

The Gonzaga Bulletin

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McKay leads GU ministry

By HENRY KRUEGER

While Gonzaga University was founded in the Jesuit tradition, it welcomes students, faculty and staff from all different faith backgrounds.

This level of inclusivity is something Meredith McKay has observed directly as a former undergraduate student in the class of 2015, a campus minister for over five years and the current interim co-director of University Ministry.

After being promoted to director of University Ministry in mid-February, she plans to adopt an approach that caters to the holistic needs of GU's student body.

"Part of our office's responsibility is obviously [upholding] the Jesuit Catholic identity of the university, and so we've stayed consistent with that, but then we have this great opportunity to say that's actually not all of our student body," McKay said. "And so then we get to think about what it looks like to build and help people grow in their own spirituality, whatever that is."

McKay said this style of ministry is at the heart of GU's mission and identity, which aims to provide students with meaningful connections and diverse perspectives.

"Gonzaga's a deeply relational place," McKay said. "It sees itself that way, I see it that way. And it doesn't really matter at the end of the day what we're trying to do if we aren't actually taking the time to build relationships with people first. That helps us in understanding who the people in front of us are, and what their needs are, and how we meet them."

McKay said her time as a student and staff member at GU have been life-changing, but attributes much of her holistic approach to ministry to the year she spent with Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

Following her graduation from GU, McKay volunteered at Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School, which provides low-income students with a college preparatory education integrated with professional work experience. It's part of a network of schools founded in 1996 with the goal of transforming urban education.

McKay served the school in a variety of ways, including campus ministry, academic support and student transportation. She lived right across the Delaware River in Camden, New Jersey, where she regularly drove seven students to school in a 12-passenger van.

"That was the most transformative thing for me," McKay said of commuting with students. "I came in as a 21-year-old, so I was barely older than the people I was driving in the van. At first, I was like I don't know you people, you have zero reason to trust me, and the only thing you know about me is that I'm leaving in a year, so why would you trust me?"

Although McKay still remembers these initial feelings, she said that fostering connections with the students

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Analesa Mason performs the piece "A Doorway to Heaven" at Diversity Monologues.

Voices shine in diversity showcase

By HANNAH BROWN

The emotion in the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center was palpable as snaps rung out and stories were shared for the Unity Multicultural Education Center's 14th annual Diversity Monologues on March 28.

Since 2011, this program has provided students with a space to share their stories and personal experiences with their community.

One of the monologists, Daija Tramble, described the importance

of this event and the significance of creating spaces for everyone's voices to be heard.

"It's so special to have everybody come together for you because I truly think that everyone does have a story to tell, but it's important that we make space to hear each other," Tramble said.

Ten Gonzaga University students shared their performances with the audience: Tramble, Shay'den Howell, Odalys Sanchez Cedillo, Deeya Chandran, Santiago Salazar, Analesa

Mason, Zen Brown, RJ McGee, Gabriela Marquis and Jenna Serikaku. These students reflected on their own identities and experiences and tied their stories into the program's overarching theme, "Fearless."

The event began with a land acknowledgment and a prayer performed by Campus Minister Candace Williams on the guitar followed by monologues.

Each monologist used a different

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LUCY BOOTH IG: @lucybooth.photo

Jessie Mancilla speaks at the conversation series on addressing islamophobia and antisemitism.

Provost series creates dialogue on Israeli-Palestinian conflict

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

In response to a desire across campus to talk about the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Gonzaga University's Office of the Provost has spearheaded the development and hosting of a series of events in order to have conversations around the issue.

The "conversation series" started at the beginning of the semester, with presentations on interfaith dialogue, and continues until late April, where it will conclude with a panel discussion on the refugee crisis in the Middle East.

The series has at least six parts and models a series that

the Office of the Provost hosted last school year around white supremacy, which allowed the GU community to reflect on the vandalism attacks by Patriot Front.

"People have feelings about the history of Israel; they have feelings about terrorist activity, about just loss of life," said Provost Sacha Kopp. "There's a lot going on, and people want to talk about it. Faculty said people want to talk about it in the classroom and that's understandable. Our intent was to do something like we did last year, but also do a little bit better at bringing in various stakeholder groups."

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Labor activist, GU alum honored in memorial

By CLARINNE KIRK

Becoming the first Asian American monument on campus, a bench will be dedicated to former Gonzaga University student and Filipino American labor rights activist Philip Vera Cruz at a celebratory event on Friday from 3:30-5 p.m. In addition to unveiling the new bench, the event will also feature local Filipino food from Island Style Food & BBQ, guest speakers and performances.

During his life as a labor organizer, Vera Cruz founded the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee and led a walkout against Delano-area grape growers in protest of poor pay and inhumane working conditions. In collaboration with Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, co-founders of The United Farm Workers of America, the Delano Grape Strike expanded to over 10,000 workers, which led to union contracts for the picketers, promising fair wages and safe working conditions.

Tia Moua, a GU alumna who worked on the bench dedication project during her time at GU, said it was born out of senior Ryan Liam's 2020 communications senior project. Moua then connected with the project through her work in the Asian American Activist group, a student group that worked to advocate for increased Asian American representation and solidarity at GU during a COVID-19 era of growing anti-Asian sentiment.

"When we saw a lot of Asians being racially attacked, harassed and killed just simply for being Asian, my friends and I knew we had to start organizing something to combat this anti-Asian hate and to say, 'We see you Asian students, we hear you and we want to support you,'" Moua said.

A large part of supporting Asian students at GU was through pushing for more diverse and inclusive representation on campus. According to Moua, one area with a lack of Asian representation was in the memorials and statues on campus.

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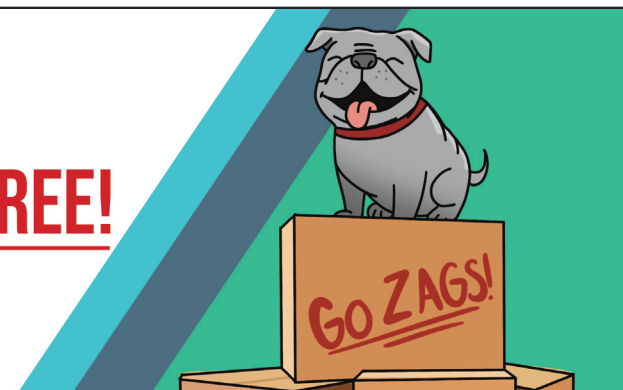


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Magazine 'streams' news to West Plains

By KAYA CRAWFORD

Community involvement is something that Ben and Danica Wick are not strangers to, as the Spokane Valley residents share a passion for providing community news to the people whose stories are unsung in larger media outlets.

