by finals.

Even with two breaks, March Madness and summer break quickly approaching, many Zags would still argue that the beginning of the school year is far more pleasant than the end. After nearly three months of enjoying summer break, they argue that students are eager to return to campus. Their fresh tans and unforgettable summer memories give them the motivation needed to survive another grueling year of school.

However, the warm Spokane

weather that greets students returning to campus in the fall cannot keep them from worrying about the impending tests, parking citations and dark winter months that lie ahead. Even the most ambitious students know deep down that it will be many months until they see the brightest gleams of the Spokane sun and are back on summer break.

Like all things in life, the last eight weeks of the school year are far from perfect. The final week itself is more of a marathon than a sprint. Students are expected to pack up their entire lives, say goodbye to all their beloved friends and somehow manage to ace all their tests. The COG starts rationing its food, your workload in school starts to ramp up and all the memories made during the semester start to fade.

Nevertheless, the last eight weeks of the school year are better even for the sole reason of that final week. Through all its faults, the final week means one thing — you made it! Say goodbye to stringent deadlines, sleepless nights and tireless demands. Instead, say hello to freedom, sunshine and a summer full of endless opportunities.

For senior Zags, these final eight weeks mean even more. They get to reminisce about the amazing or mediocre college experience they just had. Either way, they get to bid farewell to their college years and eagerly welcome the next chapter of their lives, whatever it may hold.

Just like the delicious final bite of a hot fudge sundae, the final eight weeks of the school year are full of sweetness and excitement. It's the best time of year to be a Zag.

Willow Collins is a contributor.

Things of the past: GU senior prepares to leave fond memories behind

By SAM MCKIERNAN

As spring break comes to a close, many seniors are met with a realization that their time at Gonzaga University is slowly ending. It's a time to enjoy the final moments, finish the school year out and attend all that one can before the last meetings creep up.

Senior Dawson Oen reminisces on the club soccer game that he played against his brother in a tournament in San Diego or he thinks about working with Tasty Bun for New Venture Lab. He looks back on being able to choreograph and dance at the Filipino American Student Union Annual Cultural Festival last year for the GU community, with his family and his friends who flew in to be a part of it.

The memories extend all over campus and into the community. All these memories lead him back to the beginning of his first year when he was deciding which clubs to join.

"Looking back is a full cycle moment," Oen said. "You look back on yourself and think about how you were as a freshman and then you're meeting all these freshmen in the clubs that you've been a part of. [Upperclassmen] are creating an environment for them to feel a part of as they continue at Gonzaga. It's nostalgic for sure."

Oen said as seniors, laying the groundwork for clubs and creating an atmosphere for people to return to is crucial to a club's continuation. Seniors have historically set the tone for a club and determine if first-years will want to keep it alive in the following years to come. This groundwork requires consistency, patience and commitment.

Starting as a first-year, Oen experienced the draw toward FASU, club soccer and New Venture Lab and has stuck with these clubs throughout all four years.

"For a lot of these [clubs], it's been really cool to grow with them, especially with COVID," Oen said. "Freshmen year I was kind of just a part of them. But by junior year, I took leadership roles and was able to help build them up and revive them. Taking these clubs and instilling my own creativity and values has been a really awesome experience. It's also been really cool to meet people and grow up with them in these clubs and organizations since it's been a long time since I've started some of these things."

Oen said the people within the club have been a large part of what has motivated him to continue to show up for these clubs. He reminisces on the relationships within the clubs he is a part of that have been important to him for years.

"The community is a big aspect of it," Oen said. "I think there's a reason I started these as a freshman and decided to stick with it. I found a family, my closest friends, the people I spend the most time around and the things I care the most about through these organizations and clubs. The community has a lot to do with the people I've met and the relationships that have been built."

Senior Ryan Barrett has known Dawson and the Oen family since high school soccer and continues to play with



NICO LOPEZ IG: niopez_photography

Club soccer, Tasty Buns and Filipino American Student Union are all passions of Gonzaga University senior Dawson Oen.

him on the club soccer team at GU. Barrett has admired Oen's commitment and involvement while continuing to prioritize all of the groups he is involved in.

"He is an incredible guy," Barrett said. "He's one of those people who, as soon as you meet them, you want to be his friend. His family is also super great. I haven't met a single Oen who hasn't put a smile on my face."

Barrett highlighted Oen's effect on people both on and off the soccer field. Having been his teammate for so many years, he has been able to watch the ways that Oen makes a team of people better.

