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GSBA cabinet ratified by the senate

The government hires include the romantic partner and two roommates of the GSBA president

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

Senators from the Gonzaga Student Body Association voted unanimously to confirm the cabinet and executive staff hires nominated by President-elect Griffin Reittinger and Vice President-elect Kainoa Evans during the general assembly meeting on Monday evening.

The cabinet vote, along with the swearing in of the new senate, signaled a welcoming of the new student body government. While the senate voted unanimously on the appointments, there were concerns prior to the vote about the

new cabinet hires.

Specifically, there was concern about the cabinet hires of Grace McDonald, sustainability chair, Liam McCorkle, director of clubs and programming, and Antoine Herbach, attorney general, all of whom have strong personal connections to Reittinger.

According to Reittinger, McDonald is his romantic partner, while McCorkle and Herrbach are his roommates. Andrew Mercer, staff advisor for GSBA, said Reittinger made these facts known during the hiring process and let Mercer know

about the personal connections.

“But we were very cognizant of the fact that we were picking people that really align with our mission, of what Griffin and I ran on, and what the organization’s mission is of representing the student body — being the best representations we can be of our student constituents,” Evans said. “And I felt that and I think everybody else obviously felt because we agreed, of course, that the people that we picked demonstrate those things.”

Reittinger made a speech before the vote, where he outlined the hiring process.

He also said the hires did not violate university policy, which prohibits the hiring of romantic and domestic partners, because the policy does not apply to student employees.

Still, some senators were hesitant about the appointments by Evans and Reittinger, fearing that the personal connections from some of the hires to the GSBA president would compromise the professionalism of the student executive team.

Ben Gonzales, who was part

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Team ENSC-34. From left: Mikey Erickson, Josh Sonn, Jared Marshall, Chris Chock, Colin Guy.

HAYATO TSUJII IG: hayatoarchive

Senior engineers showcase their design projects

By CARMEN MACRAE

After a year of hard work, senior Gonzaga University engineering students are ready to present their senior design projects. There were 41 projects completed this year in the areas of computer science, mechanical, civil, electrical and computer engineering, as well as engineering management.

According to Ryan Kellogg, academic director of the Center for Engineering Design and Entrepreneurship, the program is designed to give students a realistic experience of what a complex, yearlong project would look like in practice. The program is accompanied by a lecture series and provides an opportunity to implement classical theory into real-world practice, explained Kellogg.

“This is our opportunity to really get the students exposure to a fairly realistic but fail-safe sandbox for a real project, a realistically long timeline, in a team setting,” Kellogg said.

Students are presented with options for senior design projects in their junior year and are assigned to a project group on the first Wednesday of senior year based on their top choices.

The senior projects are designed to be completed by a group of three to five students, some of which are from different engineering concentrations, explained Kellogg. A faculty advisor, design advisory board member and a company sponsor for each team works with the group members year-round to provide guidance and feedback on their work.

Kellogg also said the program is carefully constructed with several check-in points to ensure that groups are making adequate progress. As these projects come to an end, several of the groups are moving into a controlled

SEE SENIOR PAGE 2

Shawn Washington returns to DEI work at GU

By CLARINNE KIRK

When Shawn Washington left Gonzaga University, he was not sure he would ever be back. Now, he works as the newest hire of a growing GU department, the Office of Inclusive Excellence, as the assistant director of diversity.

Washington grew up in Anchorage, Alaska, and wanted to be the first one in his family to attend college. He began higher education at a community college in Seattle and bounced around before receiving a bachelor’s in sociology from Whitworth University.

After some encouragement from a mentor, Washington went on to receive a master’s from GU, where he later began his career in higher education working in the Unity Multicultural Education Center as a coordinator and specialist with a focus on cultural awareness and community building, a job Washington said ignited his passion for diversity work.

“It really opened my eyes in terms of career and vocation,” Washington said. “When you’re talking about diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, social justice, those things really touched my mind and heart and made me think, ‘maybe I want

to do this.”

After four years of work at GU conducting what Washington called a “labor of love,” he felt ready for a new challenge and began working in diversity, equity and inclusion at a higher level at Whitworth University for seven years.

When COVID-19 hit, coupled with personal struggles, Washington once again felt ready for change and decided to leave higher education to work for a marketing and communications company, still focusing his work on diversity, inclusion and equity-centered communications. However, during his break, Washington began to miss higher education and decided he wanted to return.

After noticing a job opening in the Office of Inclusive Excellence at GU, Washington applied and later got the job, returning to work for GU for the second time with more skills and experience.

Tere Graham, program manager of social justice programming with UMEC, said Washington’s authenticity, humility and warmth make him a great leader and addition to DEI work at GU.

“He has the ability to lead with his

SEE DEI PAGE 3



NICO LOPEZ IG: nlopez_photography

Washington began his career at GU’s UMEC after graduating from Whitworth University.

Queer seniors honored at Lavender Graduation

By CLARINNE KIRK

Gonzaga University’s Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center held the eighth annual Lavender Graduation on Friday afternoon, providing an event to honor senior LGBTQ+ students’ contribution to campus and recognize their marginalized identity.

Lavender Graduations have been popular on many college campuses for the past 20 years but were not introduced to GU until 2016, when a group of students advocated for an LGBTQ+ affirming graduation event. Since then, the event has grown from a luncheon with a handful of students to a larger reception honoring

approximately 20 students.

The event included talks from a faculty member, an alumni speaker and members of the LGBTQ+ community who shared their experiences and imparted wisdom to the graduates. Taylor Cooper, a lavender graduate, said she was inspired by the stories of successful members of the LGBTQ+ community.

“It’s always great to hear from people from the [LGBTQ+] community who made it, who got through it, who have gotten degrees and lived life,” Cooper said.

The event also featured a ceremony where LGBTQ+ seniors were honored for their time at GU and given the opportunity to reflect. After the ceremony, a reception was

held where individuals continued to build community over the sharing of food.

Matthew Barcus, program manager for LGBTQ+ education and support at GU, said providing a space to honor students’ LGBTQ+ identity is extremely important as these marginalized identities can at times be overlooked at a normal commencement.

“[The Lavender Graduation] is an opportunity for people to see their whole self recognized,” Barcus said. “Not that commencement doesn’t do that, but with a large group of people, those identities can get lost.”

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Honors students show yearlong projects

By SOFIA BELTRAN

The Gonzaga Honors Program hosted the Senior Research Showcase in the John J. Hemmingson Ballroom on Saturday.

Each student presented their research project based on their major. Further, they were asked to expand on the knowledge they received from their education to craft something unique to their interests and ambitions.

Among the gallery showcase, projects varied from a podcast on the Civil Rights movement, Black Lives Matter photography, studies on social issues in Spokane and the development of mathematical proofs.

Sequoia Wheelan created Meadow Thorn, a jewelry company dedicated to giving its customers a unique confidence.

"The feeling you get when a piece you are wearing is one of a kind is special and it makes you stand up straighter," Wheelan said.

Sarah Maeda curated a research project on those experiencing homelessness in Spokane. Their project centered on health care services available to those communities, where Maeda stressed the importance of accessibility.

"In the '80s [when] street medicine was presented, a team of medical professionals will go out onto the street with backpacks of medical equipment and bring the care to the patient," Maeda said. "This was incredibly effective and Spokane has implemented this method."