The Wicks launched The West Plains Stream, a monthly newsmagazine that covers community stories in Airway Heights, Medical Lake and the Fairchild Air Force Base, in February. They wanted to use the publication to connect the community to the stories that exist within it and inspire local involvement.

The newsmagazine is published around the 15th of each month in a "unique distribution model" of mailing it to almost 10,000 residents in the Airway Heights and Medical Lake ZIP codes for free.

Ben Wick said mailing the magazine is helpful for advertisers as it ensures that their advertisements are seen. However, putting The West Plains Stream in the hands of readers is not only to spotlight advertisers, but to connect the community stories within the community itself.

"It's easily accessed that way and our mission statement is 'honoring communities and encouraging citizen involvement,'" Danica Wick said. "I think us direct mailing it and just putting out the effort to go and find the news just really is part of our mission statement of getting people involved. And you know, putting it in their hands is kind of the first step."

Every story found within The West Plains Stream is a community story, according to Danica Wick. Whether it be about the Spokane City Council or a local nonprofit, if the story has a direct tie to the Airway Heights and Medical Lake community, then it can find itself in the newsmagazine.

"We think those smaller local stories are what makes us and our community who we are," Danica Wick said. "Those not getting the spotlight that they deserve, when they're what makes us who we are, is a tragedy. So, that's really my favorite part of owning the newspaper is getting to spotlight those things."

The community news is important, Ben Wick said, because both he and Danica are connected to their community in multiple ways. Ben Wick, an Eastern Washington University graduate, noticed a "craving for news" that concerned the community itself.

"I was an honoree, or am an honorary commander at the Fairchild Air Force Base, and hearing some of their stories of how to try and get the information out in the community, how to share their story and then learning more about it, they didn't really know things were going on in the surrounding community," Ben Wick said.



Danica Wick (left) and Ben Wick (right) created a monthly newsmagazine covering the West Plains area.

Ben Wick is also a city council member in Spokane Valley and noticed a disconnect within the communities, which is a part of why he and Danica Wick decided to launch The West Plains Stream.

"[The city council is] like 'you know, how do we get more news out, there's not really anybody following the City Council in their community?'" Ben Wick said. "There's a lot of disconnect. I mean, they're in two different school districts. So, whether their kids go to school in Cheney or their kids go to school in Medical Lake, how do they know really what's going on?"

Danica Wick said that she hopes to bridge this disconnect. She also said that The West Plains Stream's staff of writers has helped them to find stories that are hyperlocal all by being connected to the community.

"It's a lot of footwork really just being out there and being with the people so that we know those stories are occurring," Danica Wick said. "And being a great partner with the community so that they want to call us and give us stories. I think that's the best thing is just to be receptive to somebody calling and saying 'Hey, this is happening tomorrow. If you're interested in covering it, we'd love to have you there.'"

The community has already responded positively to the newsmagazine, according to Ben Wick, with more calls and emails coming in than either of the Wicks' other publications.

"We ran out the first edition of the newspaper, which is phenomenal," Danica Wick said. "We had over 30 people email

or call us the day they got it in the mailbox, which is incredible."

The Wicks have operated two other publications — The Liberty Lake Splash and The Greater Spokane Valley Current — since 2016 when they acquired the publications from Peridot Publishing. Danica Wick said that she finds value in keeping their work in print.

"I think that's why the content is so important ... because it is valuable to every person whose hands we put it in," Danica Wick said. "And that's kind of why we keep it as hyperlocal as we do."

The first edition of The West Plains Stream was released in February and Danica Wick already had ideas for what they wanted added to the newsmagazine just weeks after the first edition was released.

"I think the other thing that was missing in our first one, but will be in upcoming editions, is we have what we call the community box, and we go and solicit a student of the month and athlete of the month," Danica Wick said. "So, both of those would be high school students, and our community member of the month so that we can highlight the achievements of people in the community. We love having that spotlight for community members that otherwise might not get that."

Ben Wick also said they are trying to connect to other communities as well as sharing stories of the Fairchild Air Force Base.

"We'd love to kind of figure out the Cheney aspect, whether that fits into The

Stream, or their community is distinct enough that it maybe [has] a different publication out there," Ben Wick said. "But, we're just trying to focus on the local communities around here, and how we can help share their stories."

Ben Wick said the newsmagazine holds value because it connects communities and ensures that people know what is happening in the places they find themselves.

"I think we live in a world where there's so much disconnect and divide, sharing those local stories that bring people back together and kind of show them that civility," Ben Wick said. "Because if we can have different perspectives, we can figure out how to work together and understand what's going on."

Danica Wick said she hopes that with the spread of community news through the newsmagazine, people will be inspired to become active in the community.

"The importance of being civic-minded is that it's the beginning of our community's legacy," Danica Wick said. "For me, as a mom, that's what I want my kids' heart to be ... that's just the beginning of them being good people and our world being a good place, and I hope that our newspaper does that much of that out in where we live."

Access to the electronic editions and more information about the West Plains Stream can be found on its website.

Kaya Crawford is a sports editor.



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DIVERSITY

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mode to convey their message. Some moved to the front of the stage to connect with the audience, some used lighting to articulate the mood and others used props.

Audience member and GU student Kira Bifone said she appreciates Diversity Monologues and what an event like this contributes to the GU community.

"I love Diversity Monologues," Bifone said. "It might be the best thing that Gonzaga does every single year. It's just such a beautiful experience where people come together and share their real, raw stories and I think it's something super special."

Tramble said the themes she explored when composing her performance were personal and something that she was new to exploring.

"My piece was about grief, but it's also about overcoming," Tramble said, "This is something very fresh to me."

Collecting moments of emotion was a large part of the creative process involved in crafting this monologue for Tramble. Through these pieces, she put together a story to share with the community.

"I've actually had this little notes app of things that have just popped into my mind so when it was time for me to put this together, I already had so many gems that written down, just my real raw emotions, I was like, 'oh, let me take this and build off of that,'" Tramble said.

Reflecting on the event after hearing each of the 10 monologuists, Bifone said events like Diversity Monologues are important to students on a personal level and the community as a whole.

