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Addressing the budget blues

GU aims for 5% rebalancing of budget after high inflation brings fiscal challenges

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

Gonzaga University is midway through one of its largest budget plans of the past decade.

According to GU's Chief Financial Officer Joe Smith, departments across the university have sought to both increase revenue and cut expenses since the beginning of the fiscal year in June. He said the goal is to rebalance by 5% the university's budget, which has struggled to meet rising costs and lower admission rates.

"Our mission statement ends by saying 'the Gonzaga community carries out its mission with responsible stewardship of our physical, financial and human resources,'" Smith said in a statement. "Fundamentally, this means we must live within our means and calibrate (and, recalibrate) accordingly. And this is not anything new for Gonzaga."

The rebalancing efforts come after the university relied on one-time use funds last fiscal year, after GU's total expenses were greater than the revenue budgeted. While GU set \$418.6 million for its operating budget last year, according to Smith, it exceeded this budget, spending \$4.7 million. In terms of a regular fiscal year not impacted by COVID-19, the last time this occurred was 2017.

"Our goal each year is to establish a realistic budget that sets forth the expected sources and planned expenses, and then live within that budget as the year progresses," Smith said. "Refinements are a normal part of what it takes to operate a university, particularly as we attempt to mitigate the cost impacts to our students and families where possible."

Smith noted rising costs and lower admission rates as challenges to balancing a budget where it has become harder to generate revenue and expenses continue to increase.

According to Smith, there was a 3.2% decline in admission rates between the fall of 2019 and the fall of 2023, while also a 1% increase in the amount of spending directed at financial aid, which he said is a large expense item in the budget.

He also added that there was a significant rise in some costs due to post-pandemic levels of inflation, especially last fiscal year, which surpassed the expectations of GU's budget office.

These factors, which Smith believes are not likely to self-correct with standard planning, has led him to make a call for one of the largest budget rebalancing efforts in recent GU history. The efforts, he said, have included more departments and groups across the university in the process and set a higher target than previous rebalancing years.

"The process to identify and adjust budgets is never easy, but it is a necessary and fairly routine exercise within higher ed and, for that matter, in most industries," Smith said. "It will involve trade-offs and compromises."

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Khalid el-Hakimq is the curator of the exhibit that was brought into the Hemmingson Center.

DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

Honoring MLK in history

Gallery in Hemmingson Center showcases deep racial history of the U.S.

By SOPHIA MCKINSTRY

A number of events took place in Spokane early this week to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. These included a pop-up museum, which was hosted on Gonzaga University's campus on Tuesday as well as a rally and march honoring the civil rights activist.

Shawn Washington, assistant chief diversity officer at GU, was one of the organizers focused on bringing the traveling museum to campus alongside Tere Graham, the program manager for social

justice programming in the Unity Multicultural Education Center.

Washington said one of the main focuses of organizing was logistics.

On Monday morning, students were given the opportunity to meet in the UMEC office to make posters. From there, they went to the rally and march, which took place at the Spokane Convention Center. Afterwards, there was a resource fair and the mobile museum was available to engage with.

"I've been to the march many years; I have a great time," Washington said. "It's powerful for, you know, the message that is always ... conveyed,

especially the message of MLK."

On Tuesday, the Black History 101 Mobile Museum was on the first floor of the John J. Hemmingson Center. Artifacts such as handwritten letters, official documents, newspapers, sheet music, photographs and a number of other artifacts from various points throughout history were available to look at.

According to Washington, the museum has been around for over 30 years and travels to a number of universities around the nation. The artifacts on display connect

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Anders Roback leads a group of prospective students through the Bollier Center.

MYERS GORRELL IG: @myersgphoto

A walking tour of GU ambassadors

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

Gonzaga University ambassador Tim Mansker said his favorite spot on campus to show prospective students is the hill behind the Foley Library and next to the Charlotte Y. Martin Centre.

There, the towers of downtown Spokane visible, Mansker said he tells the prospective students about what it is like to be a student in Spokane.

"That's my favorite spot on

campus to show because that's the part where we talk about being a student in Spokane," Mansker said. "It's a really good view from there. The downtown looks really pretty, and you can point out the South Hill. It's just a really good snapshot of like Spokane in one view frame."

Mansker is one of 90 GU students who volunteer to give tours to prospective students each week as a GU ambassador. The group is housed in the Office of Admissions, and the

student volunteers help with student panels, event check-in, virtual events and student meetings in addition to their main responsibility as tour guides.

Sandra Vance, an admissions counselor and adviser to the GU ambassador program, said the Office of Admissions relies on the student volunteers to support the efforts of the admissions office to advertise the

SEE TOUR PAGE 3

City Line bus expands services

By ESTELLE HAN

Six months have passed since the City Line, Spokane's first Bus Rapid Transit, took to the streets. Now it will be expanded, offering students and commuters around town more access to sustainable transportation.

A City Line bus route runs between east and west of Spokane, but it is notable for being the first to pass the STA Plaza, and beginning soon the bus will run every 7.5 minutes.

According to Caleb Yoder, sustainable transportation coordinator of Gonzaga University's Office of Sustainability, these purple buses were planned well before they were launched.

"One thing I learned that I thought was interesting is that Spokane relies on the economic drive of Bloomsday Race and Hoopfest," Yoder said.

Due to this, he said, the organizers took the necessary precautions when choosing an alternative sustainable transportation that would not interfere with the major events in Spokane.

In the early planning of the City Line, they considered street cars and electric vehicles that run on metal tracks along the road, however, the infrastructure of creating tracks on the road would have been disrupted by major downtown events, which led them to settle on battery-powered electric buses.

The BRT system arrives at a high frequency rate, currently arriving every 15 minutes on every day except Sundays, which arrives every 30 minutes. Spokane Transit recently proposed halving their bus frequency to every 7.5 minutes.

"Back in July, [Spokane Transit] wanted to launch with 7.5 minute frequency, but they didn't have enough drivers," Yoder said. "Because these electric buses are unique enough, the buses required a specifically trained driver."

After the launch, Spokane transit finally found a sufficient number of drivers who were capable of driving these electric buses.

Yoder said commuting on the City Line allows commuters to remain on the same bus until they reach Browne's Addition.

"Before City Line opened you would have to walk or

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Men's basketball team falter, while women's team flourish in WCC play.

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GU students educate youth on climate

By SYDNEY FLUKER

When the Gonzaga Institute for Climate, Water, and the Environment was founded on Earth Day in 2021, the literacy project was one of its first tasks to get up and running.

According to Climate Literacy Program Coordinator Karli Honebein, the long-term goal of the literacy fellowship is to help students and teachers understand the causes of climate change and the solutions available to us in their myriad forms.

The Climate Literacy Fellowship is modeled off of GU's Science in Action! Program, a science outreach program that partners with students and local schools to engage youth through science.

The two programs worked closely together to form the Climate Literacy Fellowship structure and programming, which differs in its focus on climate change versus the broad topics that Science in Action! covers.

"We use this model of students teaching students for a lot of reasons, mostly because elementary, middle school students love hearing from college kids," Honebein said. "But it also gives Gonzaga students the opportunity to practice communicating in their major before they graduate, which is a really useful skill."

Last year, the Climate Institute was able to employ more students because of the grant it received from the Environmental Protection Agency alongside funding from Washington state. The Institute has developed the program so it will continue to run even if they are unable to secure grant money.

The first six to eight weeks of the yearlong fellowship are spent learning about the Climate Institute's goals, climate science pedagogy and classroom practices. Then, the fellows spend about three weeks learning the lessons through team teaching and trial by experience.

No two weeks in the life of a fellow look



COURTESY OF THE CLIMATE INSTITUTE

Climate Literacy fellows give hands-on lessons to elementary and middle school students.

the same, since class visits are arranged in accordance with teachers' needs. Typically, fellows have about two hours of meetings with Climate Institute staff, where the team reviews schedules, classroom visits and lesson plans. The rest of the week, fellows visit between three and seven classrooms in pairs, with each visit being 45 minutes.

Lesson plans and activities are entirely hands-on and designed in accordance with grades and age levels to best engage the students they work with. Whereas a kindergarten visit may involve coloring and craft time, middle school visits typically involve more critical discussions and data analysis.

"[Lessons] are really just setting the stage for a topic, an investigation or experience of some sort and then a wrap up," Honebein said. "It's very hands-on for

both the undergrads and the K through 8 students."

According to Honebein, the fellows have a library of about 10 lessons to pick from. Each lesson is memorized by the fellows, but little changes happen each time it's taught as fellows find ways to make them more engaging or need to update information. This year, the fellows are focusing on integrating climate justice to highlight the ways in which climate change is unequal both in cause and impact.