One presentation focused on interdisciplinary education. "Beetle Beats & Beyond" by Mary Claire Clark spotlighted communication methods between beetles, with study given to their behaviors and movements. The scope of the project ran the gamut from traditional biological studies and dance students mimicking beetle movement.

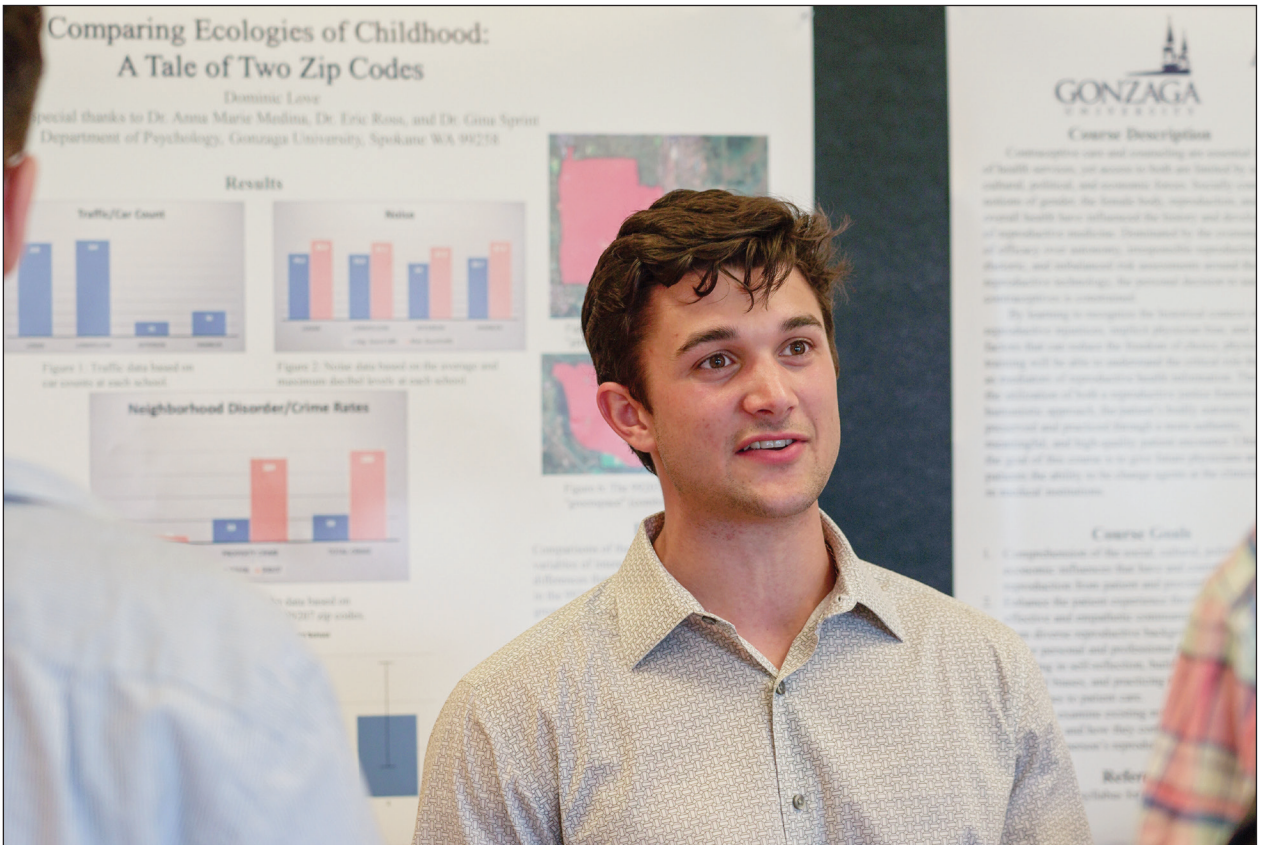
"I was working with a professor from the biology department and the dance department who were in the middle of a study on how dance can inform the process of science," Clark said.

Clark created a documentary while observing this process.

"My goal as a documentarian was to emphasize the importance of creativity and to demonstrate the mutually beneficial relationship of interdisciplinary education," Clark said.

The project created a bridge between disciplines, culminating in informed and fascinating research.

Pilar Winter presented "Persian Americans and



NICO LOPEZ IG: nlopez_photography

Dominic Love presents his research on the socioeconomic impact a ZIP code can make.

Mental Health," a study focused on Winter's own family's relationship to the discussion of mental health.

"My mom's side of the family is Persian, my maternal grandfather immigrated from Iran in his 20s," Winter said. "I interviewed my family members on their Persian identities and how mental health was communicated within their homes."

Winter asked her family members a range of questions. "Many cultural issues like self-identity issues seemed to be at the root of mental health issues," Winter said. "They realized that therapy was a wonderful option."

Winter's project showed how cultural identity can damage self-identity and that therapy is a great resource to address those issues.

The Honors Showcase also presented a wide range of research projects highlighting the social justice expertise of each student. Each presentation focused on a specific issue, addressing a human condition and presenting a solution. Maeda, for example, addressed medical accessibility and presented the solution of street medicine and how it is being implemented.

The showcase, the first annual event of its kind, highlighted each student's individual interests and ambitions. The event was and hopes to continue to be free and open to the public in coming years.

Sofia Beltran is a staff writer.

DESIGN

Continued from Page 1

operations phase in the lab where they are testing their design.

One of the project, for example, recently tested modified the traditional I-beam shape with a new geometric, trapezoidal design. The group used these modified beams to create a bridge, which was then entered in Society for Advancement of Material and Process Engineering Student Bridge Competition. The competition tests the weight-bearing levels of student-made composite beams, with the strongest winning the competition.

According to Aubrey Scott, the group spent the fall semester designing their composite beam, testing several concepts to create a mold to wrap the fabric around to create the beam. She said that then in the spring semester, the group worked in the lab to test their beam design.

The group found that their beam could bear approximately 3,000 pounds.

Still, some of the engineering projects have also been used to address real life problem

A senior design group focused on climate and flood resilience along the Shawsheen River in Massachusetts, which entailed mapping out the Shawsheen River project area and examining it through socio-environmental lenses and hydrological and hydraulic models. The group worked with Fuss & O'Neill to develop their project, and they aimed to identify areas of the Shawsheen River that could be used for

nature-based solutions for flood mitigation, according to Megan Fleming, a member of the team. Fleming said their company liaison will take the information gathered by the group and then develop plans for climate and flood resilience.

The group said the senior design project was a helpful aspect of their education.

"The way that Gonzaga structures its senior design, it really places you in this team-based setting where you get to grow and bond with these engineers that are at your level right now," said Brooke Baker, another group member. "It allows you to have that, like, in context industry work while you're still getting an education."

These groups, in addition to other engineering team presented their projects Wednesday on Foley Lawn at this year's senior design expo. The teams presented the results of their projects to the general public. Presentations included demos, hardware and theoretical explanations. Kellogg said this is a fundamental aspect of the program, as students must learn to explain technical topics in non-technical terms.

"It's a good opportunity to have the public be able to see what students have been doing and local industry can join," Kellogg said. "Senior design program has been a good opportunity as a recruiting endeavor to get our students employed."

More information on the senior design projects and expo can be found on the senior design webpage.

Carmen MacRae is a diversity editor.

GRAD

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Sharing this sentiment, Anissa Olona, a lavender graduate, said she appreciated having a celebration separate from graduation that specifically honors her community.

"I loved the event," Olona said. "It's amazing to have our own little thing, separate from the giant graduation."

