Calling all Swifties: Study seeks out dedicated fans

By CLARISSA KIRK

Love her or hate her, it's hard to exist in our society without being exposed to Taylor Swift. The recent success of Swift's record-breaking Eras Tour coupled with her subsequent documentary has made her one of the most recent illustrations of her economic and cultural influence. Associate professor of communications studies Melissa Click and communications student Arianna Tibbs are conducting a study to better understand this influence, as well as the impact not being able to attend the Eras Tour had on fans' relationship with Swift and others.

Click said this research will serve as a pilot study, noting that it is still too early to see if there is anything significant or interesting to pursue further. The research will include a total of approximately 10 interviews, supplemented with some surveys and self-reporting. In addition to qualitative research, Tibbs is also conducting online outreach by finding posts on TikTok and other social media platforms from individuals within the Swiftie community and connecting with them through direct messages, asking if they would be interested in participating.

Click said she became interested in studying the Eras Tour not only because of her history of studying popular music but also due to her personal connection to the Swift fandom. "I've been a fan of hers for a long time," Click said. "I've been to many of her concerts and I've always been interested in how fans interact with her music and her brand." She added that the Eras Tour presented a unique opportunity to study the impact of a popular artist's work on their fans.

In addition to qualitative interviews, Tibbs is conducting survey research. The study is also collecting data from fans who are unable to attend the Eras Tour due to factors such as cost or the lack of tickets.

According to Click, the first ASL class that had a variety of different experiences. "I work on a variety of different topics," Click said. "I'm interested in studying the impact of language on people in various settings and how that's changing in terms of accessibility and inclusion." Click added that she hopes to use the data from her research to inform future studies on language in education and social justice.

In response to questions about the impact of her research, Click said, "I'm interested in understanding the ways that language can shape people's experiences and how that relates to broader societal issues." She said she hopes to contribute to a better understanding of the role of language in our society.

Click's capstone project for graduate school involved building the curriculum for American Sign Language (ASL) programming at GU. "My capstone project was to develop this curriculum and it coincided with doing the internship in instructional design," Click said. "I'm interested in studying the impact of language on people in various settings and how that's changing in terms of accessibility and inclusion." Click added that she hopes to use the data from her research to inform future studies on language in education and social justice.

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Physics professor sparks creativity with passions that transcend time

by Brooke Bowen

Kincanon developed a passion for teaching in college when he started learning in mathematics.

"I don't think I'm in some sort of in

"Who are they upset at? If it is

"I think the thing I like most

"I've never seen a professor with better shirts than

"I get upper division students that are not physics and

"I tell a lot of stories in class, " Kincanon said. "I hope

"I've never seen a professor with better shirts than

"I've never seen a professor with better shirts than

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Dream Week celebrations included a poster board for students to sign in solidarity.

By MADELEINE REED

F rom Nov. 6 through Nov. 10, organizations across campus gathered for Dream Week, a week that took place for a second year in a row and aimed to create an impact on campus.

"I wanted to invest more time into putting together this year and making it more meaningful and more educational," Sanchez Cedillo said.

The week began with a webinar on Monday where United We Dream, the largest immigrant youth-led network in the country, joined in to students and faculty to discuss immigration and how it exists on campus. The webinar focused on creating a more inclusive environment for undocumented students.

On Tuesday, events turned to a focus on the stories of immigrant families and students through a show in the banquet of the John J. Hemminger Center.

"A lot of the stories, which is a huge problem that occurs due to our current administration," Sanchez Cedillo said.

Other events followed throughout the week, including a film showing on Wednesday and an open dialogue on immigration, which is a huge problem that occurs due to our current administration, Sanchez Cedillo said. She said she wanted to learn more about these stories and how it affects people.

GSBA received good feedback from the event and said that she has a passion to help people hear the stories of families and individuals within the community.

"It's meaningful to my life, especially being a daughter of immigrants," Sanchez Cedillo said. "I'm meaningful to be able to put something together that doesn't supplant student autonomy, but the people that are in my community specifically.

The film was followed by a screening of "The Invisibles" on Wednesday, which is a huge problem that occurs due to our current administration. Sanchez Cedillo said the film was inspiring and that it helped her to see how people are affected by the current administrations.