Climate Literacy Fellows are converting the jargon-heavy language of climate change science into something kindergarten through eighth grade students can understand, which Honebein said gives fellows the opportunity to practice talking about complicated subjects with regular people.

Grace Fletcher, a senior environmental studies major with minors in sustainable business and solidarity and social justice, is in her second year working as a Climate Literacy Fellow and said being a fellow has been her favorite job experience.

"I feel like a lot of students on campus are pretty secluded and don't really get out into the greater Spokane community and understand whose actual space we're really taking up here," Fletcher said. "It's been really, really rewarding just to get to know a lot of the community members, even just through teaching in the classrooms or going to events and talking with people."

Fletcher said the program has shown her the importance of early education, especially as climate change grows in relevance to students' lives. She said she notices a difference when teaching lessons in higher-income neighborhoods versus lower-income neighborhoods, as students going to schools in lower-income neighborhoods tend to have a better grasp on the climate lessons because they face those issues every day.

"The kids on, say, the South Hill weren't really able to grasp [the heat dome of 2021] because their houses have air conditioning and they have the tools to be able to battle those climate impacts whereas students in lower income areas unfortunately don't have all of those same resources," Fletcher said.

John Bergin, a first-year fellow in his junior year studying environmental studies and sociology, said he enjoys getting to work with and learn from the other fellows and the elementary school students.

"It's really great to take everything I've learned, all the work I've put into environmental studies, and be able to try to convey that and create a new generation of kids who really care about the environment," Bergin said.

Sydney Fluker is a copy editor. Follow them on X: @sydneyfluker.

BUDGET

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According to Smith, the budget rebalancing efforts have been so far well-received by senior leadership in the university, who are each tasked to help make these refinements in their own areas. He said an assessment done in December showed that GU is 48% of the way to meeting its 5% target, exceeding the marker of 33.33%, which he had set as the goal for the first third of the fiscal year.

Smith said his budgeting team has worked with a variety of groups on campus and sees the rebalancing efforts

as happening in many ways, including the reassessing and negotiation of professional services and consulting contracts and finding different ways to put on events or meetings.

He also said that while the university has avoided firing people or cutting salaries to refine the budget — a policy that has continued since the pandemic — it has limited expenses by consolidating those responsibilities when people leave GU and not hiring to fill those vacancies.

Jane Button, director of budget and financial analysis and a member of Smith's team, said this was on the larger end of rebalancing efforts throughout her 14-year tenure but said the efforts are keeping student experience in mind.

"I would like students to know that our top priority in budget rebalancing is not to adversely affect the student experience," Button said. "Our finance team strives to resource academics and student services above other administrative support."

Smith's statements affirmed this sentiment and described these refinement efforts as making the university more efficient. He said he believes that it is important that there should be minimal to no effect on the student experience and that these efforts are essential to the mission of the school.

"The buildings we build and maintain, the programs we offer, the departments we support, the travel we incur, the people we hire and retain and the services we contract

are fundamentally about delivering on our mission to be an exemplary learning community that educates students for lives of leadership and service for the common good," Smith said in a statement. "There is always more we could do to fulfill this mission, but we must do so with careful attention to our resource plans for the current year and generations beyond."

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

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Fullbright scholar teaches Tagalog

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

It is not rare for professor Jareason Fabre to host his Tagalog class in his on-campus apartment.

Standing behind a small kitchen table full of food, Fabre gestures to slides on his TV, sometimes even breaking into song to the smiles and laughter of the small group of students sitting in his living room on his couch and chairs.

Fabre said he occasionally holds his class in the nontraditional setting because he wants his students to feel close, just like in Filipino culture.

"We say that it takes a community to educate the child," Fabre said. "And so what we're trying to do in this Filipino classroom is we're bringing together a community that can support them."

Fabre is a Fulbright foreign language teaching assistant who came from Ilocos Norte, Philippines, at the start of the academic year. The Filipino scholar taught a Tagalog class to a small group of students in the fall and will continue this spring semester before he returns to the Philippines in May.

As a Fulbright scholar, Fabre said he helps organize a variety of different learning opportunities, including joining up with other Fulbright participants to put on Zoom presentations. He also is enrolled in some classes at GU.

But, he said his main role is to teach Tagalog to students at his host school of Gonzaga University, which he said first comes with connection.

"They're like brothers and sisters," Fabre said. "They know personal stories, what's going on every day, unlike bigger classrooms in the U.S. That's one thing I wanted to appreciate for them is that they have a community."

Carole Aludino, a student in the class, agreed, and said this family aspect can be

especially felt in the classroom and helps her learn the language and culture.

"We all shared a desire to learn more about ourselves and our culture," Aludino said. "I think in a sense we all related to each other so that really deepened our connection with one another. I also think that we shared a lot of laughs together since Professor Fabre made a lot of jokes. I definitely feel like my class was a family and I can't wait to continue that relationship this semester."

Fabre said he believes in the power of understanding languages and cultures, and he hopes to empower his students with a deeper appreciation for global connection. He said he centers his teaching philosophy in his Tagalog classes on creating a love for the culture for his students.

"Learning Filipino as a language or any other language should be used as a language to empower and to advocate for peace and understanding," Fabre said. "Many languages and many cultures are misunderstood around the world because they have different cultures and they weren't articulated in the English language. If you learn the language, you would learn to appreciate the culture that's entwined within it."

Still, Fabre said this goal is challenging, especially given a colonial past that prioritized Western cultures, but that teaching Tagalog is addressing these effects.

"Many Filipinos did not actually teach their children about their culture because we had the mindset in the past that anything foreign is better than anything local or Filipino," Fabre said. "But what we're slowly seeing now in the U.S. is a desire to go back to the diversity of different people and to live harmoniously."

Aludino said Fabre's efforts in class to connect with students over Filipino culture makes her feel seen and more connected to her culture.



DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

Fabre inspires cultural connection and empowerment through his Tagalog class.

"I love how open Professor Fabre is about the Filipino American identity," Aludino said. "He is very proud about his nationality and respects students' identity as American Filipinos. I also love how much he encouraged us to reconnect with our roots and culture. He makes us feel seen in a community that marks us a minority."

Fabre will leave Spokane in May when his time at the Fulbright program at GU ends and will return to the Philippines to continue his doctoral studies in linguistics. He said his time in the U.S. has given him

an appreciation for a new part of the world and that he hopes to bring his family to the country.

"I'll definitely go back to teaching in my university and be back with my family," Fabre said. "But I'm also looking forward in the future if there will be an opportunity to come back into U.S. I like to take a chance to see what I can do because I really learned to appreciate the American culture too."

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The ambassadors provide a student perspective, a welcoming spirit and a genuine love for Gonzaga.

Sandra Vance, admissions counselor

TOUR

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university to prospective students.

The Office of Admissions gives over 650 tours throughout the year, according to Vance, and most of those tours are led by the student volunteers who are expected to be available to give a tour about once each week.

"The ambassadors provide a student perspective, a welcoming spirit and a genuine love for Gonzaga that comes across through their tours and overall interactions with visitors," Vance said in an email. "At the end of the day, prospective students and families want to know what it's like to be a Zag, and the ambassadors do a phenomenal job of sharing their unique stories and experiences with our visitors."

For Mansker, he said he has been volunteering as a student ambassador since his first year at GU and said it was participating on a tour that made him want to attend GU. He said he wanted to be an ambassador in order to give back to the school and group that made him want to enroll in the university.

Now a senior, Mansker said giving tours comes easily to him and that he loves to engage with prospective students and their families.

"It's really rewarding to me to connect with the prospective families who come to see Gonzaga," Mansker said. "I think that getting a student's perspective from a college is really impactful, especially if you can find ways to connect with them, and it's cool to see the prospective students and families imagining going here. It makes me feel really good, and I also love just bragging about how awesome Gonzaga is."

Katie Neale, who became an ambassador last spring as a first year, had a similar sentiment, saying that she wants to help people through sharing about her passions. She said she has wanted to be an ambassador since she was 12 years old and went on a tour guide with her older brothers.

"I remember when I was going through, like the whole college admissions process and everything, it was really stressful," Neale said. "For me, just getting to show other students why I love Gonzaga and why I love where I am is really fun for me. I know that I'm making an impact on other people."

While giving tours is a major part about being an ambassador, Mansker also described it as a learning opportunity and a source of community.

The ambassador program boasts a group of students with a variety of majors and different personalities, which Neale said represents the diverse spectrum of students on this campus. Mansker said bonding with his fellow ambassadors is a meaningful way of learning about his peers.

"This involvement has never failed to allow me to appreciate the school in ways that I had never been able to before," Mansker said. "You honestly learn so much about the school being an ambassador: the resources that are offered, all of the different programs and involvements there are. We're constantly up to date on new majors that are being implemented."