Cooper similarly said this event is important in acknowledging marginalized identities that are not always front and center in campus events.

"[The Lavender Graduation] celebrates identities that aren't necessarily always acknowledged or celebrated on campus," Cooper said. "That's not to say that the campus isn't accepting, but it's nice to have an event just focused on these identities."

By focusing on these marginalized and sometimes overlooked identities, Cooper said we can acknowledge the barriers they face and the unique perspectives they hold.

"Having a space to acknowledge that individuals with marginalized identities have different experiences is important especially because graduation can already be hard and some people with marginalized identities have extra barriers to go through," Cooper said. "With this event, there is an acknowledgment that, 'we see you, we recognize you, this is for you.'"

Barcus added that honoring these identities allows individuals to develop themselves not just academically but also

culturally, a connection to GU's mission of developing the whole person.

"The goal is to unite the idea of our campus developing students — not just academically and spiritually, but also culturally," Barcus said. "Giving an opportunity for reflection is part of culture and identity."

In addition to helping fulfill GU's mission of developing the whole person, the event also helps students feel represented, affirming that their LGBTQ+ identity is an intrinsic and welcome part of themselves.

"I want them to see how important it is to be their authentic selves rather than leaving pieces of themselves at the door when they come to classes or events," Barcus said. "You are the totality of your experiences, identities and culture."

Not only does Barcus identify this event as important to affirm individuals' identity but also to celebrate and recognize the joy within the LGBTQ+ community, despite the discrimination and hardships individuals might face.

"No matter what is going on in the world with marginalization, there is euphoria and joy in being part of the LGBTQ+ community," Barcus said. "We manifest that joy through community, solidarity and celebration."

Clarinne Kirk is a staff writer.

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GSBA

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of a presidential ticket competing against Evans and Reittinger before withdrawing from the election, said they were worried about additional tensions arising from what they described were deep conflicts of interest.

Gonzales also said they believe in the merit of the university's policy and are concerned that GU has declined to enforce it for student employees. They said student employees are more vulnerable to the creation of unsafe power differentials in the workplace than professional staff and faculty.

Will Komar, a junior senator, said he believes the cabinet hires are qualified but he worries the personal connections might affect how conflict is addressed in the cabinet, a potential obstruction to GSBA's work. He said he wants the hiring policies reviewed and updated to minimize future conflicts on interest.

Both Gonzales and Komar are senators in the general assembly, although they said they are not speaking from their official roles in the student government.

"Those three cabinet selections have the potential to create an unsafe and unhealthy work environment that would distract and even impair the important work that GSBA is trying to do," Gonzales said. "Whether or not their hiring was nepotism is out of really anybody's control because of how democracy works. But because GSBA is subjected to university policy, and we're trying to create healthy and safe workplace environments and the



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Griffin Reittinger and Kainoa Evans were elected in one of the most competitive GSBA elections.

work of GSBA is supposed to uplift the student voices, getting distracted from that would be a real problem."

However, Evans and Reittinger said they believe they had selected the best candidates for the cabinet and appreciated that the senate ratified their appointments during the meeting on Monday. Reittinger said he believes these cabinet members will serve out his goals for the upcoming school year.

Mercer said he had conversations with each of the cabinet appointees to

set up clear expectations and measures if personal conflicts begin to affect the work environment and noted that the hires do not directly report to Reittinger but to himself and Evans.

Mercer said prior personal connections cannot be avoided sometimes during the hiring process, and he said this was not the first instance of a cabinet member being in a romantic relationship with another GSBA student employee, giving an example from a couple of years ago.

"Those kinds of spirit — that reality

is not being ignored," Mercer said. "It is very much being a center of focus that came from when Griffin first stepped in and said 'hey, this is a potential conflict of interest and I'm going to remove myself because of that.' And I obviously assume this will lead to very robust debate moving forward."

The vote on Monday capstones an application and interview process led by Evans for the cabinet hires that took over a month. Evans said the application pool was competitive, much larger than it was for last year's cabinet hires.

Evans said that Reittinger advised on some of the hires, including being a part of the interviews of Herrbach and McCorkle, but that he recused himself for the interview of McDonald. Evans also said that the selection of the cabinet hires was still his decision.

Reittinger said he is looking forward to next year, where he and Evans lead a strong team of committed cabinet members, as they tackle his broad campaign pillars of relationality, stewardship and intersectionality.

"It's super, super important to be transparent, especially in this role," Reittinger said. "It comes with the territory of being president. I have a responsibility to the people I work with, not only the people in GSBA, but administration, to uphold ethical moral standards that the university holds. Just because, if I want to try to embody student representation on campus, I have to be the most ethical I can be."

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

DEI

Continued from Page 1

humanity and through an authentic style of communication," Graham said.

Graham described a particular time with Washington's authenticity that helped to make students more comfortable while discussing a challenging, sensitive topic.

"We had a gathering with some of our students and Dr. Washington was extremely warm and filled the room with his presence," Graham said. "During what may have been a sensitive topic, [Washington] shifted the room as students realized they could be themselves since he's approachable and relatable."

In his new position, Washington said his main role is to assist the office's president, Robin Kelley, in her work, while also helping the office execute its mission of ensuring the university meets its standards of diversity, inclusion, belonging and social justice.

"Our mission is to continue to challenge and to keep the institution accountable in terms of policies, structures and infrastructures that enact diversity," Washington said.

The Office of Inclusive Excellence recently went through rebranding from its old title, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, in order to better align the office's work with the academic framework of inclusion.

"With inclusion, when you look around, instead of

looking to see who's here, you look for who's missing," Washington said. "It then involves giving representation as much as you can around all elements of GU."

Graham also identified the importance of emphasizing that inclusion not only means that students are included, but also that they feel supported and represented on campus.

"Oftentimes, we may think, 'if I invite all, I'm inclusive,'" Graham said. "But it's not only about an invitation to be inclusive, it's about offering resources."

Washington said another reason for the rebranding was to dispel confusion between the Office of Inclusive Excellence and UMEC.

"I think at times campus members have been confused," Washington said. "I think the rebranding was to help that confusion fade away."

While Washington hopes the rebranding will help distinguish between the two groups, he also notes their close relationship, with the Office of Inclusive Excellence focusing on the institutional implementation of diversity, equity and inclusion and UMEC working to support students by providing events and educational opportunities for the community.

Graham additionally says UMEC and the Office of Inclusive Excellence have an important collaborative relationship, with the Office of Inclusive Excellence providing policies that UMEC can then incorporate into student life.

"We have the opportunity to take the work that Shawn Washington and his team are doing policy-wise, for big-

picture campus movement, and wrap that into student life," Graham said. "How can we see these policies benefit our student population, and what does that look like?"

Washington sees his new job as an opportunity to support the growth of his office and diversity, equity and inclusion efforts at GU.

"I've been able to help grow this office, and that is something that is very exciting to me," Washington said. "We plan on continuing to grow our office. I see a lot of potential and a lot of excitement."

Part of the reason Washington said there is so much potential at GU is due to the communal nature of higher education where students can learn in the classroom and from each other.

"In higher education, we have an opportunity to not only learn a discipline in a classroom but also to learn from the people that you're learning with and outside of the classroom," Washington said. "You're able to have a dialogue and to understand where people come from and why they might think a certain way."

Once learning these principles of diversity, equity and inclusion, Washington then hopes students will take these principles with them post-graduation, enacting change in the larger community.