"We're really hoping, more than ever, for immigration reform at the capital," Sanchez Cedillo said. "And we believe that there are different groups within the upcoming terms.

The program was facilitated by the Gonzaga Student Body Association, which consists of faculty and staff that aimed to support SGU's undocumented community, provide education to the campus, and improve the campus culture.

"And we want to make sure that our advisors' insights and assistance can be invaluable to students.

One of the goals of the program was to create greater campus support for students impacted by immigration.

"My hope is to really continue to do this work, because it's an important work for Gonzaga to be a part of," Washington said. "Thinking of other Jesuit institutions...is something that is important to us. We continue to want to do that work of bringing together faculties and students to really represent not just other people in our community but the people that are in my community specifically.

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"We want to make sure that our advisors' insights and assistance can be invaluable to students.
The kind choice: A reminder of the necessary change

By CAM MCCANN

As we head into the last months of the year, it seems like there's no way out of the unrelenting beating the familiar chorus of Christmas songs continues to deliver. From Bing Crosby's "White Christmas," to "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," to "Silver Bells," and even Dolly Parton's "Jolene," the same songs seem to be playing non-stop since mid-December. Sometimes, to feel repetitive and annoying, there are plenty of other tracks that feel more genuine and aren't so annoying. If you're looking for something that feels like classic Christmas, there are a couple tracks that fit the bill. If you're looking for music that isn't "O Christmas Tree," "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," or "Jingle Bells," you may want to consider checking out some of the many other Christmas songs out there.
While the adults ate away, complimenting her cooking, I was intimidated by what was on my plate. This was unlike any pasta or potatoes I was used to. While I'm wary of many of these new recipes, this wasn't hard to stomach. While I was scared of many new dishes, this was something that I was looking forward to. I pestered her to make it. Now, being the same age she was when she was raising me, I reflect on how much she's grown and how much I appreciate her commitment to feeding her children.

When you are attending a holiday party or just looking for a reason to use up a lot of your potatoes, this recipe is guaranteed to fill your oven as we head into the colder part of the year. This recipe is guaranteed to be a crowd-pleaser. Whether you are attending a holiday party or just looking for a reason to use up a lot of your potatoes, this recipe is guaranteed to fill your oven as we head into the colder part of the year. This recipe is guaranteed to be a crowd-pleaser.

**Potato Casserole Recipe**

**Ingredients:**

- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 yellow sweet onion
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 1/2 cups of Colby Jack cheese
- 2 1/2 cups of milk
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 2 1/2 cups of Colby Jack cheese
- 3/4 cup of Colby Jack cheese
- 6 medium potatoes
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 2 1/2 cups of milk
- 1/2 cup of Colby Jack cheese
- 6 medium potatoes

**Instructions:**

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease or butter a 9x13 casserole dish.
2. In a medium saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Finely chop the onion and add it to the saucepan. Cook the onion in the butter for about 2 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the onion is tender.
3. Stir in the flour, salt, pepper, garlic powder and onion powder. Cook, stirring constantly, until smooth and bubbly.
4. Gradually add milk, stirring constantly until the sauce thickens. Do not add too much cheese, otherwise the sauce will become too thick.
5. Cover and bake for 40 minutes. Uncover and bake for another 40 minutes or until the top has become a golden brown. Garnish with your favorite seasoning — I recommend onion salt. Let stand for 5 to 10 minutes before serving.

Shei McLaughlin is an arts & entertainment editor.
Winters in Spokane can be frightful, but the activities are so delightful

From skiing to snowball fights, the Lilac City offers an array of winter extracurriculars

COMMENTARY
BY GARY FLECKMANN

Spokane winters can be a tough time, where bone-chilling temperatures, strong winds and icy roads really slow us down. Rather than focusing on winter’s obstacles, focus on the time for some of the year’s most memorable activities.

Here are some fun ideas for activities you can look forward to as temperatures drop:

1. **Skiing and Snowboarding:** Spokane is known for its snowy conditions, making it a great destination for skiing and snowboarding. GU Outdoors offers a range of trips and even weeklong trips for students at GU. From weekly shuttles to Schweitzer and Mt. Spokane to weekend club trips to British Columbia and Wyoming, GU offers plenty of ways to get to the top of the mountain. Don’t have your own gear? GU Outdoors has you covered with plenty of equipment and staff to choose from. Don’t have a partner? GU’s Snowboard Club is always organizing fun trips, weekend trips and even weekend trips that can help you program your riding to the next level.