For students wanting to be connected to the school, Neale said to become an ambassador or volunteer to help out with admissions events on campus.

"If any student even has like the smallest inclination or desire or curiosity about doing it about giving tours about representing our school, just apply, just do it," Neale said. "Because even though like I knew I wanted to do this for so long, this would be an amazing experience for everyone."

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The City Line arrives at its strategically planned bus stops every 7.5 minutes.

BUS

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you would have to wait to transfer to a different bus to see the museum," said Yoder.

In addition to the new bus routes, the City Line offers strategically planned bus stops. Each bus stop is slightly raised from the ground to make it accessible for walkers and wheelchairs when approaching the bus.

The glass bus stops each have different local artists' work around the city, according to Yoder. In each design, the historical background of the assigned district is considered. For example, Yoder said that the

East End bus stop displays Chinese artisans and musicians depicting the past Chinatown of the area.

In the end, the City Line had a strong community impact, both for students and commuters daily.

"Depending on how far you are from campus, it's super nice to have a transit," said Lucca Shields, a student at GU.

Normally, Shields would use a Lime scooter or an Uber to get downtown, but because every GU student has a free swipe on the bus, she said it is worth using the bus instead.

Other than the student's perspective, from an analytical stance, since the launch of the City Line, the bus ridership, the number of people who ride public

transportation, has more than doubled according to Yoder.

Initially, there were 5,000 monthly bus riders, but after it opened, that number rose to 10,000, making it the most popular method of transportation.

Spokane Transit is working to create a new BRT line on Division in response to growing support for modern transportation.

City Line transits are one of the many sustainable transportation methods Spokane offers. As every student at GU can use these features for free, Yoder recommends the experience of trying at least once.

Estelle Han is a staff writer.

MLK

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to themes like politics, music, sports, religion and others and span throughout history, giving visitors the opportunity to observe and learn.

"Especially with this museum, it focuses on Black history, and as we are close to Black History Month, this I believe is a great way to enter ... that month in honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. within the month of January before we get to February," Washington said. "I believe much of his, you know, lifetime's work will be honored through the museum but at the same time, folks will have a chance to look at other artifacts that's connected to Black history, which is a part of American history and just, I think, global history."

Working with the museum's curator and preparing them was one of the main focuses of organizing, according to Washington. The curator, Khalid el-Hakimq, was then present to answer questions and engage with the Spokane community both on Monday at the convention center and Tuesday on campus.

Andrea Davis, who works at GU's Center for Community Engagement, visited the museum on Monday and said it was especially impactful to see how art connects with social justice and how much of an

impact Black artists and creators have had on culture throughout the years.

"A lot of these vinyls are ones I've listened to ... and they do interplay so interestingly with America's culture and our history and race relations," Davis said. "And also just like the Civil Rights Movement in and of itself, like music was a huge part of that."

Washington said he hopes the events that took place throughout the week gave people the opportunity to reflect with a critical lens on how history has impacted people and leave space for conversations going forward.

He also emphasized the importance of King's message and how it connects to the university's mission statement about being a person who serves others in community.

"The museum connects so much with education, especially higher education," Washington said. "I think it's important for students to really engage and then talk about, you know, if there's things that they've never heard of, why is that? And really put a critical lens on history and on higher education."

Sophia McKinstry is a diversity editor. Follow her on X: @sophvmckinstry.

Welcoming 2024 with a reflection on the year before

The year 2023 seemed about par for the course given our last few years — not the worst, but certainly not the best. There were monumental negatives on a global scale. War, violence, climate change, political unrest and hostility remained in view nearly every month.

However, that doesn't mean we were void of positivity.

We can't forget about the largest upsides, mostly in entertainment. Barbie, Beyoncé and Taylor Swift sent shockwaves across the world, bringing fans and friends together and causing plenty of discussion.

Even beyond those mega stories, this year was full of just insane things. A Chinese spy balloon was shot down at 60,000 feet. The Titanic claimed five more victims after OceanGate's Titan submersible imploded. India landed on the moon. Artificial intelligence took major strides and looked both terrifying and awesome.

A lot happened this year. It was bonkers. I think it's a problem.

Where do we go from here?

2024 is almost three weeks in and we've already had major stories and scandals. It seems never-ending, and the stakes seem to only be going up. Our attention spans are short as stumps, and the constant feeding of information means that whatever does break into the nexus of human attention has to be incredibly engaging.

Look at the submersible story.

Five people who each paid a quarter of a million dollars to see the Titanic were lost somewhere under the ocean with 96 hours to potentially save them. That's real life and it sounds like an amazing Aquaman subplot. Of course, I joined the world and scrolled past theories and analyses on where that crappy pile of titanium and



By JACK TALBOTT

carbon fiber was, and for what? That wasn't particularly healthy for anyone. Who did that help? How did I feel?

"They found the wreckage, and I went, 'I knew it imploded,'" and moved on with my life as if I hadn't spent long hours reading and watching everything about the Titan sub.

Every video was a quick hit feeding my brain. Each time I watched a dude tracking sharks in the Atlantic to find the sub, it felt good. Somehow I felt like I was helping.

As soon as it was over though, poof, the feeling was gone.

The same thing happened this year with sports news, election news and Taylor Swift news. It's incredibly engaging and the trick is that it never stops. When something is no longer interesting, something new takes its place. That can't be good for anyone long term. Time

spent online in 2024 will probably be, like the global temperature, the highest it's ever been. At some point people will get burnt out, and suddenly there's no way to get that hit of dopamine anymore. Maybe the internet is so vast that it's impossible to get burnt out before you die. Either way, seems like a lose-lose.

Look at Watergate and the trial of O.J. Simpson. Two of the most engaging and broadcast stories of all time. They were over 20 years apart. Nowadays, we get insane political scandals, absurd trials or both, multiple times a year.

It's even scarier as we head into an election year. I can only imagine what kind of stories are going to break the internet in the next few months. Not to mention with AI, a lot more has become possible. Whatever happens though, I'm sure it will be ridiculously engaging and time-consuming.

There are so many things happening and so much to see at once. It's been said that the internet has both brought us closer than ever before, while pushing us further apart. The constant stream of content has helped push that narrative.

So, farewell 2023. Your year wasn't great overall, but it was a pretty great year for content. I'm sure 2024 will be quite similar.

Jack Talbott is a staff writer.

Spring semester preview: Remember to stop and look around you

Happy New Year, Zags.

With a new year comes a new semester, which means we have the first day of school twice a year. In August, the first day of school was filled with jitters and nerves and a three-day-weekend to reward us with after just four days of classes. In January we just go until the finish line.

While this is only my second spring semester, I don't quite know everything that happens in the spring, but I do have one year under my belt.

So with that being said, let's jump right into what to expect when you're anticipating your first spring semester.

First things first, it goes by in the blink of an eye. But doesn't everyone say that about college? Well, once you've gotten a few weeks into the semester and routines settle, the days start to fly by. Before you know it, the weather starts getting warmer. Like I said, it goes by fast.

Speaking of going by fast, it seemed like, at least last year, all the professors jumped right into the thick of things by Valentine's Day. While the fall semester might've felt like a marathon, the moment



By CAROLINE SLACK

syllabi are passed out in the spring, the engines are revved and ready to go. Until the end of April, it feels like you are in a spinning hamster wheel trying to get everything done all at once.

If you thought seasonal affective disorder was real, don't tell that to the basketball players. Cheering on the Zags to the postseason is a surefire way to spend your time, and it boosts the morale on campus tenfold.

Zags going to the postseason has been a yearly tradition since, well, I hope I didn't jinx it. But additionally, trips to Las Vegas, spring break travels after a week of midterms, Senior Week and the Gonzaga Student Body Association Spring Concert are also yearly traditions.

Unless all of your friends are seniors, I wouldn't go to the COG when the seniors take it over. It's still only January and I already know it's going to be a madhouse, and there is a reason they have yet to bring back late-night COG.

And while the headliner and all the specific details for the Spring Concert have yet to be announced by GSBA, I can tell you that tickets traditionally (again, going off of last year) are \$10 AND Bulldog Bucks are accepted.

Even if the Zags don't win the national championship, at least the weather will get nicer eventually.

That's right, by the time April comes around and the snow is melted off the ground, the weather heats up like there's no tomorrow, which is perfect for baseball — and you will regret sending all your warm weather wear home with your

parents when they came for Fall Family Weekend. This is your reminder that even though your dorm rooms have heat, they don't have any air conditioning.

While you think you have the time to stop and smell the roses as they bloom on the backside of College Hall, better do it quickly. Always remember that incoming objects in your rearview mirror are closer than they appear.

Caroline Slack is a staff writer.