"I think that it's everything," Bifone said. "I think that having spaces where students can share real and authentic stories is more than anyone could ask for."

Hannah Brown is a staff writer.



JOSHUA GARCIA IG: @flamed.flicks

Student performers take a bow after the 14th annual Diversity Monologues event.

SERIES

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The series has included a variety of interdisciplinary education around the topic, such as presentation on history, interfaith, recognizing bias and refugees. It has also included presentations from both people affiliated and not connected to the university.

One talk, for example, will be from two bereaved parents, both Israeli and Palestinian, who lost children in the conflict.

"It's helpful for a school to [not only] try to cover what's a very complicated and intense and challenging topic, but to [also] provide some interdisciplinary education to it and to encourage folks to come together to learn more and make informed decisions about where they stand or what they want to do with that information," said Dean for Social Justice Leadership & Community Empowerment Joan Iva Fawcett, one of the administrators working on the series.

The series was developed by a large group of different campus groups, including those in student affairs and academic departments.

Students from the Jewish Student Union and Muslim Student Association, along with those in the Unity Multicultural Education Center and the Gonzaga Student Body Association, were also involved in the planning.

"I felt it was important to have a pretty significant group in order to learn what we need to learn from these different expertise groups, as well as represent the views of those who might have specific feelings," Kopp said.

The group met first in December and then again throughout this spring semester, as members of the committee split up to plan different events.

"I am appreciative that this is happening, however messy or 'build it while you fly it' it may be," Fawcett said. "There's frustrations around project management and different work styles like there always is. There's 20

gazillion people in that room — lots of different power dynamics from students to tenured faculty. I just appreciate that the institution is doing something that I don't think is causing harm."

The hope of the conversation series is for the GU community to learn more about the issue and be able to have dialogue around it.

Kopp said that conversations, especially those around divisive issues, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, do not happen often.

"It's important for us as an institution to foster the conversations and foster the ability to have the conversations," Kopp said. "What you see in public media is people screaming at each other, about so many different topics, not just this, but electoral politics or debates about rights in the Constitution. There's not a lot of good modeling on what's sometimes called civil discourse."

Fawcett and Kopp agreed that this conversation series aligns with the Jesuit mission of the university. Fawcett said she hopes students will feel empowered to do some advocacy after the events.

"I would love for a student or students to come to something and (have) their passion sparked or reignited around a particular issue related to this topic and to hopefully be more informed to organize something around it in terms of advocacy," Fawcett said.

Kopp said helping students be leaders in the world is one of the goals of Jesuit education and believes that this conversation series aligns with that goal.

"I think that individuals in this community may choose to have their courses of action," Kopp said. "I mean, our job as an institution is to train or create an environment where you all become leaders in the world. So, at this moment, it's to model that opportunity here so that when you all go out in the world, you do it the best you can."

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

CRUZ

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"The statues, the memorials, they show the values of the campus, and so having no Asian Americans represented through any monuments or statues, it really sent that message that, 'Your stories and voices, they don't matter,'" Moua said.

Moua and other student organizers involved in the project began meeting with President Thayne McCulloh and Provost Sacha Kopp to discuss implementing the project, who, according to Moua, were receptive to the idea. Then, they began working directly with University Advancement to coordinate the execution of the plan. After Moua, Liam and other organizers graduated, the project got passed down to sophomore Andrea Galvin.

Part of the planning process also included deciding on the form of the dedication. According to Moua, they decided on having the dedication in the form of a bench to recognize that students of color on campus are often the ones advocating for increased representation, diversity and inclusion, which can lead to stress and burnout. By providing these students with a place to sit and rest, Moua said the dedication intends to combat this burnout and reaffirm their value.

"We wanted to say through this bench that it's acceptable to rest and it's OK to take up space when our society often tells communities of color not to," Moua said. "We wanted this bench to say your stories and lives are valuable."

Galvin similarly said that rest is vital for sustaining social justice and activist work, a sentiment that influenced the plaque's inscription.

"Activism cannot be sustained until we prioritize rest," Galvin said. "And so, especially it being a bench, I thought like, why not use a phrase like, 'Upo muna. Pahinga tayo, Sit first. Let's rest together,' to commemorate not only [Vera Cruz's] work with social justice but also, this being

a student-led project, how we can create a space for rest on campus."

The decision to commemorate Vera Cruz not only through a dedicated bench but also through an event allows the community to celebrate the historic moment of the first Asian American honored through a memorial on campus, according to Moua.

"[This event] is a fun way to celebrate together and to show that we are able to move mountains when we collaborate together," Moua said.

Galvin also said that the purpose of the event is to increase awareness of the event and to provide a space for individuals to be in community.

"We wanted this to be something that was really and truly remembered by all of the students, and we also wanted this to become an opportunity for students to have some fun and excitement and to connect with one another," Galvin said.

The impact of collaboration and cross-cultural solidarity is something Moua hopes attendees can learn from Vera Cruz's life.

"I hope that people can see in this event that Asian and Latinx solidarity, it has happened before in the past and it still continues to happen," Moua said. "I hope that people are inspired to work with other communities to have that cross-cultural solidarity."

From this event and bench dedication, Galvin said she hopes students of all marginalized identities will know that they are seen, valued and belong at GU.

"I hope that students feel more comforted by this in knowing that they aren't alone, whether they are a first-generation student or they are working or if they come from any marginalized identity, I hope that they feel that they still have a part on this campus and that they are valued," Galvin said.

Clarinne Kirk is a news editor.

MCKAY

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showed her the complexities of doing good ministry in an academic setting.

"They just broke my heart wide open by the middle of the year because I think by nature of spending at least two hours a day together every day for a whole school year, I learned a lot about how to be in good relationships with people, but also how to do good ministry," McKay said.

For McKay, the most eye-opening lesson she learned was that supporting someone as a campus minister often has little to do with faith itself.

"Most of the time, it had nothing to do with talking about faith," McKay said. "It was really just learning how to deeply invest in them as humans and hear what was going on in their lives. We had great conversations about injustice and what they felt like their commitment to their community was."

McKay took into account her experience at Cristo Rey when she decided to pursue a master's degree in theology and pastoral ministry at Villanova University, located just outside of Philadelphia. She also served as a campus ministry intern at the school while completing her two-year program.