2. **Reading:** Whether you’re getting outside or staying in, facing the winter is hard on emotions. The best way to raise the minimal serotonin to take advantage of the winter sky is instead of focusing on the challenges it creates.

3. **Sudoku:** A fun way to exercise your mind and get some serotonin without having to battle the elements. Playing a new book of puzzles every weekend, so on those off days go ahead and relax with a big bowl of popcorn and some brand new Sudoku. The highly anticipated film “Stargirl” by Alan Hall and Stuart Winer inspired this fall’s Generate, a collection of Montana, released its final movie on Oct. 21st. Whether you’re getting outside or staying in, facing the winter is hard on emotions. The best way to raise the minimal serotonin to take advantage of the winter sky is instead of focusing on the challenges it creates.

4. **Solving Crosswords:** Whether you’re looking to get your mind off the cold or want to add some mental stimulation to your daily routine, solving crosswords can be a crowd favorite for students at Gonzaga University. Whether you end your friends organize a night filled with tactical tricks and choreographed strategies or you just want to amuse your friends when they get out of class, snowballs are a staple in the winter.

If you’re engaging in snowball fights, it’s wise to wear a waterproof jacket, or you’ll find yourself soggy in class. It should also be mentioned not to throw snowballs at strangers and never put ice in your snowballs. Try tricks like making a driving banana, but they also mean it’s time to go skating. Students looking to get their own on and enjoy taking advantage of the opportunities available can participate in local demonstrations at Riverfront Park at Washington St. Ice skating is a great group activity, especially if it’s your first time. Experienced skaters often lend out tips and tricks at the ribbons, but be sure to wear a helmet if you’re concerned about your ability to stay upright. Sometimes getting outside for an activity in the winter is easier said than done. On those days you can find it hard to just get out of your room, a simple quiet activity like reading can really help you enjoy your time indoors. Picking up a new book that you find interesting is a great way to exercise your mind and get some serotonin without having to battle the elements. (Photo by Diana Hintermeister, in the [John] Hatcher of “Lois & Clark”)

Skiing and snowboarding are the top-rated winter sports for students at GU. From helathy downhill skiing to snowshoeing and Mt. Spokane to weekend club trips to British Columbia and Wyoming, GU offers plenty of ways to get on the top of the mountain.

Don’t have your own gear? GU Outdoors has you covered with plenty of equipment and staff to choose from. Don’t have a partner? GU’s Snowboard Club is always organizing fun trips, weekend trips and even weekend trips that can help you program your riding to the next level.

Winter is also the time for ski and snowboard movies. Now add start to drop as soon as rains have their opening weekend, so on those off days ahead and relax with a big bowl of popcorn and some brand new Sudoku. The highly anticipated film “Stargirl” by Alan Hall and Stuart Winer inspired this fall’s Generate, a collection of Montana, released its final movie on Oct. 21st. Whether you’re getting outside or staying in, facing the winter is hard on emotions. The best way to raise the minimal serotonin to take advantage of the winter sky is instead of focusing on the challenges it creates.

Gary Fleckmanner is a contributor.

SUDOKU
THE SAMAURU OF PUZZLES
By The Mepham Group

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Solution to Last Week’s puzzle

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Los Angeles Times
Sunday Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Pat Vardi

REINDEER GAMES

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
**Timeless themes bloom in GU's rendition of 'Spring Awakening'**

By CLARINNE KIRK

"Spring Awakening" blossomed into a contemporary and complex world of love, guilt, coming-of-age and coming to terms with the world. Gonzaga University’s Myrtle Myrick Performing Arts Center recently presented the play, opening night on Nov. 16. While many of the original themes and inspiration from German playwright Frank Wedekind’s 1891 play that these themes, though challenging and starkly raw at times, are still fresh, modern and relevant in our current moment.

"This role is challenging and coming-of-age was first created by Dustin Stank and Steven later in 2000 and quickly rose to critical acclaim. The actors themselves were diverse in their talents and their range within repressive education institutions which are sometimes unbelievable and, in some ways, quite relatable, likely striking a chord with many young people.