"It's important to practice tools of equity and social justice in higher education, and then, as you go out into the world, you take those tools with you," Washington said.

Clarinne Kirk is a staff writer.



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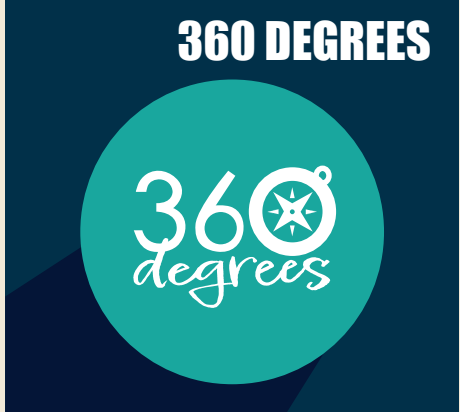


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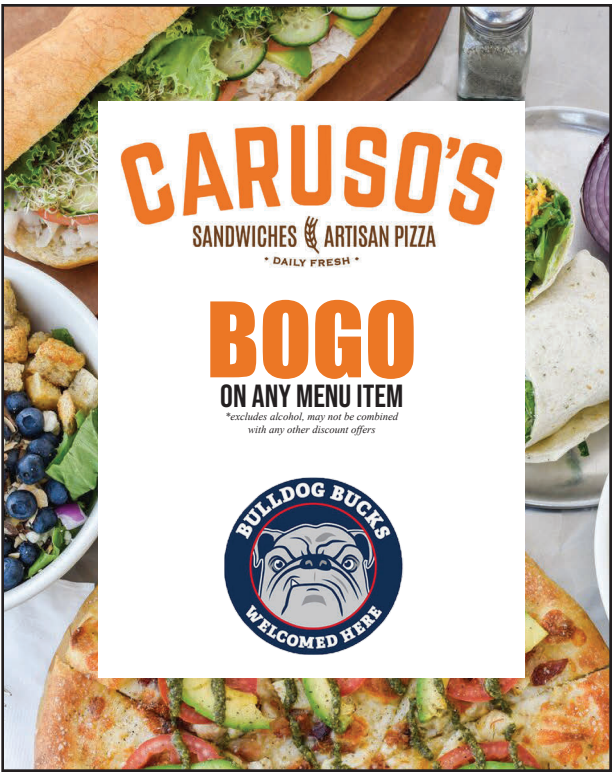

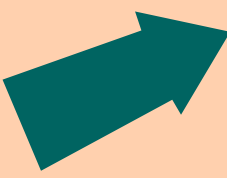



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Letter to the Editor: Pass nothing about us, without us

Have you ever felt misrepresented by your government's decision or your elected officials? Have you ever had someone make a decision for you without your input? These are the issues that the Nothing About Us Without Us movement aims to address.

Since the early days of the United States, there has always been one group or another that does not see itself reflected in the government. These groups have included people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, women and people with disabilities. With our first minority and female vice president and openly LGBTQ+ community members in the government, Americans like to think that we have more representation than decades before. But for many groups, including people with disabilities and the unhoused, this is untrue.

When talking with people with disabilities I was informed that they often felt left out of the decision that most affected them — decisions that affected things they needed to survive.

These were discussions like whether Social Security Income should be increased due to inflation. SSI is a program that for many like those I interviewed is their only or main source of income; despite this, they were not included in the discussion.

People with disabilities were not the only ones who felt this way. When talking to people of the unhoused community, they felt that their lack of representation has led to "solutions" that do not fix the issues they are facing.

Both groups thought that the people in Olympia, Washington, would be better able to serve them if they heard their opinions through something other than simply voting. The people I am advocating for today wished that there was a more formal way of getting their opinions heard. This is where the Nothing About Without Us



By HANNAH BEIGHEY

movement comes to importance.

This movement was started by Ivanova Smith with the main goal being the passing of the Nothing About Us Without Us Bill. This bill has been in the works for about four years and has been proposed a few times without success, including during this session of the State Legislature.

"[It] originally was meant for people with disabilities and workgroups focused on disability issues since it has expended all direct lived experience so it is more intersectional in how people can participate in these workgroups," Smith said.

The idea originally came to the work group after learning that lots people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities said [a work group on disability legislation

had supported legislation that] harmed them but they were not allowed on the workgroups that would change how services are done.

To change this practice Ivanova Smith created a coalition of other self-advocates to change the policy. Along with this group, it is supported by the governor's committee on Disability and Community, various disability led organizations in the world of disability advocacy and various organizations that represent people of color and other underrepresented identities in the state legislature.

Ethically, this bill is the right thing to do for the government. When a group is being affected by a decision being made, they should be included in the decision-making process. While this may make the process longer, in the end, it will provide better solutions to problems. For example, when talking with members of the unhoused community, they mentioned that often the solutions that attempt to address the homelessness crisis are ineffective because they do not accurately address the issue.

Had the government been required to talk to the community they were affecting, the solution could have been a better fit to solve the issue. This legislation would require that the government at least hear the opinions of those affected before deciding on a bill. Finally, this bill would make the government more responsive to its constituents, fulfilling its promise to be by the people and for the people.

Hannah Beighey is a GU student.

The end of Tucker Carlson does not mean the end of Fox News fearmongering

When Tucker Carlson, Fox News' most prominent prime-time host, was ousted from the network on April 24, he left a trail of hatred, lies and deception in his wake. Yet, while Carlson may be gone from Fox News, his tactics of fearmongering and stoking division are likely around to stay.

Carlson's dismissal comes while Carlson is facing a lawsuit of his own from former Fox News head of booking, Abby Grossberg, who claims Carlson promoted a hostile and sexist work environment. In her lawsuit, Grossberg claims Carlson and other male producers often used derogatory and objectifying language when discussing women.

Carlson's firing also came shortly after Fox's \$787.5 million settlement with Dominion Voting Systems, the voting machine maker that sued Fox for defamation. Carlson's continued promotion of election denial was a substantial basis for Dominion's case, illustrating how Carlson's lies might have helped the network gain popularity but at a high price.

While the settlement case and Carlson's dismissal might suggest that Fox is shifting from polarizing, fictitious news,



By CLARINNE KIRK

Carlson's tactics for gaining viewership are unlikely to leave Fox — they're simply too effective and too profitable. Carlson's show averaged 3 million viewers a night according to the New York Times, and following the cancellation of his show, Fox News devalued by \$800 million.

During his time at Fox, Carlson realized the power of white fear. Carlson continuously used defamatory claims based on stereotypes and biased opinions

to stoke this fear and paint white, conservative Americans as victims under constant attack by the woke, radical left. And to Carlson, everything from Critical Race Theory to transgender athletes to Sesame Street's Big Bird was an attack on traditional, American values and freedoms.

In contorting new stories to be opposed to his audience, Carlson validated their fears and discomfort in an American society with increasingly diverse racial demographics. Further, Carlson converted these fears and discomfort into outrage and hatred, understanding anger's power as a mobilizing force.

Carlson's fearmongering may have been effective in creating a loyal, fired-up audience, but it was also extremely dangerous, further polarizing political sides, stigmatizing minority groups and normalizing the dispersal of misinformation. For example, in 2018, Carlson tapped into his audience's fear of immigrants by arguing that they were making America "poorer and dirtier." Not only was this comment extremely racist and blatantly false, it perpetuates harmful stereotypes and reinforces divisions largely

caused by ignorance.