With Villanova being an Augustinian Catholic institution, McKay said she enjoyed that it shared many of the same values as GU. One comparison McKay made was the emphasis on students using their knowledge and wisdom to help build a just and peaceful world.

"They care about similar concepts as the Jesuits," McKay said. "This is really specific Jesuit language but like the way of saying, 'We can seek greater good, we can seek God in all things, we can try to be who God calls us to be in the world and put faith into action for justice.'"

McKay said she pondered her own purpose and how she could help others before deciding to return to GU as a campus minister in 2018. During her five years as a campus minister, she worked with campus minister the Rev. Janeen Steer, who was McKay's CLC leader in college.

The two have continued to collaborate as co-directors of University Ministry this year, and Steer spoke highly of McKay's leadership style.

"Meredith is a great listener and she is able to pause, reflect and then give an answer in a clear, concise manner," Steer said. "As a Jesuit school, it is important that the leaders of our area understand Ignatian spirituality and the Jesuit charism. Meredith participates in Ignatian spiritual practices and has been Jesuit educated. She believes in



RACHEL TRUSSELL IG: @racheltrussellphotography

Meredith McKay is a GU alumna, having graduated in 2015. the Jesuit vision and has the capacity to animate the GU mission."

After a rigorous application process, McKay remembers getting a call from Ellen Maccarone. McKay accepted the offer and finalized some paperwork before it was announced to the student body through an email from Maccarone.

Maccarone worked with McKay during her final year as a campus minister and in her role as interim co-director of University Ministry.

"Meredith not only has the needed experience and expertise in ministry, she is curious and is willing to try new things," Maccarone said. "She seeks not only her own development, but those of others on her team, which is invaluable. She's reflective and asks meaningful questions about working with students, collaborating across campus, and the nature of work and being a leader."

While McKay's new position is to lead the school's University Ministry, she said she will continue partnering with other offices to create positive change within the GU community. Last summer, McKay ran a spirituality workshop for BRIDGE students through the Unity Multicultural Education Center.

"We want to get ourselves into different spaces and say 'How can we support you and your students?'" McKay said.

"Being able to say 'Here's something that we can offer and kind of work with you on but cater it specifically to what your hopes are for your students.'"

McKay's thoughtful and caring approach has positively impacted many students, according to GU junior Halle Aparicio. McKay mentored Aparicio as a student minister and the two have led and participated in retreats together.

"Meredith's genuine care for others shines through in everything she does," Aparicio said. "She is deeply committed to making sure that individuals feel known, heard, and seen — a testament to her empathetic and compassionate leadership."

When McKay assumes her new role on June 1, she'll be one year away from completing a Doctorate of Ministry, Church Leadership and Community Witness from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. It's considered a hybrid program where McKay visits the school in Atlanta five times during the three-year program.

The topic of her research is trauma-informed care, which she discovered a passion for when she saw it being practiced at Cristo Rey. She hopes to adapt the concept to be implemented at GU.

"The way [Cristo Rey] set up their classroom, the way they set up each of their class sessions is based on their understanding of trauma and the background of the students that are coming into the classrooms," McKay said. "And so what I figured is, there's got to be a way to think about how we're doing that in ministry because we know students come in here who have trauma backgrounds."

McKay said she is hopeful this type of care for students can help them flourish at GU.

"I think in ministry, particularly if we can engage with people in a way that makes them be able to regulate and feel safe enough, that also allows them to grow, which is the ultimate hope of campus ministry kind of work," McKay said.

While McKay won't move into her new office for another few months, the community is already looking forward to seeing what she has planned for the 2024-25 school year.

"What excites me about Meredith in her new role is the way in which she has thrown herself into this work, both with her colleagues and students," Maccarone said. "I am impressed by how she is bringing to bear her academic research and seeking ways to be a better supervisor and leader — much of this self-directed. I expect we'll see good things from her and University Ministry."

Henry Krueger is the managing editor. Follow him on X: @henrykrueger.

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Educated and informed voting is vital

Democracy is only functional when citizens participate in their democracy. The most basic way that participation is expected in our country is through voting.

Especially for young adults, voting is really important. It may seem like a lot of the political issues seen in the world don't affect college kids, but that could not be further from the truth. Just because certain political issues might not have a personal impact right now doesn't mean they won't in the future.

While getting to the polls is half the battle for college students, it's not enough to make sure that your voice is being heard in the way that you want it to be.

Voting without prior education doesn't give a platform for change in the political landscape. It's important to head to the polls with a decent understanding of what each candidate stands for and where your vote is actually heading.

This doesn't mean you need to be an expert, but it does mean that you need to take the time to understand what your vote is advocating for.

While party lines are a good place to start, there are lots of issues that individual candidates may hold different views on from their party. Simply choosing a party isn't enough to make informed decisions in primary elections.

The news is another great resource for learning about the political climate in the United States. Understanding current



By KAITLIN SMITH

events can give a background for what changes you think need to happen. Be weary of the popular sites, as most of the news that we see is biased in some ways.

If you're not sure what news you can trust, there are lots of online resources that can help you to understand which way different news sources lean.

Many different organizations create versions of the media bias chart. A simple Google search can lead you to diagrams, articles and information that can help you to decide what sources are worth your trust.

In addition to finding unbiased sources, it's also important to look at issues from both sides of the spectrum. An important aspect of being an informed voter is understanding all aspects of a political issue.

This is not to say that you should

expose yourself to harmful or hateful content surrounding some topics, but understanding where division is present in the government can give a good understanding of the important individual issues within a certain concern in the U.S.

Once you have an educated opinion on the issues that are prevalent in our society, you can look into what candidate advocates for the causes you find most important.

Now that you've done your research, the next step is to get to the voting booth. This will look a little different for everyone, especially with the diverse backgrounds of students at GU.

If you are not yet registered to vote, you can do so online through your home state. Most states have a quick and easy registration process, but make sure to use your permanent address in your home state and fill out the form well in advance of the election that you are planning on voting in. If you are from a state other than Washington, you should register and request an absentee ballot at least two months prior to the election that you plan to vote in.

If you are a Washington resident, all voting is done through the mail. Once you register to vote, you can have your ballot mailed directly to your campus address. For election day in November, there will be a drop box on campus to place your ballot in.

If you are not a Washington resident,

no need to fear. You can request an absentee ballot online through your state and have it mailed directly to your campus address.