The story unfurling graphs with conflicts of various kinds, power, and when grappling with more controversial topics, such as those questions of sexuality, social and political issues, and the traditional forces that oppress, these issues and their reflection are more relatable, likely striking a chord with many young people.

Strong vocals, thought-provoking set design and creative costumes and innovative choreography bring these complex, dark stories to life in a genre, heartfelt way that is both dramatic, in a broad sense. The beauty, the characters told complete and complex, showing off the range of the talented performers.

Lead performer Rachel Gorshl and Sonya Rees, playing Wendla Bergman and Melchor Gabor respectively, shined with heartbreaking innocence, raw performances, thoughtful and emotional vocals. Sam Mensiho, playing Moritz Stiefel, also gave a standout performance, navigating the complexity of his character with an artistic portrayal of curiosity, naivety and inner turmoil.

Another highlight of the show was the hauntingly beautiful and fragile trio between Nadi Foster, who played Martha, and Elle Williams, who played the Narrator. It was so tenderly and beautifully emotional and candidly powerful depiction of a simple song. "The Dark and I Know Well." A large cast, the actors themselves, the range of their talent and the musical ensemble shone. The show was the hauntingly beautiful and fragile trio between Nadi Foster, who played Martha, and Elle Williams, who played the Narrator. It was so tenderly and beautifully emotional and candidly powerful depiction of a simple song. "The Dark and I Know Well." A large cast agreed that they do add up in the long run.

The historically accurate costume juxtaposed the modern, avant-garde set design, and the open space for storytelling, the open play, and the acting ensemble sat in perfect harmony with the audience, while the plot moves, the ensemble blew the scene through their bodies.

"Spring Awakening" serves as a forum to get the discussion of controversial topics such as abortion onto the table. The story unflinchingly deals with the age-old struggles, the strengths and weaknesses, the trials and triumphs of humanity. While dark, the musical "Spring Awakening" does bring hope and offers a platform for personal change and impact, as the actors themselves can convey the stories and messages of the play, and the audience can then change the world.

The story is relatable, likely striking a chord with many young people. Strong vocals, thoughtful set design and creative costumes and innovative choreography bring these complex, dark stories to life in a genre, heartfelt way that is both dramatic, in a broad sense. The beauty, the characters told complete and complex, showing off the range of the talented performers.

Lead performer Rachel Gorshl and Sonya Rees, playing Wendla Bergman and Melchor Gabor respectively, shined with heartbreaking innocence, raw performances, thoughtful and emotional vocals. Sam Mensiho, playing Moritz Stiefel, also gave a standout performance, navigating the complexity of his character with an artistic portrayal of curiosity, naivety and inner turmoil.

Another highlight of the show was the hauntingly beautiful and fragile trio between Nadi Foster, who played Martha, and Elle Williams, who played the Narrator. It was so tenderly and beautifully emotional and candidly powerful depiction of a simple song. "The Dark and I Know Well." A large cast, the actors themselves, the range of their talent and the musical ensemble sat in perfect harmony with the audience, while the plot moves, the ensemble blew the scene through their bodies.

"Spring Awakening" serves as a forum to get the discussion of controversial topics such as abortion onto the table. The story unflinchingly deals with the age-old struggles, the strengths and weaknesses, the trials and triumphs of humanity. While dark, the musical "Spring Awakening" does bring hope and offers a platform for personal change and impact, as the actors themselves can convey the stories and messages of the play, and the audience can then change the world.

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Volleyball looks ahead after concluding worst season since 1981

By KAYA CRAWFORD

Gonzaga University volleyball concluded its season with a 10-18 loss against San Diego, ending one of the worst seasons in program history. It was a season of growth for the program. Head coach Katie Wilson scored her third year with the Zags ended without a victory conference play and on a 19-game loss streak (3-24, 0-16).

The team finished last in the West Coast Conference standings.

The Zags recorded wins against Florida International University, Cal State Northridge and Eastern Washington. Despite its struggles in conference play, the team saw improvement with each game.

"Nobody really sees the work that we put in during practice," said freshman setter Nia Damuni. "We’ve been working really hard. The outcome hasn’t been there during conference but we’ve improved a lot.