"It's pretty amazing how much and how often he keeps showing up to all of the things he's involved in," Barrett said. "He's always on his longboard going from College Hall to Mulligan to Hemmingson. And when he's on the soccer field he's one of those players who makes everyone around him better."

Oen said the people around him have helped to keep him balanced in all that he does through their support and friendships. He said he is grateful for the ability to

rely on these relationships as he balances all the different activities that he is involved in.

One of the things that Oen has trademarked this semester has been to always involve a senior piece of advice at every FASU event. Whether the advice is meant to be silly or serious, he has made a point to always include it.

As he finishes out his final semester at GU and heads into a postgraduate job, he highlighted one of the most important pieces of advice that he has given to himself and to FASU members.

"Don't worry, because worrying only makes you suffer twice," Oen said.

Samantha McKiernan is a staff writer.

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level 1 2 3 4

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Solution to Last Week's puzzle

4/16/23

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

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Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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4/23/23

IN THE END

By Garrett Chaifin

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 2006 NBA Finals MVP Dwyane</p> <p>5 Wiccans, Druids, etc.</p> <p>11 Start of an idea</p> <p>15 Soaks (up)</p> <p>19 "I wasn't finished!"</p> <p>20 Greetings</p> <p>21 Old music halls</p> <p>22 Atmosphere</p> <p>23 Exclamation at a Chinese New Year parade?</p> <p>25 Homemade cat costume?</p> <p>27 Sammie</p> <p>28 lhan of Congress</p> <p>29 Lunch spot, for short</p> <p>30 Spoke without a sound?</p> <p>31 Crime drama character</p> <p>33 Buffalo NHL player</p> <p>35 Pixar fish</p> <p>36 Chocolate chips and walnuts for banana bread, perhaps</p> <p>37 Very soon after</p> <p>39 Steamed bun</p> <p>40 Sound from a pen</p> <p>41 Untamed</p> <p>42 Havana cigar that hits all the right notes?</p> <p>45 Motivation</p> <p>47 Bathroom or kitchen device</p> <p>48 BTS genre</p> <p>49 Schoolyard retort</p> <p>50 Old den device</p> <p>53 "Miz"</p> <p>56 [I have to explain this again?]</p> <p>58 -chic</p> <p>59 Like a rave review</p> <p>63 Mario Kart participant</p> <p>64 Euripides tragedy</p> | <p>65 Evian, e.g.?</p> <p>67 To whom a young sea monster goes for advice?</p> <p>69 Affirms</p> <p>70 Morgan of Arthurian legend</p> <p>72 "You'll see--this'll be easy!"</p> <p>73 Barber's tool</p> <p>74 Fizzless drink</p> <p>76 Early Beatles bassist Sutcliffe</p> <p>77 Hosp. theaters</p> <p>78 CBS sportscaster Phil</p> <p>79 Camper's snack</p> <p>81 Charter</p> <p>86 Songs</p> <p>87 Unusually low tax bill?</p> <p>90 Family nickname</p> <p>91 Biceps, slangily</p> <p>92 Member of MSNBC</p> <p>93 Urge on</p> <p>94 Whine tearfully</p> <p>96 "Sula" novelist</p> <p>97 Morrison</p> <p>98 Viswanathan who was the first chess grandmaster from India</p> <p>99 Texting nicety</p> <p>100 Clemson athletes</p> <p>101 Fix, in a way</p> <p>102 Disdainful sounds</p> <p>103 Trawling need</p> <p>105 So tired of eating pork for breakfast?</p> <p>107 Observation at a zoo's big cat exhibit?</p> <p>111 Drudge</p> <p>112 Swag</p> <p>113 Had a victory</p> <p>114 Unaided</p> <p>115 Ave's opposite</p> <p>116 Giant fair</p> <p>117 Sunset shade</p> <p>118 Freshly</p> | <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 URL letters</p> <p>2 "That hits the spot"</p> <p>3 Scattered population</p> <p>4 "Julius Caesar" accusation</p> <p>5 Prof's deg., often</p> <p>6 Stunt pilot</p> <p>7 Campy 1970s music genre</p> <p>8 Sushi roll exterior</p> <p>9 Former Queen of Jordan</p> <p>10 Tax form digits</p> <p>11 Stop posting on social media, say</p> <p>12 Enlighten</p> <p>13 "Summertime Sadness" singer Lana Del</p> <p>14 Words said after lighting birthday candles</p> <p>15 Went unused</p> <p>16 Eclipsed</p> <p>17 Groom leathers</p> <p>18 Smoothies, as wood</p> <p>24 Crunch time target?</p> <p>26 "Amor & Pasión" popera vocal group</p> <p>29 Hartford's st.</p> <p>31 Beer pong receptacles</p> <p>32 Gp. founded in Baghdad in 1960</p> <p>34 "The Bachelor" network</p> <p>35 Luvs product</p> <p>38 Org. for Cardinals and Saints</p> <p>40 Concert wind</p> <p>43 Fishers with pots</p> <p>44 Kite aids</p> <p>45 Least rainy</p> <p>46 Go back</p> <p>49 Pictures of characters</p> <p>50 Cape Cod alcohol</p> <p>51 Sound from a nest</p> | <p>52 Equine hue</p> <p>54 NYC hrs.</p> <p>55 Jojo Moyes novel about a woman starting a new life</p> <p>57 Furry foot</p> <p>58 Lima</p> <p>59 Party gift</p> <p>60 Inventory list</p> <p>61 Move or groove</p> <p>62 Top squads</p> <p>64 Longtime Takei role</p> <p>65 Texas city featured in most "Fixer Upper" episodes</p> <p>66 "One Mic" rapper</p> <p>68 Actress Demings</p> <p>71 Hindu or Buddhist spiritual leader</p> <p>74 "No refunds" transaction</p> <p>75 Polka</p> <p>78 Top-notch</p> <p>80 Sea food</p> <p>82 Joule fraction</p> <p>83 Animal shelter goal</p> <p>84 Letter closer</p> <p>85 Wraps up</p> <p>86 Bars</p> <p>87 Organ with alveoli</p> <p>88 Blackboard chore</p> <p>89 Receptacle</p> <p>90 Bird in Mo Willems books</p> <p>91 Start discussing</p> <p>94 Timetable listings</p> <p>95 Skin care brand in blue containers</p> <p>96 Girl Scout's outfit?</p> <p>97 Lotus position, e.g.</p> <p>98 Genetic letters</p> <p>102 Hammer-wielding superhero in Marvel films</p> <p>104 Older "Frozen" sister</p> <p>106 Actress Courteney</p> <p>107 Couple</p> <p>108 Understand</p> <p>109 Flamenco shout</p> <p>110 This second</p> |
|--|---|---|---|