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Final exams are just a snapshot of the average student's semester

I do not think I have met a single student who likes final exams.

I know that I never look forward to a scheduled two-hour test that covers the entire semester. I mean, we spend the whole semester completing assignments, writing papers, preparing presentations and taking quizzes just for a final exam to be worth most of our grade.

All I am trying to say is that no one likes finals and there has to be a better way for us students to demonstrate what we learned than taking a test that can make or break our grade.

I just finished my first finals season at Gonzaga University, and as a transfer student, I was a little nervous to see how it would play out. Honestly, I got lucky, with only two of my classes actually having final exams, but whenever I was studying in Hemmingson, I could feel the tension radiating off every student around.

Of course they are tense, everybody is trying to remember everything they learned in a semester so that they can do well on one single test after spending the semester doing the work to pass the class. Finals seem to just be a lot of added stress that takes away from all the work we did throughout the semester. Most finals are worth like 20% of our grade and there's always some curveball question that makes us feel like we didn't prepare enough, even with the hours of studying that we did to prepare. Anyone would be stressed in that situation.

Besides, haven't we already shown that we have learned the material? Between the class discussions, assignments,



By KAYA CRAWFORD

presentations, papers and quizzes throughout the semester, there should be enough to show that we learned.

We are graded on every assignment and spend hours working to ensure that we succeed, yet none of it matters if we do poorly on our final. All the stress added on by a final that can make or break a grade just makes all the work we do throughout the semester seem pointless.

On top of that, I do not understand how finals demonstrate that we have learned. Most people cram for the week before their exam, and chances are, they'll forget about that one date of that one thing in history immediately after that test is turned in.

For anxious test-takers like myself, the time crunch makes it so that everything that has been learned cannot make it onto the page. Instead, I second-guess myself, despite preparing and doing well in class, just because I worry I won't finish in time.

Every class I have been in emphasizes critical thinking and collaborative thinking, just for it all to end in an exam that emphasizes regurgitating

information and individual performance. How is that reflective of the learning that has happened throughout the semester?

We are always told to take care of ourselves and make sure we eat healthy food and get enough sleep, but come finals, all of that goes out the window. I know people who have pulled all-nighters cramming for their final the next day and are exhausted when they take the test. How is that productive for anyone?

I do not always eat the healthiest or find time to make it to the gym during finals because I am so focused on studying and then find myself getting sick the week after. Having a bunch of stressed out, exhausted people in the same spaces is just asking for someone to get sick and then they cannot perform.

To me, it seems like finals are working against the students.

We all just want to do well in our classes, but finals just seem unfair to the work we do throughout the semester. There has to be a better way for us students to demonstrate that we learned throughout the semester than a two-hour exam with random questions.

Give me a paper or a project, but move away from the tests. It's time to find a different way for us to show growth than exams that stress students out and diminish all the work they do throughout the semester.

Kaya Crawford is a sports editor.

Keeping it fresh at Method Juice

By EMILY NIEMANN

Using organic and ethically sourced produce, Method Juice Cafe is a locally owned restaurant that specializes in giving customers healthy food options.

Started in August 2012 by Nick Murto and Tyler Lafferty, Method was inspired by Murto's world travels. He recognized that Spokane was lacking this kind of establishment and wanted to bring it to the Inland Northwest.

"They were the first to start anything like this in Spokane," said Alicia Newman, one of the current owners/operators of Method. "They were really ahead of their time back then."

The owners of Method explained why they feel that organic eating is important and pointed out the numerous lawsuits surrounding the use of pesticides in food production.

"Before the industrial revolution and streamlining things, all food was organic and it wasn't processed; it just came in its whole food form," said Sammi Fedderson, another owner/operator of Method. "I think a lot of the health problems we see in the world are caused from eating fake food."

All of Method's produce is ethically sourced from local farms and organic food providers. During the season, it gets its eggs from Sweet Mercy Farms in Spokane. Fedderson said that she is excited to continue pursuing these relationships with local farms. They said that Method focuses on creating good, quality food.

"Fresh fruits and veggies, blending up dressings, it's all made in-house on the spot, which is another thing that's really special," Fedderson said.

The downtown location had an offsite gym called the Union attached to it. The northside location was added in 2015 and combined the gym and juice bar in the same building.

Newman got involved in January 2020. After working in the restaurant industry for many years and working her way up to management positions, she found herself managing all of the Froyo Earth locations. All seven locations, some out of town, required a lot of travel, and in November 2019 she decided to leave and join Method.

"I met Nick [Murto] Jan 6, 2020, and I just knew instantly it was a good partnership," Newman said. "I trusted him, I thought what he believed in and what he was doing here."

The pandemic hit just a couple months after Newman became involved with Method. She said Method became very busy during this time and became an important feature in the community.

"We were really the only good food option for take out during that time," Newman said. "So we got slammed, we were busy, and we did all the Ubers, all the DoorDashes, the takeouts, the call-ins, everything like that."

In 2022, Newman began to take a step back from Method where she started a new business called Slumber that focused on short-term Airbnbs. Fedderson then bought Method after finding it for sale.

Fedderson said that she'd always been passionate about healthy eating in her



DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

Method Juice Cafe emphasizes an organic and healthy lifestyle, specializing in gluten-free, dairy-free and vegan food options.

adult life. Before Method, Fedderson was a massage therapist living in Spokane Valley where there weren't many organic food options. She said that she hit a wall with the COVID-19 pandemic, and was looking for something new.

"Then I started a business plan for something in the Valley because there's nothing out there and within a week, Method came for sale," Fedderson said. "And I was like, I think this is supposed to happen."

Fedderson was already a customer of Method after becoming "hooked" on their Spicy Thai Rice Bowls. Though, Fedderson's involvement with Method got off to a difficult start. Between buyers backing in and out and numerous agreements falling through, it seemed that Method was going to have to change. Just when Fedderson, Murto and Lafferty came to the unfortunate conclusion that they may have to close the northside location, Newman checked back in.

Newman didn't want to close the northside location, and together, they found a way to keep everything on track.

"Obstacles provide growth," Fedderson said.

After having twin babies and dealing with depression, Newman found a love for spin classes. The time away from Method allowed Newman to grow, and she was now ready to start a gym and be involved in a different way than before.

"I knew in my heart that Method had such a peace in my soul, so when Sammi [Fedderson] and I talked about it, it was like you do the day-to-day, you make all the food, and I will look at the business side of things and create partnerships,"

Newman said.

With an emphasis on organic eating and healthy lifestyles, Method has established itself as a healthy option within the Spokane community. Providing gluten-free, dairy-free and vegan options, Method is a popular spot for people who are dealing with food intolerances or specialty diets.

"We have a lot of people that come in here that don't even know where to start because they're finding out from their doctor that they have an intolerance or something going on," Newman said. "We've had people that legitimately had cancer that switched their diets, started juicing and eating correctly, and their life changed. . . Our testimonials are pretty amazing."

Method has tried to create a positive environment within the community and its workplace.

"All of our employees really love to be here," Fedderson said.

Additionally, Method is also involved in numerous fundraisers and events throughout Spokane, partnering with different schools and businesses. Recently, it partnered with Indaba Coffee and are now offering coffee to customers.

Method is also doing a juice cleanse for the new year as a partnership with the Wellness Bar. Customers can buy the cleanse until Friday.

Soon Method will be offering protein balls from Prepp'd CDA, a company whose profits go directly to supporting awareness for testicular cancer.

Prepp'd also does fundraisers with Lumen High School, which shares a building with Method in the downtown

location. Lumen High School is a school for kids entering parenthood where parents can continue their education and get child care.

Newman and Fedderson said that they love Gonzaga University and that they have a partnership with the school. The Union has offered a one-credit P.E. course this semester with 117 students enrolled.

"We'd love to have Bulldog Bucks back," Newman said.

While Newman continues to pursue business relationships and grow Method's involvement in the community, Fedderson has been driving the addition of the menu items.

"I've been scrolling Pinterest hard," Fedderson said. "I have a couple ideas for specials this year."

Both Newman and Fedderson said to keep an eye on Method's social medias and alluded to an exciting new change coming in the next year.

"Stay tuned," Newman said.

Method Juice Café has two locations at 718 W. Riverside Ave. and 7704 N. Division St. Both locations are open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the weekdays. The Division location is open Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the Riverside location is open Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is closed on Sundays.

Emily Niemann is a staff writer.

Jundt Museum introduces Faculty Exhibition

New exhibit displays pieces of many mediums by 10 GU instructors

By NATALIE KELLER

For the first time since 2019, the Jundt Art Museum is preparing to host its Gonzaga University Art Department Faculty Exhibition. Starting on Saturday, the museum will display art pieces created by 10 full-time and adjunct instructors.