Carlson's aim was never to counter this ignorance but to use it for his own benefit, seeing it as an opportunity to turn ignorance-based fear into divisive hatred. For a while, this aim worked, catapulting Carlson to success. When the repercussions of his inflammatory hate speech were too much to bear, Fox News cut ties with the man but not with the ideology.

In some ways, Fox News has become integrated with the lies and bias it spews. Turning against fearmongering and the validation of its audience's fears will only ostracize the fan base that makes Fox the most profitable cable network, earning \$3.19 billion last quarter according to Fox's Fiscal Report.

Fox can fire Tucker Carlson when his racist, sexist and unethical comments catch up to him; but until hatred, fearmongering and promoting falsehoods are unprofitable, they are unlikely to part ways with his tactics.

Clarinne Kirk is a staff writer.

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GU students ought to take a moment to appreciate the Plant (Services)

The campus that we live on is a masterfully maintained art piece that brings life to the dreary and cloudy days of Spokane. The grass is well maintained and clean of any filthy trash while the walkways and classroom buildings stay in good condition despite the unfortunate fact of life that they are required to be tread upon by thousands of college students every day.

Plant Services staff are the unsung heroes of Gonzaga University and are a crucial part of maintaining the wonderful GU experience that we have. They keep our campus clean, do repairs on our dorms and ensure that the flora has a welcoming feeling to it when we trudge our way to our classes in the early mornings.

They are unsung due to an unfortunate circumstance brought on by their job. When they perform their tasks perfectly, no one notices or thinks about them. It is only when someone makes a mistake that they are thrust into the forefront of everyone's mind, creating what I feel is an unfair and uninformed opinion about them being formed by the general school populace.

I have only had positive experiences with them and I am very appreciative of all the effort that they pour into maintaining the welcoming and clear atmosphere at GU.

My roommates and I have sent out many emails to them about repairs in my apartment and they have always responded quickly and efficiently to help us in our small crises we have with our dorm.

They should be celebrated more. There are thousands of college students currently living on GU campus, many of whom have their own problems that they need help with solving, some not caring about the campus they live on and treating it poorly. Yet through this cascade of leaky faucets, burnt lights, broken doors and hinges, flooding showers and littered trash, Plant Services carries on, working hard to make sure that the campus stays that perfect, picturesque location that many of us call home.

Just imagine what campus would be like if we did not have Plant Services. The amount of damage that we do to this campus would have it broken to rubble in a week, if not less. The doors would stay broken, the garbage would be littered all over our fields, which now would be infested with weeds and overgrown. Think about the craziest damage



By DOMINIC BUSCH

you have seen done to any aspect of campus, and imagine that it never gets fixed. I am sure that each person here has some crazy story of what damage they have seen, may it have been done on accident by someone else or maybe just a cruel act of fate.

With all of our different images and stories combined, you can see the picture form in front of you as you realize how much Plant Services has to fix up on the regular.

I do not think that GU students give enough credit to the Plant Services staff, and I think that should change. These workers deserve more respect than we give them simply because they have to deal with the worst of us just to do their jobs. I have never heard or seen any honoring of all the hard work that these behind the scene saviors due for us. The school should do more on that front, giving credit to the countless hours of service to the GU community that most don't even see or think about.

I and many other students are grateful for the work that you put into ensuring that the campus stays livable for all of us, despite all the punishment it takes on a daily basis.

Dominic Busch is a contributor.

GU students extend final anthology project beyond end of class

By KAELYN NEW

Just because you haven't heard of them doesn't mean they don't exist — this is the philosophy that guided Gonzaga University's English and Women's & Gender Studies professor Katy Roden in one of her classes last semester that worked to highlight often forgotten women writers.

Two students from Roden's Authorship & Textual Production in Early Modern Women's Writing class are now working on editing and designing a writers' anthology for Roden's future classes.

GU senior Claire Wehby and junior Delaney Sousa have been working on compiling and designing the complete anthology in professor Jeffrey Dodd's Typography & Book Design class.

"I've been working on organizing and formatting the chapters," Wehby said.

There will be six chapters in the anthology, according to Wehby. While Wehby worked on organization and format, Sousa edited the work during an internship under Roden to make it more accessible. Now, Sousa said she and Wehby are putting the final pieces together.

"I think our goal ... was just making this information and these women accessible to more people since they've been overlooked through history when studying these works and this time period," Wehby said.

While scholars can't agree on the exact dates of the Early Modern period, Roden said that it was roughly from 1500-1700. She said she wanted to offer this course because there hadn't been a class focused on women writers from this time period offered at GU.

"This was the first time to my knowledge that we have offered an Early Modern women's writing class," Roden said. "My approach to the class in titling it not just 'Early Modern Women Writers,' but 'Authorship and Textual Production' was really to invite students to think about the ways that Early Modern women engaged in authorship and textual production beyond modes that we may think of today."

Roden said that the class focused on nontraditional methods of writing production, including group embroidery projects that invited the students to think about the ways women built community at the time.

Sousa said that some of the authors they studied were discovered as recently as the 1990s, and she found the readings from Roden's class enthralling and similar to aspects of her own life.

"I found so much that I had in common with these women's struggles even though they existed in the 1500s," Sousa said.

The final project of Roden's course was to have students compile texts and pitch and design the content of an anthology of Early Modern women writers.

"Their final project was really to think about how anthologies and the textbook industry really shapes whose voices we hear and who we think of as canonical poets and authors," Roden said.

The anthology will include writers such as Isabella Whitney, Margaret Fell, Jane Anger, Margaret Cavendish



MAKOA DE ALMEIDA IG: makoadelmeida

Delaney Sousa has been working with fellow senior Claire Wehby to complete a writers anthology.

and Aphra Behn. While Roden said the anthology likely won't be professionally published, the work will be foundational for her classes to come, as she wants to use this anthology made by students when she teaches a British Literature Survey class next semester.

Roden said the anthology features scanned versions of the embroidery projects, written introductory material, discussion questions and secondary sources for those intrigued to know more.

Roden approached Dodd this semester to ask if he was looking for another project for his Typography & Book Design class, and Wehby and Sousa took up the task of designing the book for their final project in Dodd's class.

"Students read who their faculty members choose to assign and assume that those are the voices that we should hear," Roden said. "In every way, this project is an opportunity to have my students, but also other students more broadly in the GU community, think about how important it is to question the kind of texts we consume and the kinds of voices we hear."

Roden said she would like to teach the class again to have the anthology provide a foundation for their work and have them potentially expand on it.

"One of the foundational concepts of the class was to reveal to students that there were an awful lot of Early Modern women writers," Roden said. "They didn't publish in the same way that we expect professional authors to publish today, but just because you've never heard of them doesn't mean they don't exist."

Sousa said that one of her favorite things about this process was her unique opportunity to see the anthology at every stage — from reading and compiling pieces in Roden's class to editing it throughout her internship and designing the anthology under Dodd's supervision.

"It's sort of had a legacy of its own throughout this year," Sousa said. "I think that it's a really cool showcase of collaboration, not only of students and faculty but also to sort of take that learning in the classroom to something bigger and something that will have continued significance."

Roden said that there is a common misconception that since women lacked access to education during the Early Modern period, their writing was more unsophisticated than their male counterparts, which she thinks is entirely untrue.

"More women were writing and speaking in public than you might imagine," Roden said. "They've always been angry about being disenfranchised, so why not read some of those angry ladies?"