Big names in indie music collaborate on latest release 'the record'

REVIEW

By KAELYN NEW

As their band name might suggest, the musical minds behind Boygenius are exceedingly smart.

The indie-rock trio released its debut album, "the record," on March 31 and have already received mass critical acclaim from outlets like Pitchfork and Rolling Stone.

The group is composed of prominent indie-rock songwriters Julien Baker, Lucy Dacus and Phoebe Bridgers. They released a self-titled EP in 2018 and have only grown since, amassing increasingly more fans in their own respective careers before returning to the band.

The track list oscillates from rock to folk to even shoegaze at points. However, the best part of the album is undoubtedly the lyrics — which isn't surprising, as each member of Boygenius is renowned for their writing capabilities more than anything else.

The album begins with a warm acapella ballad entitled "With You Without Them" before progressing into a rock song, entitled "\$20" and led by Baker. "\$20" concludes with an explosive three-part melody from the singers, with Bridgers screaming.

Largely, the album follows a pattern in which the group sings a song with each three members having equal presence before proceeding into three individual songs led by each member with harmonies by the other two before repeating the process.

Boygenius is notorious for complicated emotions. They surpass the confines of "sad girl music," fighting the stereotype with the more melodically complex songs "Not Strong Enough," "\$20" and "Satanist." "the record" examines complex interpersonal relationships between the members themselves and the members and other people.

Notoriously, the members aren't singing about one singular emotion in each song. Instead, the singer-songwriters include personal anecdotes and a roller coaster of emotions. In "True Blue," Dacus details a complex, seemingly positive relationship that overcame past wrongdoings.

It seems the boys tote a philosophy of writing in detail about their own experiences and hoping that audiences reinterpret in a way that holds personal significance. After all, many of the songs on the album appear to be dedicated to the other members.

I would argue that this kind of writing is also superfluous at times on the album,



COURTESY OF @XBOYGENIUSX ON TWITTER

Boygenius' second release features hard-hitting songs such as "With You Without Them," "\$20" and "Letter to an Old Poet."

with some anecdotes losing their appeal in wordiness like on the track "Leonard Cohen." Disguised with metaphors and comparisons, the message of some of the songs can at times be too ambiguous, leaving listeners with questions.