"It kind of informs the public about what sort of art program we have," said Karen Kaiser, the museum's curator of education. "Also, it's an opportunity for would-be or potential students to come and look at the work that their instructors are doing."

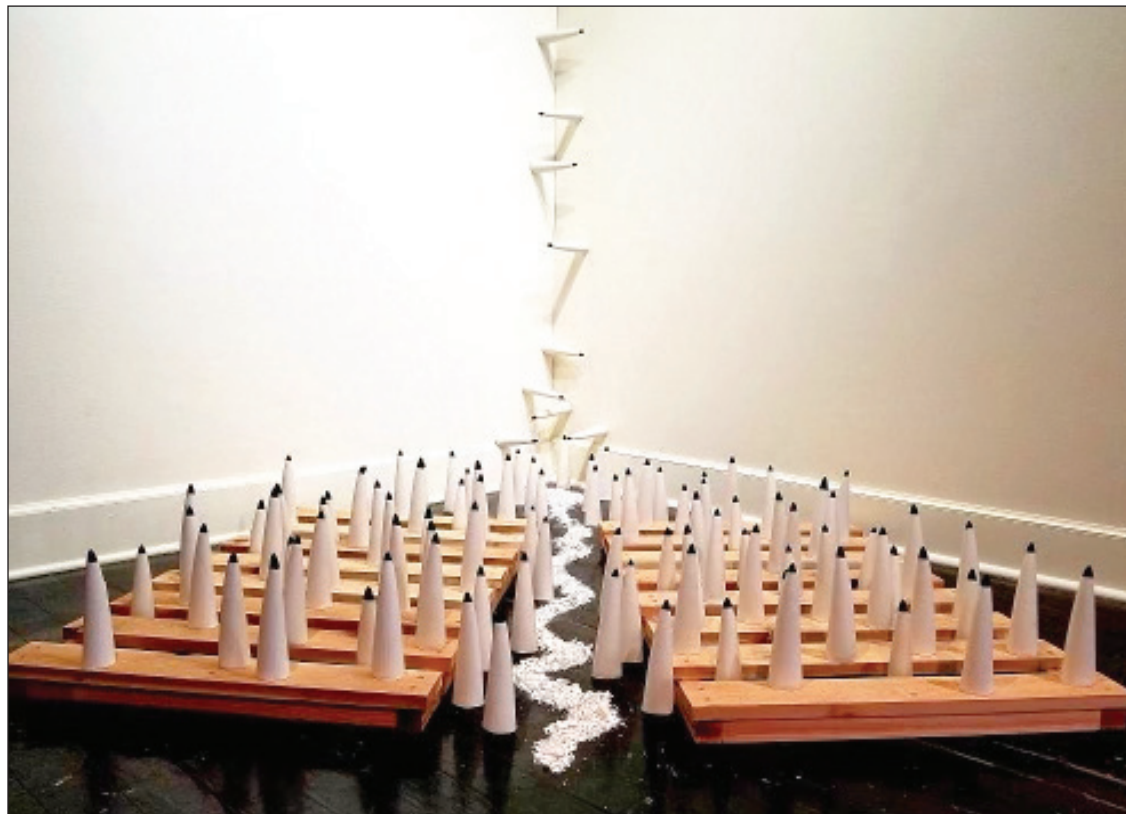
Kaiser said the faculty members created their art pieces in an array of mediums, including watercolors, drawings, prints, ceramics and video.

"It's going to be very diverse," said Harry Mestyaneck, an adjunct faculty member and art department technician at GU. "It's going to be a well-rounded, versatile exhibition."

Mestyaneck, who is in his second year of teaching at GU, is among the participating faculty artists. He said that he is excited to contribute three ceramic pieces to the exhibition: installations titled "Vespid: An Homage to the Paper Wasp," "Tuber" and "Carnassial March."

Mestyaneck said the largest of his installations, "Carnassial March," is intended to represent how humans and animals are impacted by catastrophic events over time. Featuring 146 porcelain teeth spread across a plane, Mestyaneck said he anticipates the piece will inspire an unsettling feeling in viewers.

"These pieces aren't necessarily pretty to look at"



COURTESY OF HARRY MESTYANECK

Mestyaneck's "Carnassial March" depicts the ruin of life on Earth as impacted by catastrophic events.

Mestyaneck said. "I wanted the pieces to be sort of sharp looking and a little visually, perhaps, disturbing."

While his art may have an intended message, Mestyaneck said he realizes these messages may be ambiguous and invites viewers to come up with their own interpretations.

"All three of these are very conceptual, very abstract," Mestyaneck said. "I really want the viewer to participate with me and help define, visually, what they're looking at."

The artist said he hopes that his pieces will spark dialogue

and emotion among exhibition attendees.

"I get a lot of delight when my work is in a show and I get people hovering around the work and discussing it," Mestyaneck said. "If they have a positive reaction, that's great. If they have a negative reaction, like 'I don't like it' or 'that's ugly,' that's still good for me, as an artist, because I'm getting a reaction."

In addition to Mestyaneck's installations, GU Adjunct Professor Jamie Nadherny will also contribute a piece to the exhibition. Nadherny, who works in the art department, will be

displaying a 10-foot long and 4-foot tall installation of clay lilies. The artist said that this installation, titled "Connections," is meant to symbolize the parallels between the Calla Lily and humans.

"Every flower is unique, yet connected, to all the others through their sameness," Nadherny said. "The union of the flowers into a constellation represents the relationship that humans have with each other when we lift ourselves to a higher level of consciousness."

Mestyaneck and Nadherny's pieces, along with the other

faculty artwork, will be on display through May 11. Additionally, a public reception will be held at the gallery on Feb. 2 from 4-7 p.m. Mestyaneck said that those attending the exhibition can expect a high level of quality from the artwork.

"It's going to be a real strong exhibition," Mestyaneck said. "The faculty at Gonzaga are top-notch. They're all at the top of their game."

Kaiser said she hopes the GU community will attend the exhibition not only to support the faculty artists, but also to gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of the arts.

"If you don't know much about art, then you kind of look at it as if it's kind of an inside joke, something that everybody else gets, but you don't," Kaiser said. "You just have to frequent a museum to know that that's not the case."

Kaiser also said that art plays an important role in society.

"Without the humanities, there's just no point in living," Kaiser said. "There's no expression. There's no communication. There's no real human interaction. That sounds really lofty, but art is lofty."

Natalie Keller is an arts & entertainment editor.



DYLAN SMITH IG: d.smithphotos

According to Niemann, vintage fur coats are decidedly in for 2024, due to their contributions to sustainability.

What's 'in' and 'out' going into 2024

COMMENTARY

By EMILY NIEMANN

With 2024 freshly upon us, everyone seems to have got caught up in what we're keeping in the new year, and what we're throwing away. Trying to figure out what's worth our time can be daunting, but it's not impossible.

Social media has always been a force to be reckoned with, allowing us "regular people" insight into the veiled and frivolous lives of our favorite celebrities. Unfortunately, it seems some take this a little too far and often forget that the version of celebrities we interact with on social media are still exactly that: a version. The personalities presented to the public are still cultivated by PR teams and it's still impossible to tell what these people are really like.

Yet, there's an illusion that their behavior on Instagram or Snapchat is an accurate representation of them, causing fans to have a false interpreted closeness with a stranger.

I like Taylor Swift, and I've been a fan of her for years, but the fans who printed out pictures of her dead grandmother and held them up at the Eras Tour seriously crossed a boundary.

So, in 2024, worshipping celebrities and treating them like our friends is so out.

While I'm not a supporter of cancel

culture, I do think we should be holding people with platforms accountable for the things they say and do. However, we only understand a version of these people through a screen. We still don't know them. Rachel Zegler got cancelled for being "unlikable," then promptly won back the public in "A Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes." The internet dragged her to filth only to sing her praises weeks later.

Cancel culture is arbitrary, and there has to be space to make mistakes and still be able to be forgiven. Forgiveness and understanding the flawed mechanics of online gossip is definitely in for 2024.

Perhaps this is my appreciation of live theater, but I'm so over making Broadway musicals into movies. Broadway is wildly inaccessible; aside from the fact that the tickets can be expensive, if you don't live in a big city where Broadway tours come through, your chances of seeing a Broadway-level show are slim to none. So I see the point in making these shows into movies so that they reach a broader audience.

However, when studios cast these movies, they don't cast actual singers to play these characters, which eventually hurts the reputation of the musical to the larger public. Casting Angourie Rice, who is not a Broadway actress, alongside Renee Rapp, who is a Broadway actress, in

the "Mean Girls" movie musical seemed like a bad choice once you look at the cast recordings.