Most states do not have an opening date for requesting mail-in ballots, but make sure you request one with plenty of time before the election. Once you fill out the ballot, you can drop it off at the campus mail office or any post office. This will require you to provide postage, but in October and November you can find free stamps on campus for mailing absentee ballots.

Election Day in November is not the only important day to get to the polls. Primary elections are the races that decide which candidates from each party will face off for an elected position in November. In primary elections, you are only able to vote for candidates from the party that you designate yourself as when registering to vote.

The primary election for the next presidential election has already passed in Washington, but your home state may have not cast their votes yet. Make sure to check your state's primary election date and get your ballot in to make sure your voice is heard.

Every vote matters, so make sure you get out to the polls this election season to voice your opinion and do your part to participate in our democracy.

Kaitlin Smith is a staff writer.

Spring days are near, which is music to all our ears

When the first few summery days poke their heads out of winter's den, there are a few songs I believe ought to be a staple in everyone's queue. So, suspend your disbelief with me for a moment, and let's imagine spring has arrived in Spokane.

It's a balmy 77 degrees and sunny on an April Friday, and you've just gotten home from your class in College Hall. Sunlight floods through the windows as you pull the shades and set your bag down on the floor of your room.

There's an assignment due for your 4 p.m. class, but sitting down to your desk, golden rays streaming through the window make the two-page summary feel like light work. Tapping the button on your JBL and starting Spotify are steps one and two in assembling the perfect vibe.

You queue up "Sunshine" by the Arcs. Upbeat, pop-y piano and laid-back vocals fill the room — the title says it all. You settle down with the perfect walk-up song for spring assignment completion. But, nearly as soon as you've cracked the laptop, you see an email drop into the good old inbox. The subject reads "Canceling Today's Class Meeting."

You could cry tears of joy — though of course, not because of the professor's dog's emergency appendectomy — only because Princess's extremely unfortunate afternoon has blessed the class with an assignment extension for another week. As if on cue, the group chat gets active.

Texts are flying, and the plan blossoms rapidly. The group's taking the afternoon air. The one friend with the uncovered jeep has pickup duty, then a cruise through the Zip's drive-thru for milkshakes and finally setting up the slackline next to Lake Arthur for some thoroughly unadulterated chilling.



By ANDERS SVENNINGSSEN

You're getting scooped up first, so you stuff a backpack with only the essentials. A Frisbee, half a bag of cutie mandarin oranges and the JBL. Dashing out the door wearing shades and shorts, you feel unstoppable.

Hopping into the jeep, you're greeted with a huge grin and the aux cord — wasting no time keeping the vibes high for a spring drive, you throw on "The Spins" by Mac Miller, because you just can't beat a classic. The high-energy "Empire of the Sun" sample glides under Mac's higher-energy flow as you assemble the crew. Soon you're all rolling down Mission Street, bound for the holy taste of Zip's.

Pulling into the line, your next up in the queue, "Green Grass" by George Ezra, serves up a bumping, funky baseline well-complemented by full vocals that once again are perfect for a "blue, blue sky."

Milkshakes acquired; you're headed back to campus. Parking behind the Jepson Center, your little group clambers out of the jeep and starts toward the grass, as

conversation and laughter bubble down the hill, over the wide, paved sidewalks. You find yourselves a little spot between birches on the grass, set up the slackline, unfold blankets and pulling your JBL out of the backpack, you once again find yourself with aux duties.

It's nice to have high-energy music when gliding down sunny streets, but now you feel a more mellow mood emanating from your friends. Lying down on a blanket, you queue up "Valerie" by Amy Winehouse. Her soothing, lyrical voice hovers, shimmering and reflected in the lake before dissolving into the warm air.

You spend the afternoon trying in vain to learn the slackline, tossing the Frisbee and lazily shooting the breeze from your blankets played out on the lawn.

Before you know it, the glow of the sun has already moved behind Jundt, and the evening is almost upon your little group of college-aged, granola, PNW-core, Gen-Z hippies. People are laying down plans for the night, who's hitting Jan's, who's going downtown, but your mind is wandering elsewhere, as things begin to wind down.

The light turns from goldish pink to deep orange as the sun falls behind the clouds, heralding the end of your spring soirée. Looking around at the familiar faces of your friends, you feel a still and peaceful gratitude and queue up one last, fitting tune on your dying JBL.

"Let's Be Still" by the Head and the Heart echoes off the face of the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center. Off in the distance, couples are walking the path next to the Spokane River and a flock of birds flies over the St. Aloysius spires. The music sails into the air, out over campus and fades in the dwindling sunlight of your spring day.

Anders Svenningsen is a staff writer.

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Contact Info:

Email: bulletin@zagmail.gonzaga.edu

Office phone: 509-313-6826

Advertising: 509-313-6839 or adoffice@gonzaga.edu

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TikTok shifting music industry

Since its roots in the popular 2010s app Musical.ly, TikTok has encouraged its users to upload videos that use a 15-second clip of any song of their choosing. Recently, the world's largest music company, Universal Music Group, has removed its music from the platform over a dispute about artist compensation.

Personally, I believe UMG is justified in making this decision. The music industry has undergone significant changes due to the rise of TikTok and greatly affected the way that younger generations view music as a whole. Less music on the app could lead to a return to healthier, standard listening habits.

Not to sound curmudgeonly, but before the internet existed, the way that music factored into the media and people's lives was entirely different from the repetitive bombardment of songs we've become accustomed to today.

Popular songs were used in movies and TV shows back in the day, but when scrolling through the TikTok "For You Page," users are forced to listen to at least the beginning of whichever song the video creator selected, and oftentimes there are thousands of videos under the most viral songs.

As a result, music artists are focused on releasing a song that has one catchy part that they know the majority of people on social media will like, and this completely undermines the point of music which is to write an aural masterpiece that people can appreciate as a whole.

Anyone who is human will eventually get annoyed when the same section of songs e.g., "I think I like this little life," are hurled at them repeatedly while they're scrolling.

Utilizing TikTok as a way to



By ABBY SCHREUDER

gain traction and grow a fanbase has helped artists considerably, and I'd be lying if I said I didn't discover some of my favorite artists through TikTok. But on the flip side, whenever a song is labeled as a "TikTok song" it loses some of its appeal for me.