The most exciting part of the album is undoubtedly its conclusion. The final song, "Letter to an Old Poet," reprises one of the most loved songs from the EP dubbed "Me & My Dog." Bridgers has called "Letter to an Old Poet" a sequel to the song from the EP, as it has a near-identical melody. Yet, the song has a significantly softer and melancholic sound.

In it, the members trade out their guitars for a somber-sounding piano with weighty resonance. The last lines of the song are a call for happiness that doesn't exist yet and a reflection of what it means to move on from relationships past.

"I wanna be happy," Bridgers sings.

It stands in stark contrast to the lyric: "I wanna be emaciated" from "Me & My Dog."

The last lines of the song say: "I can't feel it yet / but I am waiting."

The vinyl of "the record" skips at the finale during "Letter to an Old Poet," repeating the last few seconds of the song eternally until the record is removed off the turntable, an intentional move on the part of the band and their merchandise team. It indicates an eternal suspension; the notes don't resolve and the skip in the track is dissonant as the vocalists repeat the word: "waiting."

The conclusion is emblematic of the LP and of Boygenius as a band. The songs document emotional specificity, but those feelings evoked transform over time and linger in different ways.

As for the members of Boygenius themselves, this ending seems representative of their connection as a

band. With two matching tattoos each, it is inevitable that their story will never quite be over — and I am certainly content with that.

Favorite tracks:

"Cool About It," "Revolution 0" and "Letter to an Old Poet"

Rating: 8.5/10

Kaelyn New is a news editor. Follow her on twitter: @kaelyn_new.

'The Last of Us' dumps apocalyptic clichés and dials in on scary parts of humanity

REVIEW

By EMMALEE APPEL

"The Last of Us" is a painfully introspective TV series that transcends apocalypse clichés through meticulous and loving writing and performance.

Based on the acclaimed video game franchise of the same name and made by the game's creator Neil Druckmann and director Craig Mazin, many have called this the perfect adaptation of video game to TV.

I have not played the game and prior to my obsession with the show, I did not even know this franchise existed. So, while I'm not the most knowledgeable of the history, I can appreciate how beautiful and thoughtful this show is.

(FYI my younger brother and I are currently playing the first game — meaning he plays while I watch because I'm too scared to face the monsters — just so I get the full experience.)

The tone of the show starts immediately — a professor of mycology in Indonesia is whisked away to a

government facility to inspect a corpse, now infected with a writhing fungus. Her immediate prescription? "Bomb this city and everyone in it."

This tone — one that asks us to consider ethics, the feelings that come with existentialism and the sacrifices we would or would not make — is by no means a new concept, but an intriguing one, nonetheless.

Although we meet one of the two protagonists, Joel (Pedro Pascal), before the apocalypse, the majority of the show takes place about two decades later. The world has been overrun with a brain-colonizing fungal infection, one that turns people into flesh-eating zombies, and civilization as we know it is in tatters.

Joel and his partner Tess (Anna Torv) are working as smugglers within a "Quarantine Zone" — where most of society now resides — which is controlled by the fascist government FEDRA that trains children to kill and condemns even petty criminals to execution.

Joel and Tess are preparing for a dangerous trek to Wyoming in search of

Joel's brother, Tommy (Gabriel Luna), when they end up entangled in the conspiracies of the militant rebel group, the Fireflies.

Firefly leader Marlene (Merle Dandridge) makes a deal with the duo to escort our second protagonist, 14-year-old Ellie (Bella Ramsey), who may hold the key to humanity's escape from the apocalypse.

Ellie is immune to the infection. As far as we know, she is the only person to have been bitten by a zombie without being infected. If she can make it to a Firefly base in the West, a cure may be on the horizon.

But the journey there is not an easy one. The road west is filled with bloodthirsty zombies and groups of cutthroat people that have learned to survive in this world — including Joel, whose relationship with Ellie becomes the focal point very quickly.

As they travel west, the creators of the show carve out space for the stories of characters that bring this alternate reality to life. In a word, they create a world that

is truly deteriorating. We see caravans of people turn on each other, relationships grow and dissolve and even cannibalistic cults emerge.

The beautifully written vignettes of side characters and subplots are one of the most notable strengths of this series. And, criers be warned, they are heart wrenching. Every. Single. Time.