The same issue occurred in Disney's live action "Beauty and the Beast." Why Disney thought it was a good idea to cast Emma Watson alongside musical-theater actors in a movie musical is beyond me. Seriously, autotune is working overtime.

Those who are chronically online know the influence TikTok has on what's in style for the new year. Right now, the fleeting fad of the week is the "mob wife aesthetic," and while its premise seems to be a tad insensitive, I think there is one part of it that is going to stay.

Vintage, real fur coats are a classic fashion staple and will be in style for the early part of 2024 and will re-emerge next winter. I must emphasize the vintage aspect of these coats; I am in no way supporting animal cruelty in 2024. Yet, the construction and quality of the materials in vintage fur coats are unmatched and will last longer than any faux fur now.

The fur coat already exists — it's a sunk cost. Throwing it out now and not wearing them is worse than purchasing a faux fur coat from ZARA that was made by a sweatshop worker overseas.

Thus, I predict that vintage fur coats will emerge as a glamorous fashion

accessory for 2024.

As far as our personal wellness goes, it's very easy to make grand plans for the new year in our resolutions, only to fall short and make ourselves feel bad. While it would be great to go to bed earlier and eat healthier, sometimes that's just not feasible. Let's start making reasonable expectations for ourselves and creating incentives to do so.

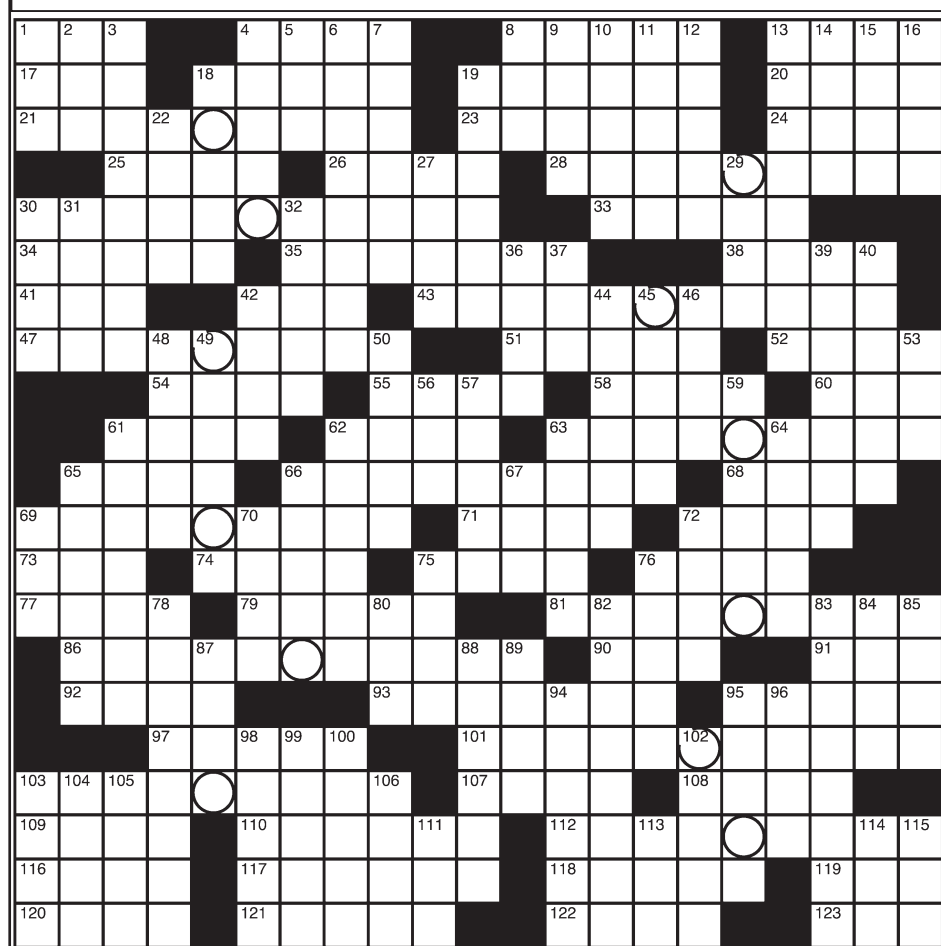
If you want to drink more water this year, buy yourself a cute water bottle from the Zag Shop to carry around. Or if you need to sleep more, try going to bed earlier only on the nights before you know you have early classes. When you accomplish your goal, treat yourself, even if that just means you take an extra nap between classes.

Being kinder to ourselves and giving ourselves the space to grow is definitely in for 2024. The year is long, and I'm sure in six months we'll have wilder expectations for 2025. Yet being open to these changes, however the next year pans out, will always be in.

Emily Niemann is a staff writer.

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol



CENTER OF ATTENTION

By Chandi Deitmer & Matthew Stock

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 Spot on a die | 60 "Parenthood" actress | 110 Title girl in Kay Thompson books | 15 Ride the waves | 70 Landed |
| 4 Heel's opposite | 61 Back muscle, casually | 112 Casualwear at the pub? | 16 Confiscate | 72 Wawa, for one |
| 8 Relax | 62 Not again | 116 Climber's hold | 18 Backs (away) | 75 Expert who's a real poser? |
| 13 Broken bone's protector | 63 Rant against the sun? | 117 Straightforward | 27 Naan kin | 76 Intrepid |
| 17 "You really think that of me?" | 65 Target | 118 Shrek and Fiona | 29 Jacobson of "Broad City" | 78 Culture writer's milieu |
| 18 Take care of | 66 SmackDown figures | 119 Himalayan creature | 30 The "Gee" in "Bee Gees" | 80 Way cool |
| 19 Casual layer | 68 Ultra big | 120 Seep | 31 Tomato type | 82 Play area? |
| 20 "Barbie Girl" band | 69 Providers of room service | 121 Palms, e.g. | 32 Pop icon, John | 83 "Following these directions ..." |
| 21 Growling or barking, e.g.? | 71 Street | 122 Group between boomers and millennials | 36 Put into a pot | 84 Wheels |
| 23 Overacted | 72 Pocket-size | 123 Intel seeker | 37 Japanese drama | 85 Shadowbox |
| 24 Hide furtively | 73 Ambulance fig. | | 39 Epiphany trio | 87 Cylindrical storage structure |
| 25 Rebel leader in a space opera | 74 Fashion monthly | | 40 Italian 71-Across | 88 Lifted |
| 26 Iowa crop | 75 "... move" | | 42 "The Vanishing Half" author | 89 Verifiable |
| 28 Existence fueled by rotini and tagliatelle? | 77 ... monster | | 44 "Be ready to prove your age" | 94 Collection of farm-fresh produce |
| 30 Driveway mistake? | 79 Boise State's home | | 45 Comes apart at the seams | 95 Persian greetings? |
| 33 Thick lumps | 81 Intense "don't blink" contests? | | 46 Let out | 96 Adhesive strip |
| 34 Smidgens | 82 Opening dis at a roast? | | 48 Massage | 98 Throw out |
| 35 Like the full-moon festival | 83 Crete's highest pt. | | 49 "I have to know!" | 99 Big name in seltzer |
| Boun That Luang | 90 Menopause treatment, briefly | | 50 Bowling alley lineup | 100 Rib eye alternative |
| 38 Morsels | 91 Little taster | | 53 ATM charge | 102 Takes to the cleaners |
| 41 Fig. calculated at a checkup | 92 Himalayan creature | | 56 Loops in | 103 Folded food |
| 42 FYI kin | 93 Like ears with studs | | 57 Back in style | 104 100 cents |
| 43 "You're talking to a haunted house expert here?" | 95 Crete's highest pt. | | 59 Literary device | 105 "Lucky" Grammy winner |
| 47 Obnoxious poster in the 'r/wellfargo Reddit?" | 97 Was out | | 61 "I need the truth!" | Jason |
| | 99 Erratic radiator? | | 62 Tough go | 106 Tots, e.g. |
| | 101 Collar attachment | | 63 Close ones | 111 Close fam member |
| | 102 Von Trapp daughter | | 64 Subscribe again | 113 Film with the Oscar-winning song "Naatu Naatu" |
| | 103 Gigs as conductors and percussionists? | | 65 Assign points to, maybe | 114 Recruit |
| | 107 Suckling spot | | 66 Untamed territory | 115 blue |
| | 108 "My mistake!" | | 67 "Mambo No. 5" singer | |
| | 109 Surrounding energy | | 69 "I of you!" | |

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level 1 2 3 4

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

Solution to Last Week's puzzle

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

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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Men's basketball in tight WCC battle after 'mediocre' nonconference slate

COMMENTARY

By CAM MCCANN

The Gonzaga University men's basketball program has been breaking records this season, but not in the way it usually does.

This season, the team has broken multiple long-standing records, demonstrating its struggles this year.