It seems like this issue stems from a larger problem that social media has caused in our culture: the fear of feeling like all of our interests are "basic" and not unique. In reality, it's unlikely that you have the exact same likes and dislikes as every other TikTok-watching teenager, and having mainstream tastes isn't necessarily a bad thing.

It used to be cool to keep up with the latest music, and I think this shift is due in part to an increase in the amount of music we're able to consume and the speed at which trends reach masses of people.

TikTok has its pros and cons in terms of the success it brings artists. On one hand, it's served as a medium for singers to promote their work and reach a large number of potential fans, the most notable example being the TikTok frenzy over Noah Kahan's song "Stick Season," which ultimately launched his 2022 album to the top of the charts.

On the contrary, as shown through the UMG dispute, the topic of pay can get messy if a

song is relatively popular on TikTok but isn't actually gaining much in the way of streams or sales.

Concert ticket sales and prices can also increase when artists blow up online, which is good for the singers' wallets but not the fans', many of whom feel they are entitled to go see the artist because they supported them before their recognition on TikTok.

I agree with this sentiment to an extent; I've definitely been guilty of complaining about concert tickets going up due to an artist's success, but this phenomenon occurred before social media as well. It was just slower and less noticeable because of the lack of high-speed worldwide connection.

Let's not forget how companies like Ticketmaster have taken advantage of their control over the concert ticket market, eliciting complaints from many artists who want their shows to remain attainable for fans to attend.

I hope that UMG's decision encourages the music industry to recognize the value of quality songwriting and original music. Depending on the conflict's outcome, artists may need to find new ways to promote their work, but since the industry thrived for so long without the app, I'm pretty confident they can.

Most importantly, we can look at this as an opportunity to listen to the music we love in peace instead of hearing the same 15 seconds over and over and over and over and ... you get the point.

Abby Schreuder is a staff writer.



LUCY BOOTH IG: @lucybooth.photo

When venturing off the beaten path, it is important to be well equipped with the proper shoes, water bottle and other key essentials.

Gearing up for the great outdoors

COMMENTARY
By CLARINNE KIRK

As the weather turns warm and Foley Lawn turns from desolate and mud-filled to covered in swarms of students playing Spikeball and having picnics, it is clear that spring is upon us and with that, the opportunity to return to the outdoors.

Yet, with outdoor recreating, there can be a never-ending list of expensive must-haves and an overwhelming number of options for each product. With this variety of choices and the constant pressure to have the best gear, it can be hard to know: what are the actual outdoor essentials?

For those who don't want to venture too far from their dorms to enjoy the outdoors, simply reading or relaxing alongside Lake Arthur provides an easy opportunity to get a quick nature fix. Hammocking is a popular option for relaxing outdoors in comfort without breaking the bank. With hammocks that are both compact and durable, Wise Owl Outfitters produces quality products that are still affordable, with prices ranging from \$25-30.

Another gear item that can elevate an

outdoor study session is a Crazy Creek, a foldable chair without legs that provides some back support while still letting the user stay literally grounded. Crazy Creeks are also reasonably priced given the durability of the product, with most retailing for \$40.

For those interested in venturing further off the beaten path, having a good pair of shoes is essential for staying active and safe while hiking. To make sure you can stay on the trails and mitigate potential blistering, it is important to ensure that you have a good-fitting pair of shoes and that you break new shoes in on shorter walks before attempting to summit a mountain. Merrell offers a variety of hiking boots that are comfortable, durable and affordable, with some boots selling for about \$100.

For those interested in a lightweight, all-purpose option, trail running shoes are a good alternative to hiking boots that allow the wearer more freedom than the traditional, stiff hiking boot, while still having traction necessary for the trails. My favorite trail running shoes are the Brooks Cascadia, which are cushioned and supportive with great traction and a toe plate to protect from rocks and roots.

From long trail runs to short hikes, the

Cascadia shoes have kept me moving mile after mile, no matter the terrain. While Brooks' trail running shoes can be a little more spendy, with prices ranging from \$130-170, it's worth the price to protect from injuries and invest in a product that will last for years (I have had my Brooks Cascadias for three years and the soles have still yet to wear out).

To protect from the sun and stay moving in any temperature, a sun hoodie is a great option for staying covered while keeping cool. Sun hoodies are made from a light, UV-protective fabric that keeps the sun off your skin while wicking sweat. Sun hoodies are also great layering options, perfect in hot temperatures or in the cooler, spring mornings. REI offers an affordable option at \$49, and with frequent sales giving discounts on their brand clothing, it's easy to find one for even cheaper.

To protect your eyes from the sun, good sunglasses are a must-have. These polarized sunglasses are also virtually indestructible, with mine surviving weeklong backpacking trips, tumbles down rock faces and hail storms. At an affordable price of \$25, you don't have to worry about destroying an expensive pair of sunglasses while on your next

adventure.

Another important way to protect yourself from the sun is to wear sunscreen, even on cloudy days. When outside and in bodies of water, it is important to use zinc-based, environmentally safe sunscreen. Thinkspout creates reef-safe, chemical-free sunscreen that will protect not only your health but also the health of the environment.

While having the right gear is important to staying safe and prepared while in the outdoors, expensive gear can also be a barrier to entry into many outdoor sports. It's important to be crafty when looking for outdoor gear, seeking quality over price or prestige. Looking for gear at thrift stores or secondhand outdoor gear stores, such as Rambleraven or REI's used gear section, is one way to get outside without draining your savings.

Most importantly, you don't need fancy, expensive gear to enjoy the outdoors. All you need is a sense of adventure and awe at the beautiful expanse of nature surrounding you.

Clarinne Kirk is a news editor.

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level 1 2 3 4

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

Solution to Last Week's puzzle 3/24/24

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

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

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Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
19					20				21					22						
23				24					25					26						
27								28					29							
				30				31					32							
33	34	35	36		37		38		39	40	41				42	43	44			
45				46		47		48		49					50					
51					52				53					54						
55								56					57	58			59			
				60				61				62	63				64			
		65	66					67				68				69				
70				71					72				73							
74				75					76					77		78	79	80		
81				82				83	84	85			86	87						
88								89					90				91			
92				93	94					95		96			97			98		
				99						100		101			102	103				
104	105	106						107	108					109			110	111	112	113
114								115						116						
117								118						119						
121								122						123						

OBVIOUSLY!