Of course, I would be remiss not to mention the stellar performances of Pascal and Ramsey. The surrogate parent-child relationship is delicate, and the two stars positively shine in their roles. Pascal brings glimpses of tenderness to Joel's gruff stoicism and Ramsey's portrayal of the plucky, naive-but-mature-out-of-necessity Ellie is arguably the show's biggest strength.

Overall rating: 10/10. This show deserves the hype, go watch the show right now.

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

PETS

Continued from Page 1

but she would jerk her head to the side almost like 180 degrees around really quickly," Favara said.

Worried she had something stuck in her ear, Favara took Darcy to the vet only to find out it is an anxiety tic.

"So, if she is anxious, overstimulated, doesn't know what is going on, she does this whip move," Favara said. "And we constantly ask her, 'why you whippin'?' 'What are you whippin' for?' And that's just kind of her signature move."

Due to Darcy's rough past and anxiety, the new communications professor doesn't bring her into the classroom setting. Darcy visited the GU campus once last semester and Favara plans on bringing her to his office a couple of times this semester.

"She's got her little GU sweater that we put on her and we come to campus and she's getting there," Favara said.

In the same department is Sam the corn snake, who lives with Professor Sugino.

Sugino got Sam while she was in graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh. A dog or cat was too expensive and since she travels a lot, it didn't make sense for Sugino to get an involved pet.

Still desiring a companion, her now husband Charles

Athanasopoulos, who is also an assistant professor in the communications department, pulled the trigger on getting Sam.

"I was on the fence and he was like, 'let's just get him,'" Sugino said.

When she got Sam about five years ago, he was only about a foot long, she said. He is now three feet long.

"He's a part of the family now," Sugino said. "I can't imagine not having him."

One of her favorite moments with Sam is when they had to move to Spokane after Sugino got hired at GU. She was moving from the East Coast, which made her nervous. Curious on how to transport Sam, she confided in her exotic pet sitter.

"I was like, 'how am I going to bring a snake out here,' because they get stressed out and I didn't want to stress him out," Sugino said. "Apparently, the best way to do it is to FedEx the snake, which I thought was ridiculous."

As Sugino and Athanasopoulos drove across the country to their new home, Sam was in a little knapsack being delivered across the country to Washington.

When Sam got bigger, Sugino decided to try to feed him a rat, since he had been eating mice his whole life. She said Sam didn't eat the rat — he started rattling his tail, a defense mechanism to mimic a rattlesnake, in protest of the rat.

"Turns out that if you want them to eat rats, you have to get them used to it at a very young age," Sugino said.

"So, I always joke now that I've raised a picky eater."

Pets are an easy icebreaker or conversation starter, Sugino said. She brought up Sam in her 100-level communication class last fall and students immediately wanted to know more.

"I feel like it is good to have those moments with students, too, where you're not just talking," Sugino said. "It's important to talk about the course material, but when they also get to know you or your pet or whatever as a person outside of the classroom, they seem to like it."

For Favara, Darcy became a part of his teaching style due to the pandemic, when he brought her up in conversations over Zoom and broke the tension by having students show off their pets on the first day of class.

"I really pride myself on kind of disrupting that teacher-student hierarchy and part of that [is] to show me as a full, complex human," Favara said. "And that doesn't mean I don't have boundaries but one of the things that I feel like [does so is that] a pet is a very good way that we can share that we have things in common. We have these non-human beings in our lives that we care about."

Trinity Wilhite is a staff writer.



COURTESY OF GONZAGA ATHLETICS

Kalmer leads the Zags with a .396 batting average, .479 on-base percentage, nine home runs and 32 RBIs.

Brian Kalmer aspires for growth on and off field

By AIDAN CHRISLEY

It is no surprise that Brian Kalmer, the reigning NJCAA Division I Player of the Year, is off to a hot start with the bat. But the third baseman's journey at Gonzaga University has been about much more than just baseball.

Kalmer, born and raised in Arizona, began his collegiate career at Arizona State where he had just 30 plate appearances in two seasons before transferring to Wabash Valley College in Mount Carmel, Illinois.

At Wabash Valley, Kalmer led all of the NJCAA in hits and RBIs, batting .421 with 20 home runs. He helped lead Wabash Valley to a Region 24 title and the Midwest District title, leading to the NJCAA World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado, where they would go on to finish in fourth place.

"There's a lot of memories that I will never forget," Kalmer said. "Just being out there with a fun group of guys, the experience was everything; win, lose, or draw."