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

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level **1** 2 3 4

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

Solution to Last Week's puzzle 5/21/23

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

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		19			20			21		22
23										25				26	
27					28			29	30				31		
32				33	34		35					36			
37				38			39			40			41		
42				43	44	45	46			47		48	49		
				50			51			52		53	54		55
56	59	60								61			62		
63						64	65	66	67		68	69			70
71					72	73	74			75				76	
77					78			79					80	81	
82				83		84	85			86	87	88			
89						90			91						
				93				94		95				97	98
100	101	102			103	104	105		106		107			108	109
110					111				112			113	114		115
116						117					118			119	120
121					122					123	124			125	
126					127					128				129	
130						131				132				133	

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SECRET INGREDIENTS

By Rose Sloan & Shannon Rapp

ACROSS

1 West African capital

6 Page with many views?

10 Veg out

14 Grade-to-be

17 Root beer treats

19 Apple's counterpart of 3-Down

20 Sportbacks, e.g.

22 Mortal of "The Karate Kid"

23 Pony car since 1964

25 Game option featuring outscenes

27 Jazz legend James

28 Kelly Clarkson's "Since U ___ Gone"

29 Pilot

31 Cellphone giant

32 Green sold in rainbow bunches

34 Flavor with Oreos

37 Language class subject

39 Grabs a chair

40 PreCheck org.

41 Just

42 Govt. ID issuer

43 Cornice, e.g.

46 Word with care or aware

48 D&D monster with a peak attack

50 Some alfresco dates

52 Association for former classmates

58 Genre satirized in "Only Murders in the Building"

61 Get older

62 Baggly

63 Take turns

64 ___ science

68 Guys

70 Ranch grazer

71 Thanksgiving side dish

72 "Back to the Future" vehicle

76 Dad

77 Altar-ed words?

78 Convoy rig

79 Squirrel's home

80 Many a campaign ad

82 Some second-generation Americans

84 Egyptian viper

86 Rom-com mainstay

89 Bank job necessity

92 Passes on, as knowledge

93 ___ Minella: vest-wearing Muppet chimpanzee

94 Crochet need

96 Mix

97 Gp. for those who putter around a lot?

100 Maumee River endpoint

103 Battery size

106 Mama's mama

108 Gets to the point?

110 Information often included in a bridal shower invitation

115 Bowling sites

116 Kodiak Island resident

117 Root kin

118 Soph, probably

120 ___-ped

121 Long series of romances?

123 Mixes such as garam masala and ras el hanout, and what are found in this puzzle's circles?

126 "¿Qué ___?": Spanish "What's up?"

127 Mountain nymph

128 Norsk

129 Folkmuseum city

130 Melodious

131 Ones making alterations, for short

132 Butter chicken bread

133 Some Scots

DOWN

1 Has an influence on

2 Outfit

3 Microsoft's counterpart of 19-Across

4 Location tools

5 Bread box?

6 Bone-related prefix

7 Steinways, e.g.

8 Directional suffix

9 Paleontologist's workplace

10 Permanently removes hair, perhaps

11 Devour more than

12 Decks out

13 Christmas purchase kids know about before Santa comes

14 Already claimed, with "for"

15 Tire type

16 Like a good romance novel

18 Hero

21 Lip-

24 Dry designation

26 African country nearest Spain

30 Inventor Nikola

33 Create an image of

35 Peck

36 "Aw, heck"

38 Work like a gland

44 Singer DiFranco

45 Canyon edge

47 Miami's st.

49 Many Monets

50 Aloo mutter ingredients

51 Give up

53 Jamaican tangelo brand name

54 Have in mind

55 Setting

56 Annual Queens sporting event

57 "Watch out!"

58 Having a go

59 Band aide

60 Of the ___ importance

65 Tsp., e.g.

66 Pothole filler

67 Star starter

69 Flaw

73 "Perhaps"

74 Catchall file abbr.

75 Nautical wheel

76 "___ or it didn't happen"

78 "Dance Moms" dancer JoJo

81 Starlike

83 Softened

85 Fork over

87 Photo ___

88 Brewery container

90 Actor Tudyk

91 Mountain chain

92 Stops along the way

95 Sours, as a parade

97 Act of contrition

98 Beowulf foe

99 Stockton's NBA record 15,806

100 Discarded tech products

101 Click a circular arrow, say

102 Core values

104 Thinks the same

105 Turkish mount consisting of two volcanic cones

107 the Hun

109 Adlon of "Better Things"

111 "___, sing America": Hughes

112 Sidestep

113 Intel job

114 "___-hawi"

119 "Don't worry abt it"

122 Ante-

124 "The More You Know" spot, e.g.

125 Tote (around)

Gonzaga artists wear their hearts on their sleeves in new exhibition

By KAYLA FRIEDRICH

From ceramics and acrylic to 3D paintings and an ofrenda, Friday night called on Gonzaga University art students to wear their hearts on their sleeves at the debut of “A Piece of Me Senior Art Exhibition.”

For a couple of the artists, this show, hosted at the Gonzaga University Urban Arts Center, was the first time they have seen their artwork displayed in a professional gallery.

“Seeing everything on a wall that has actual lighting and there’s not thumbtacks around it and feeling this in a more professional sense, it totally changes how we view it,” said Hayley Nigrelle, a senior contributor to the exhibit.

Nigrelle said that hearing critiques and other interpretations of her art beyond the circle of students and professors she has been working with for the past year has helped her understand the impact her art has on others.

Throughout the show, artists tackle a range of life experiences that are the motivators of each piece.

On the right side of the GUUAC, Nigrelle’s art hangs as it recollects personal moments in her life.

“For my paintings this year, I use them as different forms of self portraits and kind of step away from the classic use of self portraiture,” Nigrelle said.

Nigrelle’s portraits progress with her story, beginning with an abstracted painting titled “Womb” as a recount of her birth story, leading viewers all the way to her adulthood.

Nigrelle said another goal she had for her work was to involve her Sicilian-Italian and Guatemalan heritage while also dedicating as much as she could to the education that her dad worked for.

“I really wanted to see more culture in Gonzaga related spaces and that’s part of the reason I did the ofrenda to honor my dad,” Nigrelle said. “I’ve put everything that I’ve learned and what I’ve experienced into the show and have it be something that will resonate with someone.”

Skylar Karman, a senior contributor to the exhibit, has found empowerment in the vulnerability that is required when putting very personal work on display for a larger, unfamiliar audience.

“My pieces are expressing and talking about my ADHD symptoms and my experience with mental health and neurodivergent depression,” Karman said. “A lot of the problems I can’t verbalize but I can try to show in an art form instead of talking about it. It’s different representations of negative and positive symptoms of ADHD and depression in general.”



RACHAEL HALEY IG: rhalley.photo

Part of Hayley Nigrelle’s collection of work included an ofrenda to honor her father.



RACHAEL HALEY IG: rhalley.photo

Skylar Karman’s collection is an expression of ADHD symptoms and neurodivergent depression.

One painting in Karman’s collection was a happy accident leading him to take on a nuanced form of self portraiture.

“I can distort my face really well and so I just took a picture of it and thought it was funny and then I just really liked it,” Karman said. “I wanted to paint it and it kind of ended up being a representation of the subconscious part of you. Not to be cliché but there’s a part of you that’s a

detriment to you and your life.”

Other artists showing collections in this exhibit are Fiona Davis, Ashley Castleman, Bri Covert, Emilie Weaver and Brigid Dennehy.