By Chandni Deitmer

ACROSS

1	Luminescent gems	55	Bob in the Basketball	102	Spy org.	14	Seem (to be)	69	Birds mummified in ancient Egypt
6	Fish head?	60	Stern direction?	104	Surreptitious one	15	Rum cocktail	70	Madison Ave. industry
10	"Who Let the Dogs Out" group ___ Men	61	Stinging insect	107	French composer Gabriel	17	Ingressed by	76	Ensembles associated with Hillary Clinton
14	Act extempore	62	Dorky one	109	Former police procedural starring Kathryn Morris	18	Drop of sweat	78	Bonus, in 70-Down lingo
19	Lear daughter	65	"We all see the obvious here, right?," and how to make six long answers in this puzzle match their clues?	114	Jazz great Armstrong	25	Defrost	79	"Bearded" flower
20	Breakfast scramble	66	Marshmallow Man in "Ghostbusters"	115	Energy supplies that are just OK?	29	Word that may be replaced by a slash	80	Marbled breads
21	Some deleted contacts	67	Piccata bud	117	"You mean a lot to me"	31	NPR show hosted by Terry Gross	82	"Try to stop me now!"
22	Enlightenment philosopher Thomas	68	Marine mammal in a matrilineal group	118	"This ___ fair"	32	Open carriages	84	Nickname that drops -ing
23	Poorly put together trays?	69	Anti-fraud org.	119	Pool table fabric	33	Lily-Rose ___ of "The Idol"	85	French pronoun
26	Mary-in-mourning piece	70	Bear's lair	120	Tempts	34	Fantasy baddie	86	"TBH" kin
27	Marshmallow Man in "Ghostbusters"	71	Reddit forum for inquiries	121	Yeanned (for)	35	Determination	87	Actual expenditures
28	Capital of Tibet	72	Early educ.	122	Flight nos.	36	Location metadata	93	Gave a boost
29	Literary whaler	73	Potent potion	123	Takes a load off	38	Skincare brand	94	Film critic Reed
30	Start and end of a faceoff?	74	Citrusy suffix	124	"Thus ..."	40	"Ew, stop sharing"	95	Stepped tent
31	___ of strength	75	Piccata bud			41	Steamed bite	97	Rural tower
32	Boyfriend	76	Marine mammal in a matrilineal group			42	Abolitionist Harriet	101	Underwater ecosystems
33	Rap's Snoop ___	77	Anti-fraud org.			43	Conditioning, as a bamboo cutting board	103	"Mrs. America" Emmy winner Uzo
37	God destined to slay the sea serpent Jörmungandr	78	Bear's lair			44	Hägar's dog	104	Marina space
45	Ice rink leap	79	Reddit forum for inquiries			46	Like some glasses	105	Centers
49	Self-satisfied	80	Early educ.			48	Path of ___ resistance	106	Currency also known as the renminbi
50	Bankrupt	81	Purple or green herb			52	Gp. concerned with crashes	107	Rock, in Rock, Paper, Scissors
51	Pews?	82	Khaki work uniform?			53	Swiss instrument traditionally made from red pine	108	___ Mae Bullock: Tina Turner's birth name
		83	Checkout unit			54	Paying strict attention	109	Gaul or Breton
		84	Checkout unit			55	Ocean floor	110	Ocean Spray prefix
		85	Waffle ___			56	Comm. system with visual cues	111	Base's chemical opposite
		86	Identical			57	Beluga, e.g.	112	Complete groups
		87	Spine-chilling			58	Gets feedback from an early audience	113	Provincial petrol provider
		88	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			59	Conceptualize	115	Old-limey "ugh"
		89	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			60	More on edge	116	Camping gear co-op
		90	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			61	___ awareness		
		91	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			62	Twistable cookies		
		92	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			63	Iga Swiatek's org.		
		93	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			64	Conceptualize		
		94	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			65	More on edge		
		95	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			66	___ awareness		
		96	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			67	___ awareness		
		97	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			68	Twistable cookies		
		98	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			69	Twistable cookies		
		99	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			70	Twistable cookies		
		100	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			71	Twistable cookies		
		101	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			72	Twistable cookies		
		102	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			73	Twistable cookies		
		103	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			74	Twistable cookies		
		104	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			75	Twistable cookies		
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		112	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			83	Twistable cookies		
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		118	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			89	Twistable cookies		
		119	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			90	Twistable cookies		
		120	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			91	Twistable cookies		
		121	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			92	Twistable cookies		
		122	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			93	Twistable cookies		
		123	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			94	Twistable cookies		
		124	Request from one who prefers dry mashed potatoes?			95	Twistable cookies		

Cooking up a social media storm

By NATALIE KELLER

Before the beginning of the school year, Gonzaga University senior Reid Quiggins did not have any social media apps downloaded on his phone. That changed in October 2023, when Quiggins, an economics major, created accounts on Instagram, TikTok and YouTube and began uploading video cooking tutorials to the social media platforms.

In about six months, Quiggins' Instagram account has amassed over 75,000 followers. Several of his cooking videos have been viewed by over 1 million people, and one of his videos has received 4 million views. Quiggins said he does not plan to stop his social media or cooking endeavors any time soon.

"It's just one thing that is fully me, that I'm just producing and I can take accountability for," Quiggins said.

Cooking has been one of Quiggins' hobbies for about eight years. While Quiggins said his mom and grandma were avid chefs, he did not start regularly cooking full meals for himself until his freshman year of high school — something he said he enjoyed doing.

Looking for a reason to cook more often, Quiggins turned to creating cooking videos on social media under his accounts titled "Reid's Active Kitchen." Quiggins said that, at first, his videos were simple and focused primarily on his recipes, featuring footage of him cooking set to music.

"At the beginning, I was just experimenting," Quiggins said. "But then, as I started to gain an audience, I tried to tune into what they were finding value in in my videos."

When his videos began to receive more views in January, Quiggins said he began to reevaluate the focus of his content. Quiggins said that, despite his involvement in social media, he believes it is generally harmful to individuals and wanted his videos to reflect that belief.

"Over the years, I've seen what [social media] has done to myself and my peers as it's gotten more and more ingrained in everyday life, and I haven't really enjoyed those changes for myself or other people,"



Reid Quiggins shows off some of his cooking creations while he films a video tutorial for social media.

Quiggins said. "I just wanted to be sure that if I am going to do something like this, that I am doing something distinctly different and not just blending into what's already been done and contributing to people spending more time alone, staring at their phones."