During Kalmer's strong season with Wabash Valley, he caught the eye of the GU baseball staff, who tried to get him on board. The decision to come to Spokane for him was an easy one.

"The biggest decision was; where am I going to grow the most on and off the field," Kalmer said. "Not just as a player, but as a man, as a Christ follower, and as a student. Looking at Gonzaga, this was definitely the best option for me to accomplish all of those."

While joining a Zags team that peaked at No. 10 in the country in 2022 was an influence in his decision to come, Kalmer places a lot of emphasis on his development as a man, especially through his faith.

"When someone asks 'who are you'

or 'what do you do' I always mention I am a Christ follower first," Kalmer said. "I'm always implementing it, it's been a part of my life for a long time now and it's everything to me."

Kalmer claims that he just happens to play baseball in the face of his more important faith. That being said, baseball has been in his blood since he was a kid.

"As a Christmas gift, I got a small Wiffle ball bat and a Wiffle ball," Kalmer said. "Out of all the toys, that was the one I gravitated towards the most. From that point on, I knew that's what I wanted to do."

He tried playing other sports, but always found himself coming back to baseball, his true passion.

The Arizona native has settled in nicely with the Zags as well as in the colder climate in Washington.

"It is different, but I like it," Kalmer said. "I love the outdoors and this place is beautiful with its nature. I love the school, I love the campus, I love just being out here in general."

Colder weather has not affected Kalmer's playing in the slightest so far. He leads the team with a 1.241 on-base plus slugging, nine home runs, 32 RBIs and a .396 batting average. Currently, he is on a seven-game hitting streak and he has only failed to reach base in a game twice this season.

"I'm just looking to compete," Kalmer said. "I'm happy with where I am at, but I am not content, I know there is room for me to grow. I just go up there and compete and try to just focus on controlling what I can control. Drive the drivable pitches, take the pitches I need to take and battle the best I can with everything else. That

gives me a fighting chance every time."

While success has come early and often for Kalmer, he trusts the process and does not focus on the outcome.

"I'm not letting the result dictate how I feel or how I go about it," Kalmer said. "If I just work on my craft and my work then results will fall as they fall."

With starting third baseman Cade McGee sidelined due to injury, Kalmer's bat has become key in the success of the Zags, and he has stepped up to the challenge.

Assistant coach Antonio Garcia who works primarily with hitting, infielders and catchers, reinforced that same attitude that Kalmer carries.

"We just let Brian do his thing," Garcia said. "He came in with a strong work ethic, I don't think anybody in the country works harder than he does. He's done a great job staying in his approach and swinging the bat like he knows how to. But his tireless work ethic is definitely something that has helped him as well as help the young guys that look up to him on the team."

Garcia raved about Kalmer's work ethic, but he was also very quick to praise his off-the-field leadership and how it has played a role in the development of the younger players.

"He's a great teammate, a great guy to have in a clubhouse," Garcia said. "He's come in from junior college, so he's got experience playing high-level baseball and that has obviously translated."

With his success at the plate and leadership qualities to go along with a lot of baseball experience, Kalmer has a handful of great baseball memories. But one stands out among the rest.

"In high school, we played at Chase

GU SPORTS

Thursday, April 6
 ➔ Baseball vs. San Diego, 8 p.m.

Friday, April 7
 ➔ Track at Peace Meet, Spokane, WA, all day
 ➔ Men's tennis vs. Pepperdine, 1 p.m.
 ➔ Women's tennis at Loyola Marymount, Los Angeles, CA, 1 p.m.
 ➔ Baseball vs. San Diego, 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 8
 ➔ Men's tennis vs. Loyola Marymount, 10 a.m.
 ➔ Women's tennis at Pepperdine, Malibu, CA, noon
 ➔ Baseball vs. San Diego, noon

Monday, April 10
 ➔ Women's golf at Silicon Valley Showcase, Millbrae, CA, all day
 ➔ Baseball at Oregon State, Corvallis, OR, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 11
 ➔ Baseball at Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, 5:35 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12
 ➔ Women's rowing vs. Washington State, Silver Lake, WA, all day

Home games in bold

Field for a game and I hit a home run there," Kalmer said. "A home run on a big league field is obviously something you dream of. There's a lot of moments, like Grand Junction last year, first homers, first walk-offs, but that's probably the biggest moment."

Chase Field being the professional stadium for his home team, the Arizona Diamondbacks, gave the surreal moment even more meaning to Kalmer.