On Friday, artists will be at the GUUAC to speak to artists about their work in the exhibit.

“A Piece of Me Senior Art Exhibition” will be on display Fridays 4-7 p.m. and

Saturdays 10-3 p.m. until May 12.

Kayla Friedrich is an A&E editor. Follow her on Twitter: @friedrich_kayla.

Jundt welcomes film lovers to campus for GU film festival

By TRINITY WILHITE

On Friday in the Jundt Auditorium, student filmmakers will present their work at the 2023 Gonzaga University Student Film Festival hosted by Matt McCormick and the art and integrated media departments.

“[McCormick] has a vision and he runs with it, and it is truly inspiring,” said Noah Daheim, a senior broadcasting major. “Seeing how passionate he is about film really does inspire other students and inspires me a lot.”

GU alum and judge of the festival Ursula Hood decided to start filmmaking after taking some of McCormick’s classes.

“[Matt’s classes] inspired me to become a filmmaker and want to grow my passion,” Hood said.

Hood said as a judge she is looking for the students to share passion of their own, along with creativity within the films.

Other judges of the film festival will be GU alumni Jackson Scallen and Luke Kennelly.

Student filmmaking is important for Daheim because people’s stories inspire him.

“Highlighting people’s stories is the thing that most drives me to make films because I have the firm belief that we are all connected in one way shape or another,” Daheim said. “And by making documentaries I’m able to see how we are interwoven together as a society and as individuals.”

One of the films Daheim submitted to the festival is “Artist Highlight: Kimber Follevaag.” This film highlights the story of an artist in Spokane about what inspires and motivates her artwork.

Daheim found a vintage camera at a thrift store and saw it had Follevaag engraved on it. After some research, Daheim found the Spokane artist.

“I found Kimber and her work and I’ve seen her work at the museum before and I’ve just always loved it,” Daheim said. “And just the way that she uses all different types of mediums is something that’s very inspirational. She uses fiber, wood, metal photography and some other things in there too, to really bring her stuff to life.”

After Daheim reached out to Follevaag, she told Daheim that the camera belonged to her husband’s father.

Daheim plans to make this a multipart documentary with chapters following Follevaag and her art. Daheim submitted four films to this year’s film festival.

Hood, when she was a student at GU, entered “Bigfoot?!” into the film festival, an archival documentary about the fans surrounding the forest legend. The film won honorable mention.

Hood and Daheim encourage people to get involved with the film festival and get into filmmaking.

“Just do it,” Daheim said. “Just get involved in some way, shape or form ... There are people constantly making films, constantly doing something, constantly telling the story.”



COURTESY OF GONZAGA UNIVERSITY INTEGRATED MEDIA DEPARTMENT

The Gonzaga University Student Film Festival will be on Friday at 7 p.m. in the Jundt Art Center.

Daheim said that the film community at GU is small, but McCormick and others are working to expand it by encouraging people to get involved with making their own film or helping other people with theirs.

“It’s to support the film festival and when you go to it, you go support other films and it’s just to be a part of it,” Hood said. “Get involved, you can see a fun niche community on campus that really loves what they’re doing. Most filmmakers love what they’re doing ... Go to inspire yourself and watch other films.”

Daheim said Spokane is an artistic area. There are a lot of media creators and news outlets that provide numerous ways for the Spokane community to engage with student filmmakers.

Daheim said the GU student film festival is a great way for aspiring filmmakers to get new sets of eyes on their work.

“I think it is extremely important for the Spokane community to amplify art and artists, especially at the student level here at Gonzaga,” Daheim said.

The GU film festival was started in 2019. Daheim said he hopes and thinks that the film festival will grow as the

years progress.

“I feel like this film festival within a couple years could be significantly bigger,” Daheim said. “Maybe even going into the Myrtle [Woldson Performing Arts Center] but in being able to invite even more community members to it as well.”

Daheim said the feeling of seeing a self-produced film on the big screen at a film festival is like no other.

“You see your film up there on the big screen and you’re in a room full of other people watching your film — it’s a very surreal moment,” Daheim said. “Last year when my film showed I was like, ‘this feels good. This feels really good. I really liked this. I really liked this moment.’”

Students from the integrated media and art department have submitted their favorite projects and films that they have been working on. It will feature all styles of film.

The Gonzaga University Student Film Festival will take place on Friday in Jundt 110 at 7 p.m.

Trinity Wilhite is a staff writer.



The Bloomsday finish line will return to Riverfront Park after it was moved to the Monroe Street Bridge pictured above.

47th annual Bloomsday returns with new wrinkles

By TOMMY CONNOLLY

One of the most popular annual events of the spring in Spokane is back for its 47th edition. The Bloomsday Run will take place on Sunday in downtown Spokane and will take runners throughout the city.

The course is the standard 12K or 7.46 mile race it has been in the past. Starting downtown on Riverside Avenue, runners head west on the same street before going north on Government Way, passing Spokane Falls Community College at the halfway mark, before crossing over the Spokane River and approaching Doomsday Hill. The route continues southeast toward Monroe Street Bridge, where runners will cross before ending on Spokane Falls Boulevard in front of the runners statue.

“Year to date compared to last year we are way ahead,” Mark Starr, an organizer from the event, told KHQ. “The numbers are moving constantly so it is hard to give an exact tally.”

Back for this year’s edition of the race is Bloomsdog. Bloomsdog is the chance for runners to take part in a separate run with

their pet either after the completion of the race, or virtually any time before the race. Dogs are not allowed on the course during race day, so this is an alternative for people looking to run with their pet and receive a specialized finisher bandana. Bloomsdog has led to increased numbers associated with Bloomsday and more money for the community.

“The virtual run option is a great addition to Bloomsday,” said Don Kardong, founder of the Bloomsday race. “We see a huge percentage of runners using that option in the years since we added it. It helps get more people participating in Bloomsday from all around the world.”

For people interested in completing the virtual Bloomsday run, participants need to complete their run between April 27 and May 7 to earn their Bloomsday T-shirt.

This year’s race theme is “Blooming Together,” with poster art for the event done by local Spokane artist Jesse Harbour. Harbour depicted lilac and tea-green runners in front of mountains and sun beams for the 47th edition art.

Each year, Bloomsday raises millions of dollars for the Spokane community, with the Greater Spokane Inc. reporting that

in 2022, the city felt an economic boost of \$14 million due to Bloomsday activities.

The economic gains for the city are not new for the Bloomsday Run, but this year a new end to the race has been added. In years past, runners would finish the race on the Monroe Street Bridge. This year, race directors moved the finish line to Riverfront Park.

Over the last several years, Riverfront Park and the areas adjacent to the park have undergone construction, with the installment of a new CSO tank and the remodeling of the Spokane Library. Now, with the construction complete, the finish line will return to Riverfront Park where runners will be greeted with live music and a beer garden.

“The racecourse will look the same as it has, Doomsday Hill will still be there,” Starr said. “This finish line went away after the remodeling, and we’re excited to bring it back.”

Every year the Bloomsday board of directors chooses a charity to sponsor, with this year’s donation proceeds to Teen and Kid Closet. Teen and Kid Closet is a 16-year-old Spokane nonprofit that provides free clothes and accessories for

GU SPORTS

Friday, May 5

➔ Track at Oregon Twilight

Meet (men only), Eugene, OR, all day

➔ Baseball vs. Saint Mary's, 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 6

➔ Women's rowing at Windermere Cup, Seattle, WA, all day

➔ Baseball vs. Saint Mary's, 6 p.m.