GU's consecutive Associated Press Poll streak was broken after its first loss in 13 years to Santa Clara. Its top-25 streak ended after 143 consecutive weeks, which was previously the longest active streak.

This statistic shows the Zags (11-5, 2-1 WCC) are currently struggling, while also showing the consistently elite levels that head coach Mark Few and the GU program have reached in previous years.

During the team's nonconference slate, it fell short of a win in multiple potential Quad-1 matchups, losing to No. 2 Purdue, No. 1 UConn and San Diego State.

"We've got a lot of new guys and a lot of young guys and I think we're going to learn," said graduate forward Anton Watson after the team's loss to SDSU.

While wins against historically good programs like Syracuse, UCLA and USC are all strong showings, they pale in comparison to the quality of nonconference wins GU previously accumulated.

GU has won in dominant fashion in several games this season, though these showings have all occurred against lesser programs.

Examples of improvement include the matchup against San Diego, where Ben Gregg dropped 22 points on the Toreros while also notching seven rebounds and four steals.

"I feel like I've had a pretty mediocre start to the season," Gregg said after his career-best performance. "To see more shots go in tonight felt good."

Gregg's assessment of mediocre shooting performances indicative of one area where GU has struggled greatly this season. Outside shooting has plagued the Zags this year, with the team currently shooting 31.7% from 3-point range. In marquee matchups, the Zags have had dismal 3-point shooting performances, including 26% against SDSU, 16% against UConn and 10% against Santa Clara.

GU has yet to come away with a true road win, currently standing at 0-2 away from home. The team is 3-2 in games at neutral sites.



DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

GU was denied a Quad-1 win in its 76-63 loss to UConn on Dec. 15.

This form away from home could spell problems down the line. With a seemingly must-win road game at Kentucky looming large, GU's inability to accrue road wins needs to be dealt with.

Despite poor showings away from home, the team's record at The Kennel has remained elite (8-1), its sole home loss coming to SDSU.

GU boasts two of the top-10 scorers in the West Coast Conference, with Watson ranked sixth, averaging 14.9 points per game, and junior forward Graham Ike ranked ninth, averaging 14.5 points.

Junior guard Ryan Nembhard currently leads the conference in assists, averaging 5.9 per game.

While GU boasts individual statistic leaders, the WCC is now a conference with greater parity, relative to past years.

GU is currently behind three teams in the standings, with the conference-leading teams, San Francisco and

Saint Mary's, both boasting better overall records than the Zags.

The road ahead for the Zags is not an easy one, with other programs looking to take advantage of a relatively down GU team. Despite this, the Zags still boast a lineup with more than enough talent to find themselves atop the conference standings come tournament time.

It certainly isn't a time to panic as a GU fan, but it is safe to say that GU's absurdly elite consistency has faltered a bit so far this season.

Now, there is more pressure than ever on the Zags to come away with a WCC Tournament championship. If it fails to do so, this might be GU's year to watch the madness of March unfold from the sidelines.

Cam McCann is a staff writer.

Zags surging behind historic nonconference performances and strong start to WCC play

COMMENTARY

By KAYA CRAWFORD

Gonzaga University women's basketball showed it was up for the challenge after completing the most difficult nonconference schedule in program history with a 13-2 record.

"We're going to be tested mightily throughout the season, but right from the beginning, we have a really tough nonconference schedule," head coach Lisa Fortier said at West Coast Conference Media Day in October. "I don't know if we've had this tough of a nonconference schedule since I've been on the staff — not just since I've been a head coach. It's very, very challenging."

And tested it was. The No. 17 Bulldogs' nonconference schedule featured 10 teams that finished in the top 100 in the NET last year.

The Bulldogs lost twice in nonconference play. The first was an overtime road loss against in-state opponent Washington State (77-72 OT) in early November. The second loss was to No. 15 Louisville at the Betty Chancellor Classic at the end of November (81-70).

Despite the two losses, the Bulldogs had some big wins in the first half of the 2023-24 season.

The Bulldogs secured home victories over Toledo (91-70), North Florida (83-55), Wyoming (80-64), Stanford, South Dakota State (83-58) and New Mexico (67-56). GU defeated Montana (83-70), Eastern Washington (82-80), Cal (78-70 OT) and Rice (80-72) on the road.

At the Betty Chancellor Classic, GU secured two decisive victories against Liberty (102-59) and Alabama (68-58). Graduate guard Kayleigh Truong was named to the All-Tournament team and is averaging 13.6 points and 4.6 assists per game.

Perhaps the biggest win for the Bulldogs was their upset against now No. 8 Stanford at home in the Kennel on Dec. 3 (96-78). The game sold out, breaking the program record for attendance.

As a result of the win, the Bulldogs were named the NCAA Team of the Week, and senior forward Yvonne Ejim was named NCAA Player of the Week. The Bulldogs were also listed in the Associated Press



DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

Kayleigh Truong hits a three-pointer in GU's historic home win over Stanford.

“

[We're] very proud of how we played and how we fought through this nonconference schedule.

Yvonne Ejim, GU women's basketball senior forward

Top 25 poll and haven't lost their national ranking since.

Ejim has had a dominant season, being named WCC Women's Basketball Player of the Week four times already this season. Ejim leads the Bulldogs and the WCC in scoring, averaging 20.3 points per game and leads the Bulldogs in rebounds, averaging 7.6 per game.

"[Ejim] is a stud. She's a pro," said Fortier after the Arizona game. "She knows how to prepare and she's driven ... from what's inside. She's really fun to coach."

The Bulldogs also participated in the Hall of Fame series in Arizona in December, where they defeated Arizona 81-69. This year marked GU's first time competing at the event.

The Bulldogs closed off nonconference play against New Mexico. The game saw two players return from injury. Bree Salenbein and Destiny Burton both played their first minutes of the 2023-24 season as the Bulldogs closed out the calendar year with a 67-56 win.

"[We're] very proud of how we played and how we fought through this nonconference schedule," Ejim said in a post-game interview after the New Mexico game. "We faced a lot of different opponents, different styles of basketball, we faced a lot of challenges on the way and things like that. We have areas to grow from areas to learn from and I think all of that should really show us how proud we should be of how we played through it."

Entering the new year, the Bulldogs are undefeated in conference play, securing wins against Portland (74-53), Santa Clara (87-49) and San Diego (85-67).

The Bulldogs lead the WCC in scoring (81.2 points per game), assists (19.17 per game) and attendance (5,195 people at home games). Brynna Maxwell leads in 3-point field goal percentage (42.6%) and Kaylynn Truong leads in assists at 105.

The Bulldogs are on a 10-game winning streak and have won 28-straight home games. In preseason rankings, GU was picked to win the WCC.

GU continues to face tough competition in conference play, and the next few weeks will decide where it will stand come the NCAA Tournament.

Kaya Crawford is a sports editor.

Streaks ended, record denied in GU's narrow 76-77 loss to Santa Clara

By ZACH WHITE

For the first time in nearly eight years, Gonzaga University men's basketball is no longer ranked in the Associated Press Top 25 poll.

Following its 77-76 road loss to Santa Clara, the Zags (11-5, 2-1) exited the AP rankings for the first time since March 14, 2016. In that time, GU spent 35 weeks at No. 1, 80 weeks in the top five and 109 weeks in the top 10.

In the latest edition of the poll, GU garnered five votes after receiving 185 the week before.

GU's previous 26-game winning streak over Santa Clara was also broken with the loss. Prior to its loss,

Santa Clara had not defeated the Zags since 2011.

The defeat to Santa Clara saw Mark Few denied his 700th win as GU head coach.

In the loss, poor shooting and offensive rebounding plagued the Zags. GU shot 2-for-20 (10%) from 3-point range against Santa Clara, while also being out-rebounded 14-7 on the offensive glass.

One bright spot was Anton Watson's 32-point outing, matching his career-high scoring mark.

Watson shot 14-for-18 (77%) on the night, while the six other Zags who appeared went 18-for-49 (36%).

"Anton [Watson] was spectacular tonight," Few said. "It's tough, we had some not great games from a

lot of other people. We didn't get much of anything out of other people, so it's hard on the road to get it done."

The Zags currently sit fourth in the West Coast Conference standings, behind Saint Mary's, San Francisco and Santa Clara.

GU's next game will be a road matchup against Pepperdine. Tipoff will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday with the game televised locally.

Zach White is a sports editor.

Men's tennis rallies behind veteran leaders in spring season

By SYDNEY FLUKER

For five of the eight Gonzaga University men's tennis team players, this season will be their last playing on the Stevens Center court.