The season allowed upperclassmen to showcase their experience while also preparing underclassmen to step into core roles.

"I thought there was a lot of growth from a lot of different players having to come in, step in on young ages," said graduate student defensive specialist Alisa Kim. "We have freshmen and sophomores playing on the core in multiple positions. I think being able to mesh together really well was something that I really liked this season." The Zags said goodbye to four seniors this season, all of whom played important roles in the development of the team.

Team captain and outside hitter Zoe Thiros played her final season with the Zags. Thiros led the team with 241 kills this season and was an integral leader on the court.

Kim proved her defensive prowess as she joined the 1,000 digs club in the final game of the season against San Diego. She had 313 digs on the season, with a season-high 29 digs against Air Force in early September.

Graduate student defensive specialist Viktoriya Ivanova broke the program record for most single-match service aces during the rally-scoring era with seven aces against Saint Mary’s in November.

Senior outside hitter Grace Ehler had a strong showing in her final season as a Zag, recording 56 kills. In the Zags’ game against Saint Mary’s, she recorded eight kills, the most of any of her games over the season.

Despite losing some key players on the team, the Zags have a number of promising returning players and future prospects.

Freshman setter Nia Damuni has a strong outing in her first season with the Zags. She recorded 854 assists over the course of the season, with a season-high 65 assists in the November game against Saint Mary’s.

As the only setter on the team, Damuni stepped into the role and became an integral part of the team.

Senior middle hitter Jodi Smith also played an important role in the Zags’ offense, recording 119 kills over the season.

Freshman outside hitter Maggie Robert had a strong showing in her first season for the Zags. She stepped up on offense when the team had injured players and developed into a key player over the course of the season.

Robert recorded 118 kills and 74 digs over the season. Despite recording a difficult season, the Zags persevered and continued to put in work in the gym.

"I’m not so focused about our record or what happened but the amount of lessons we’ve learned," Russell said. "Learning and coming together as a team means so much more to me than the winning or losing.

The team is looking forward to next season and hopes to continue to grow as a team and as a program.

"Honestly, I’m not just grateful for this opportunity," Russell said. "Now close we get this season and how we worked some things out. I’m ready for next year"
Nia Damuni’s play in 2023 fuels optimism about future

BY HENRY KRUEGER

Gonzaga University women’s volleyball program had a record-breaking 2023 season, but it was for all the wrong reasons. The Bulldogs lost their final 19 games and finished with a 3-24 record, the program’s worst mark since going 2-33 during the inaugural 1981 season. GU’s losing streak didn’t stop Damuni from being productive; she registered 65 assists in a 3-2 loss to Saint Mary’s on Nov. 9, just one day of the program’s rally scoring era record. One week later, Damuni dished out 52 assists against Portland in the final home game of the season.

Damuni began attacking more often as her first year progressed, averaging 2.63 attacks per game. In her first five matches, she attacked just 2.26 times. She attacked 2.96 times per game in her final five matches. “I love setting my hitters, I think they do a better job than me,” Damuni said after GU’s 3-2 loss to Portland on Nov. 16.

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“[But] if I see [the other team] pulled up, then I’ll put it down. “Before coming to GU, Damuni led Baldwin Park High School in Baldwin Park, Calif., to back-to-back 4A State titles. She is the first female outside hitter, was fifth on the team with 129 kills and 854. She also finished third on the team with 179 digs and fourth with 46 service aces. Thiros received her second straight honorable mention nod from the WCC after racking up 273.5 points. Thiros received her second straight honorable mention nod from the WCC after racking up 241 kills and 273.5 points. Thiros received her second straight honorable mention nod from the league.

The Bulldogs have defeated two WCC opponents in Wilson’s first two years at the helm, but Damuni remains optimistic about the program’s future.

“Tara could coach us in any way, he’s our coaches,” Damuni said. “I think we have the best coaches in the country. Our practices are really competitive and it’s exciting.”

Wilson has already secured more talent for next season, announcing four signings on Nov. 9. He nabbed Utah middle J海岛 Coughlin from Ohio, outside hitter Shayla Dykstra from Arizona and middle blockers Hayley Ogden and Taylor Wash from New Jersey.

As Damuni and the rest of GU’s young talent develops, the Bulldogs will look to make 2014 their first winning season since 2004.

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

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