Sunday, May 7

➔ Baseball vs. Saint Mary's, 1 p.m.

Monday, May 8

➔ Women's golf at NCAA Pullman Regional, Pullman, WA, all day

Home games in bold

children and youth living in poverty, foster care or homelessness.

Alongside the yearly events at Bloomsday Run, the 2023 edition will be the first to feature the Bloomsday College Cup. The College Cup will include teams of five runners made up of students and staff. The idea is aligned with the Corporate Cup, that features teams of five from local businesses and companies.

The first starting time for Bloomsday 2023 is at 9 a.m., with staggered starts continuing until 10:30 a.m. Throughout the course, entertainment will be featured on city blocks, with spectators encouraged to watch and cheer on the Bloomsday runners.

Tommy Connolly is a staff writer.

Gonzaga faces Saint Mary's as pennant race heats up

By AIDAN CHRISLEY

After Gonzaga baseball’s first series win in a month, the team remains in prime position to make a run in the West Coast Conference. A home series against Saint Mary’s begins Friday and will be crucial in the Zags’ hopes to get to Omaha.

The WCC has been cannibalizing itself, which is bad news for teams wanting an at-large bid to the College World Series, but good news for the Zags who are right in the mix for the top seed going into the tournament. They are currently tied for second place with Portland and San Diego with a conference record of 13-8.

Both GU and Saint Mary’s were scheduled to have a mid-week game on Tuesday, however, the Gaels game against San Jose State was canceled, meaning they will have the full week off ahead of the series.

The Zags faced off against Washington State on Tuesday, losing 9-6 in the rubber match of a 3-game series that started back in March.

Momentum is currently swinging in the Zags’ favor as they come off of a series sweep against Pacific, ending the final game on a score from Enzo Apodaca off a wild pitch.

“Anytime there is a walk-off ... the team morale is through the roof,” said pitcher Jacob Rutherford. “It’s just going to bring us together, going into this next week. And it makes it that much sweeter that it’s at home in front of all our fans.”

The sweep brought the Zags’ home record to 11-5 as opposed to their 5-19 record on the road. With the Gaels coming to Spokane, they have another chance to shine in front of the home crowd.

The Gaels are lacking that momentum as they come off of a series loss against San Francisco which included two straight one-run losses to end the series, bringing their conference record to 11-10. As opposed to the Zags who have played much better at home this year, the Gaels have played better on the road with a record of 8-8 as opposed to their 9-12 record in Moraga, California.

“Saint Mary’s is going to be a good battle, they’re right in a similar slot to where we’re at,” said GU associate head



coach Brandon Harmon. “They’re going to be important games, they’re going to be competitive.”

The season is quickly winding down to a close and seeding for the conference tournament in Las Vegas is becoming increasingly important. Six more conference games remain, half in this home series against Saint Mary’s and the remaining three in a road series against Santa Clara beginning on May 19.

However, for the Zags, the end of the road does not mean the end of improvement according to Harmon.

“You’re just trying to keep showing up and get better every day,” Harmon said. “Whether you’re in the front, the back, you’re just trying to keep going ... learn from losses and learn from wins, each day just try to keep improving.”

If momentum is kept from the previous Zags, they should be in a good place in the WCC. In other conference

games this week, Portland faces off against Santa Clara, San Diego has a home series against BYU and the current top seed Loyola Marymount goes against Pepperdine after a series loss to San Diego.

The Zags did not anticipate themselves being in such a hotly contested conference race this late in the season after the program’s best year and a nearly unanimous preseason selection to win the conference, but they are not backing away from the fight.

Every WCC team is capable of beating each other this season and the Zags will not look past the Gaels when they come into Spokane on Friday.

Aidan Chrisley is a staff writer.

Hachimura, L.A. slam home message in 4-2 series win

By BRAD SAUVE

In the NBA, some players are well known for their playoff performances. Then there are players like Rui Hachimura, who seems to channel a little Magic when the calendar turns to April.

Hachimura was instrumental to his team’s success in their Game 1 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies, becoming the first Lakers player since Magic Johnson to score more than 25 points off the bench in a playoff contest.

Over the course of the series, Hachimura averaged 14.5 points, 4.6 rebounds and 0.5 assists per game while shooting 56% from the field and 52% on 3-pointers.

His season averages are 11.2 points and 4.5 rebounds in roughly 23 minutes per game on 48% shooting.

The 6-foot-8 forward from Japan put on a show in Game 1, lifting the seventh-seeded Lakers to a 128-112 victory with 29 points and six rebounds. He did so while shooting 11-of-14 from the field, including 5-of-6 from beyond the arc.

Nothing showed the confidence that

Hachimura was playing with like a sequence early in the fourth quarter where he drove down the lane with Jaren Jackson Jr. on his hip and threw down a thunderous dunk in his face.

He broke his normally calm demeanor to shoot Jackson Jr. a nasty look afterward. The Grizzlies’ star forward led the league in blocks per game and was named Defensive Player of the Year.

Another aspect of Hachimura’s performance in Game 1 is that he was not known as a 3-point marksman, neither when he was with the Washington Wizards nor after he was traded to the Lakers near the midseason mark.

In fact, Hachimura is shooting 34.7% from long distance over his four-year career in the league.

This seemingly aberrational shooting led many to question whether Hachimura’s level of play was sustainable.

“It was probably the best game he’s had in his career,” said Grizzlies guard Desmond Bane to ESPN. “It’s a seven-game series, let’s see if he can do it again on Wednesday.”

Hachimura answered Bane

emphatically, scoring 20 points and snaring five rebounds while still shooting efficiently from the field in Game 2. He followed that up with a 16-point, five-rebound effort in the Lakers’ first home game of the series.

Overall, Hachimura thrived in his sixth-man role throughout the series, but his numbers dwindled along with his minutes as the series went on.

After playing 31 minutes per game over the first two games, he averaged about 23 per game over the next four. His performance in Game 3 may have led the Lakers to believe he could still produce with that little playing time, but that was clearly not the case.

Hachimura scored seven, nine and six points in the next three games on relatively low-volume shooting.

Despite this drop-off, Hachimura took advantage of his opportunity to pick up where he left off in the playoffs with the Wizards in 2021, when he averaged 14.8 points and 7.2 rebounds in a five-game series loss against the Philadelphia 76ers.

Throughout a series filled with heated back-and-forth exchanges on the court

and in media appearances, Hachimura has focused on his game, even after players like Bane and outspoken guard Dillon Brooks took shots at him and his teammates.

“They are a young team. They just want to talk,” Hachimura said to ESPN. “We don’t really care. We’re just going to play our game and try to win.”

Whether Hachimura will continue to play in a reduced role remains to be seen. He has been splitting time with starting forward Jarred Vanderbilt while the Lakers have experimented with more small-ball lineups with point guard Dennis Schroeder off of the bench.

The Lakers will now set their sights on another upset as they take on the sixth-seeded Golden State Warriors. Hachimura will be looking to avenge fellow Zag Domantas Sabonis and his Kings’ loss to the Warriors in the seven-game series.

The Lakers took the first game of the series 117-112 on Tuesday. Game 2 is set for Thursday at 6 p.m. PST.

Bradley Sauve is a staff writer.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a black graduation cap with a blue tassel, is looking directly at the camera. She is holding a large bouquet of flowers, including pink and white roses, in front of her face, partially obscuring it. The background is a blurred green outdoor setting.

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