"We have this huge group of seniors and I think my main priority is to make sure they end on their terms and with a positive cap to their careers when they've worked so unbelievably hard," said head coach D.J. Gurule. "They put in a lot of effort, they've given so much to the program, so you want to make sure they get the best out of it their last year."

Graduating this year will be graduate students Leon Roider, Oliver Andersson and Matthew Hollingworth and seniors Sasha Trkulja and Pablo Gomez Galvan. All but Roider played their entire collegiate careers at GU.

"A big goal that's not measurable is just enjoying our last semester with D.J. [Gurule], Cesar [Vargas Rodriguez], all the guys just playing in Stevens — enjoying all of that for the last semester is a big thing because we'll never really have something like that again," Trkulja said.

Trkulja said the graduating players feel a sense of responsibility to set the three underclassmen up for success as they prepare to leave at the end of the season.

"They definitely care a lot about the program and just Gonzaga in general. It seems like they enjoy it a lot here," Trkulja said.

Trkulja and Hollingworth are ranked No. 46 in Intercollegiate Tennis Association doubles rankings following the fall season. Gurule said Gomez Galvan had a fantastic fall tournament season with Roider and both are looking to head into a successful spring season. Anderson sat out the fall season with a back injury but is hoping to be back on the court this spring.

Sophomore Gus Krauel of Portland, Oregon, is the sole returning underclassman. Gurule described Krauel as an "unbelievable role player" for the team who challenges the guys everywhere they go. The second underclassman, freshman Tom Dunlop of London, United Kingdom, had a successful and growing fall season as well, according to Gurule.

The team also recently welcomed freshman Oscar Rashed from Geneva, Switzerland, into its ranks for the spring semester.

"[Rashed] just came in like 10 days ago and he has a great attitude, great work ethic. Lots of positives there, with Tom and Gus as well," Trkulja said.

While a January start is a little unusual



MYERS GORRELL IG: @myersgphoto

Leon Roider prepares for final season after finishing with 20-5 doubles record last season.

to see, Gurule said he is excited for what Rashed will bring to the team.

In terms of team goals, the main priority is to make it to the West Coast Conference Tournament, Gurule said. The Zags missed the tournament last season, but made it to the semifinals in the 2021-22 season.

"We're traveling a lot and I think we've got good, competitive matches against a lot of schools that probably have similar expectations to us," Hollingworth said. "Conference is the same — a lot of the teams we're going to be playing against are going to be similar level, similar ranking to us ... so I think those couple of moments it can all come down to are really going to define our season just because of how competitive our schedule is going to be."

The Zags will be spending much of their spring season on the road, playing 11 matches away, including nonconference trips to face Nebraska and UC San Diego.

The Zags start their nonconference season on Sunday against Eastern Washington at 2 p.m. in the Stevens Center. Gurule said notable matchups include Nebraska, where assistant coach Cesar Vargas Rodriguez played as an undergraduate, and regional rival University of Washington.

"[Playing UW] is always good, it's a good atmosphere when we go there," Hollingworth said. "They're obviously not our biggest fans, so sometimes it's fun to go in there and experience that a little bit. They normally pack the stadium pretty full against us, so it should be a good experience."

The WCC season begins on March 17 at 10 a.m. against the University of Portland in Portland, Oregon. Gurule said the schedule is loaded with conference foes, most notably Santa Clara and Portland.

Senior Night will be against Santa Clara this year, which Hollingworth said

GU SPORTS

Thursday, Jan. 18

- ➔ Men's basketball at Pepperdine, Malibu, California, 7 p.m.
- ➔ Women's basketball at Loyola Marymount, Los Angeles, California, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 19

- ➔ Women's tennis vs. Montana, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 20

- ➔ Women's basketball vs. Saint Mary's, 2 p.m.
- ➔ Men's basketball at San Diego, San Diego, California, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 21

- ➔ Women's tennis vs. Cal Poly, 10 a.m.
- ➔ Men's tennis vs. Eastern Washington, 2 p.m.

Home games in bold

is always a good matchup and should be a critical match for the team. The Zags will host the Broncos on April 21 at 10 a.m.

Above all, the team is excited to get competitive on the court again. Hollingworth said it's especially fun to play in front of a packed arena and that the players hope to see more fans at their few home matches.

"San Diego last year, we had hundreds of people here which is very unique for us, and it was a really fun experience for everyone involved," Hollingworth said. "We got a couple of matches that you can tell are going to come right down to the wire because it always happens that way."

Sydney Fluker is a copy editor. Follow them on X: @sydneyfluker.

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GONZAGA CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

New postings go online daily. <http://www.gonzagabulletin.com/classifieds/>
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House Manager/Nanny Help Needed

We are looking for someone to help in our home 3-4 afternoons/evenings per week. Duties would include running errands, meal prep, and helping with kitchen clean up. We have 3 small children and would benefit from having an extra adult to help facilitate school pickup and the dinner routine. 90% of the time at least one of the parents would be home as well. Schedule and hours can be flexible though ideally hours would be 4-7 pm. Email: virginie.achim@gmail.com



Jimmy Johns is hiring for in-shop positions!

Please send your resume to Courtney at SpokaneJimmyJohns@gmail.com to get an interview scheduled. Only the location at 6515 N. Division is currently looking to fill in-shop positions and is only about a 10 minute drive from Gonzaga University. We're looking forward to hearing from you!



Diverse Male Models -Social Media

New luxury fashion, art, lifestyle brand is launching extensive social media campaign. Must be comfortable in front of camera and interacting with other models. \$50+/hour. Email casey@kalos-acquisitions.com or text 509-981-9851 for more information.



Personal Assistant to CEO

Need a highly personable, highly responsible, self-motivated personal assistant for reputable CEO of an international training company & lifestyle brand. Must take initiative and have outstanding organizational skills, interpersonal skills, written and verbal communication skills. Diverse performance expectations may include organizing and managing schedules, prioritizing emails, arranging travel, personal errands. Have transportation, initial \$20-\$25/hr, 10+hrs/wk, significant opportunities for growth. Contact: Casey Jackson, casey.jackson@ifioc.com



Part Time Nanny Needed 3 Days a Week

Nanny needed 10 AM-3 PM 3 days per week (flexible). Usually 1 child, but sometimes both (ages 2 & 4). Parents home. Assist with preschool subjects, 2nd language preferred. Email amandajfurrer@gmail.com



Part Time Nanny

Looking for a student who has availability to watch 1 (sometimes 2) children, periodically throughout the week. Commitment is varied, and would only be for 2-3 hour stretches during week days to begin with, with an opportunity to lead into more time. Schedule is based on candidate's availability, and our families need. Must feel comfortable with newborns and have references. Please email alygamache@gmail.com



Part Time Nanny Needed

Looking for an afternoon nanny for 2 elementary aged kids. We mostly need help Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 3p to 5p (but appreciate help Monday - Friday if it fits your schedule!) Would include picking them up from school, making simple snacks, and art / games / fun. Paid opportunity. Email Janelle.umek@gmail.com



Seeking a Spanish teacher/tutor for middle school child/children

Kiddos don't have an opportunity for foreign language, so we'd like to hire someone to start teaching them Spanish. Before or after school options, location TBD. Please contact Krista at krista.caro10@gmail.com with interest and for more information.

BLACK HISTORY IS OUR HISTORY



CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS CALENDAR

ART AND ACTIVISM: THE COLOR OF FEAR FILM SCREENING & DIALOGUE

February 7, 2-4 pm, HEMM Ballroom

Join us for a film screening and dialogue on eight North American men; two African American, two Latinos, two Asian American, and two Caucasian as they were gathered by director Lee Mun Wah for a dialogue about the state of race relations in American as seen through their eyes.

NORTHWEST PASSAGES PRESENTS THE BLACK LENS SPOKANE BLACK VOICES SYMPOSIUM

February 1, 7 pm, The Myrtle Woldson
Performing Arts Center – Coughlin Theater

Celebrating Black History Month with the re-launch of *The Black Lens* in print publication, Northwest Passages present the third annual Spokane Black Voices Symposium. African American students from the Spokane area will be presenting their work, focusing on the theme: *Black Joy - An Aspirational Mindset*.

BSU PRESENTS A CULTURAL EXPLOSION: AN EXPLORATION OF THE BLACK DIASPORA

Saturday, February 10, 6 pm, HEMM Ballroom

The annual Black Student Union dinner/celebration event.



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As a not-for-profit credit union, our focus is to help all members achieve financial well-being. That extends to our communities as well.

Through our Black Community Development Project, we're dedicated to positive change for the Black community. Established in 2020, we're committing a total of \$5 million to support racial equity in Washington communities, and select counties in Oregon, Idaho and South Carolina.



Learn more about the grant recipients and the impact by visiting becu.org/members-matter/community-involvement/black-community-development-project.

Go Zags!

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