The Zags slugger is hopeful to have even more moments like that this season and in the future. With coaches raving about his work ethic and his great start to the season, Kalmer has a bright future ahead for his baseball career. And at his core, he strives to grow as a man, which has made GU the best place for him.

Aidan Chrisley is a staff writer.

Jace Minni takes first at Redhawk Invitational

By HENRY KRUEGER

Gonzaga University men's golfer Jace Minni finished first at the Redhawk Invitational, while leading the Zags to a seventh-place finish.

Minni ended the tournament at eight-under (205), four strokes ahead of second-place recipient Colt Sherrell of Idaho. Minni carded a career-low 65 in the final round, which is also tied for the lowest round in program history.

The junior from Delta, British Columbia, is the first Zag to win an event since Sean Walsh took medalist honors at the Wyoming Desert Intercollegiate in

2016. As a team, the Zags finished the invitational at 20-over (872). The second-best finisher from GU was Guillermo Polo Bodart, who tied for 28th at seven-over (220).

The Zags play their final regular-season tournament at the Ping Cougar Classic in Provo, Utah from April 21-22. The tournament is hosted by BYU, marking GU's last time visiting the Cougars before their departure for the Big 12 at the conclusion of the season.

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

Cassie Kim wins WCC co-Golfer of the Month

By HENRY KRUEGER

Gonzaga University's Cassie Kim was named West Coast Conference co-Golfer of the Month on Tuesday.

Kim took eighth individually at the Red Rocks Invitational in Sedona, Arizona, where she led the Zags to a fourth-place finish.

The Yakima, Washington, native ended the event at three-over (219), making 35 pars and nine birdies from March 18-19.

At the Avenue Spring Break Classic in Lahaina, Hawaii, Kim tied for 21st at two-over (218). She made 28 pars and 12 birdies from March 27-29. The Zags finished in

21st place as a team.

In 21 rounds of play this season, Kim averages a team-low round of 72.95 and is one-over relative to par. She has four top-10 finishes, including two in the top-5.

Kim is the first Zag to win a monthly WCC award this season, with March's other recipient Lion Higo taking home her second award.

The Zags return to action for the Silicon Valley Showcase that runs from April 10-11.

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

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Efton Reid enters transfer portal

By TOMMY CONMY

Gonzaga University men's basketball backup center Efton Reid III has entered the transfer portal, per Stockrisers.

Reid was not part of GU's main eight-man rotation, averaging 2.1 points and 1.0 rebounds per game across 4.6 minutes per game in 25 appearances.

The 7-foot, 240-pound center spent one season at GU after starting all 34 games at LSU as a freshman. Reid left LSU following former head coach Will Wade's termination due to alleged recruiting violations. Wade is now the head coach at McNeese State.

Reid may not be immediately eligible to play during the 2023-24 season as he is a two-time transfer. However, due to the nature of his former head coach's termination, he may apply for and be granted a waiver that would grant him immediate eligibility wherever he decides to transfer to.

Along with guards Hunter Sallis and Dominick Harris, Reid becomes the third Zag to hit the portal this offseason. Since the portal's inception in 2018-19, that ties the 2021 offseason as the most transfers in GU history. That offseason saw Oumar Ballo, Aaron Cook and Pavel Zhakarov hit the portal.

The move comes with serious consequences for head coach Mark Few, with Ben Gregg the only returning frontcourt player with college experience. Redshirt freshman and former four-star Braden Huff sat out last season and Kaden Perry missed the season due to back



DYLAN SMITH IG: d.smithphotos

Efton Reid III attempts a layup against Warner Pacific in a home exhibition game. Reid finished with 10 points.

issues. The Zags will certainly utilize the transfer portal to fill holes as they see fit, but they also bring in an intriguing recruiting class.

Dusty Stromer, the 47th ranked recruit according to 247Sports, chose GU over Houston, Arizona and his hometown UCLA and is joined by three-star Alex Toohey out of Australia and 6-foot-8 Jun Seok Yeo from Korea.

Entering LSU out of IMG Academy in Florida, Reid

was the fifth five-star recruit under Wade at LSU. As a senior at IMG, Reid averaged 16 points and 11 rebounds. en route to a perfect 25-0 regular season record.

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

Football at Gonzaga? Costs, logistics outweigh benefit

COMMENTARY

By AIDAN CHRISLEY

With a strong national brand and a growing student body, it only makes sense that Gonzaga University would have a football team, right? Not without a culture shift and a sudden influx in cash.

College football is the largest revenue generator in college athletics. It is why we are seeing massive movement among conferences, like Oklahoma and Texas leaving the Big 12 moving to the Southeastern Conference.

BYU has taken this opportunity to move out of the West Coast Conference and join the Big 12. With GU's recent success across many sports, not just basketball, there has been a lot of buzz about the Zags moving as well.

One thought is that if GU does move, they could potentially expand into football since everybody else in the power conferences plays football. GU Athletic Director Chris Standiford does not see it that way.

"If we were to align with a different conference, it would be about that conference welcoming us, not about us changing to be like them," Standiford said. "We are who we are."

Football is a large investment and GU simply does not currently have the

infrastructure to put together a football program.

That is not to say that the facilities are bad here — it is a matter of space. With no stadium in which to play, the program would be starting from ground zero.

On top of that, to join Division I FBS, a program must have an average home attendance of 15,000 over a two-year rolling period. There is not a stadium in Spokane that can hold that many people, so a new building would have to be constructed, making the startup cost astronomical.

GU is also located in the Inland Northwest with a cold winter climate, making an indoor training facility very enticing, but also costly.

As well as physical space, there would have to be an increase in athletic scholarships by up to 85, the maximum number allowed at the D-I FBS level, which would again require a significant amount of funding.

Of course, there is also the cost of paying for a large coaching staff, which will not be cheap.

College football makes a lot of revenue, though. However, that does not necessarily mean profit. There have been many reports that show that college athletics in general are not profitable, and football can be the

worst of these if the program does not have a good TV deal.

"It's easy to talk about revenue, but you have to factor in expense," Standiford said.

Saint Mary's had a football program as recently as 2003, but cited economic factors as the main reasons behind the discontinuation.

"Given the significant financial and support requirements for fielding a football team capable of competing against our Division I-AA peers, as well as the impact on funding for our other intercollegiate teams, the board agreed that the best way to serve the athletic needs of our entire student population is to discontinue this one program," said former Saint Mary's chairman of the board of trustees Nicholas Moore in a news release.

But costs for the team are not the only issue, nor is it the biggest one. Title IX requires equal opportunity for both men's and women's athletics. Meaning if 85 or more men's scholarships were added, roughly the same number of women's scholarships would need to be added.

There is no equivalent of football in women's sports right now, meaning there would need to be multiple sports added to meet the requirement.

Men's sports could be cut in an attempt to make the numbers more even, but that

could lead to lost resources as well as severe ill-will towards the university.

By adding these scholarships, it would be nearly doubling the current student-athlete population at the school. This is a large increase in the student body as well as having to create more facilities and pay for more coaches, equipment, etc.

Title IX throws a big wrench in any potential plans for a GU football team. But never say never.

As mentioned previously, football is king in college athletics. If the Zags do end up moving to a power conference down the line, perhaps they will be swayed by the other teams and start a program.

This can be a feasible project; it would just be very costly and cause a lot of change. Right now, GU does not need a lot of change.

With an assortment of successful sports programs for both men and women, the school can be more than content with its current outlook on sports. And as it continues to grow, perhaps a football team can enter the picture down the line.

Football is an amazing sport. College football has a great atmosphere and gives student-athletes the ability to continue their careers, but it is not in the cards for GU right now.

Aidan Chrisley is a staff writer.

22ND ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY

The Value of the Erotic and Diversity in Classical Philosophy

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

ALL TALKS (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PLATO'S SYMPOSIUM WITH MADELINE MILLER) WILL BE HELD IN WOLFF AUDITORIUM AT JEPSON

Socrates between the Sheets (of papyrus)

THE MYSTICAL VISIONS OF LOVE IN THE SYMPOSIUM

Sara Ahbel-Rappe,
University of Michigan

5:30 - 6:30PM WED. APRIL 19

UNMARRIED MALE PLATONISTS ON MOURNING CHILDREN CRANTOR'S PERI PENTHOUSE

FRI. APRIL 21

4:15 - 5:15PM

Harold Tarrant, University of Newcastle, AUS

ARISTOTLE ON THE MATTER OF FORM: A FEMINIST METAPHYSICS OF GENERATION

SAT. APRIL 22

10:25 - 11:40AM

Sophia Connell,
University of London, Birkbeck

SEX DIFFERENTIATION AND HUMAN NATURE IN PLATO'S TIMAEUS

SAT. APRIL 22 4:15 - 5:15PM

Jill Gordon, Colby College

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