Quiggins began incorporating voice-overs into his videos that often offer viewers advice on how to remain focused and limit their screen time, which he said is meant to encourage mindfulness and "detoxifying" from social media.

"For me, cooking is really just the medium to communicate that message," Quiggins said. "I want to meet people where they are on social media and use that as a platform for them to do things in

real life that they find value in."

Quiggins said his audience has responded well to the mindfulness videos and those videos often garner the most views and positive comments. However, Quiggins said not all the feedback has been positive, estimating that he has also received thousands of negative comments on his videos.

"That's just like all the other fluff on social media — it's not really of any significance," Quiggins said. "The positive feedback is always way more real and way more valuable."

Quiggins said he strives to focus on and improve one thing every time he makes a video and that his friends have helped him by providing feedback.

One of those friends is Caleb Vander Giessen, a GU senior who has known Quiggins for about three years. Vander Giessen estimates that he has tried up to 40% of Quiggins' recipes and said that Quiggins' videos make cooking approachable to viewers.

"I think the best part of Reid's content is that it's accessible and it's something that people can access from wherever they are, whether that's a background with no cooking skills at all or incredible, refined cooking skills," Vander Giessen said. "Anybody can go about trying a recipe."

Vander Giessen also said Quiggins' work ethic has enabled him to improve the quality of his videos over time.

"Reid is incredibly disciplined," Vander Giessen said. "When he wants to do something, when he has a goal or an interest, he goes all in. And I think that's quite evident in the level of production and following he now has."

Meanwhile, Quiggins' mom, Erika Quiggins, said she was surprised when her son decided to start posting videos on social media.

"He's a relatively private person and he kind of keeps his thoughts to himself most of the time," Erika Quiggins said. "And so, that he would jump into social media so completely like this was very surprising."

She also said she was surprised about how much the videos took off.

"It's really exciting, and yet so mind-boggling," Erika Quiggins said. "My husband, Reid's dad, and I look at each other all the time and we're like, 'How can there be 4 million people who want to watch our son cook pasta?'"

However, Quiggins said she is glad her son is using his platform to spread a positive message.

"I can't even tell you how proud I am — it just makes my heart so happy," Erika Quiggins said. "I'm super proud that he's willing to put his ideas and himself out there."

Going forward, Quiggins said he plans to continue making videos and that he hopes to monetize them soon.

"In terms of goals for myself, it's on that line of taking accountability for something that I've grown from nothing," Quiggins said. "That's just rewarding for me. And so my goal there is to continue to grow."

Since he has a job in Seattle that will begin in June, cooking and social media may not be his primary focus after graduating from GU. However, Quiggins said he wants to continue spreading his message of mindfulness through cooking.

"It brings people together," Quiggins said. "The message being good for your mind, and then the food being good for your body."

Quiggins' videos are available on Instagram: @reidsactivekitchen.

Natalie Keller is an arts & entertainment editor.



Quiggins plates his barbecue tofu sandwich recipe, which is posted on his Instagram.

Enjoy a blast from the past with these top tunes

COMMENTARY

By LAURA ERICKSON

After the digital revolution in the late 2000s, both the creation and consumption of music underwent tremendous changes.

Signing to a record label is no longer required to release a single or album, thanks to the invention of electronic instrumental libraries like GarageBand, which allows almost everyone with internet access the potential to craft, record, produce and publish their own music.

Additionally, since Auto-Tune's release in the late 1990s, it doesn't even take talent to achieve musical success when you can simply adjust and correct your pitch to your heart's content.

While we've seen an increase in vinyl record popularity in recent years, they used to be the sole medium of listening to music. From there, we leaped from CDs in the 1980s to MP3s in the 2000s.

Finally, streaming services such as Spotify and Apple Music arrived in the 2010s. Since then, anyone with a subscription can access millions of songs and artists with just a few taps on a smartphone — anytime, anywhere.

With the increase in music's digital availability worldwide, there has been a noticeable decrease in the overall quality of music in the post-digital world. Songs are becoming repetitive and unoriginal — especially after TikTok, where loads of aspiring musicians have turned to promote their copied-and-pasted algorithmic blandness in hopes of going viral.

While there are exceptions to this phenomenon, most of my favorite music comes from generations before my own. From the 1960s to the 1990s, here are some of my top artists that you should be listening to:

1960s

When it comes to 1960s jams, nothing beats the classic surf rockers known as The Beach Boys. Hits like "In My Room" from 1963's "Surfer Girl" and "God Only Knows" from 1966's "Pet Sounds" stay on repeat during the summer months especially.

Despite crossing over into the next decade, dreamy love ballads like "All I Wanna Do" and "Forever" from 1970's "Sunflower" contain the same elements of youthfulness and summer fun but with a more romantic, slow-dancey kick.

Next up, The Mamas & The Papas is another one of my unforgettable 1960s favorites. Their vocal blends and harmonies in songs like "California Dreamin'" from their 1966 album, "If You Can Believe Your Eyes and Ears,"

truly never get old.

A few not-as-well-known tracks, such as 1967's "Dedicated to the One I Love" from "Deliver" and "Snowqueen of Texas" from 1971's "People Like Us" showcase the band's talent just the same and deserve more attention.

1970s

Ask any of my friends what kind of music I like, and they will all mention an artist from the 1970s. To kick off this musical decade, psychedelic rock legends Pink Floyd are the perfect place to start.

The 1973 album "The Dark Side of the Moon" is arguably Floyd's most influential record. The lyricism is just as profound and emotive as the instrumentals. My top picks include "Us and Them," "Time" and "The Great Gig in the Sky." I could go on about this album forever, but in short, there's a reason that its cover is still printed on T-shirts everywhere.

Pink Floyd's "The Wall," released in 1979, is considered one of the greatest albums of all time. It also happens to be my favorite album, ever. I recommend listening to David Gilmour's jaw-dropping, seamless electric guitar solos in "Comfortably Numb" and "Hey You" with headphones on in a dimly lit room. If you don't have an out-of-body experience, I would be surprised. Like a lot of Floyd's songs, this album is long, but so worth the time.

Pioneering folk-rock in the 1970s, Neil Young's intricate acoustic guitar, iconic harmonica riffs and occasional banjo plucks in songs like "Old Man" and "Heart of Gold" from the 1972 record "Harvest" will teleport you to a roadside diner off some American interstate highway.

Two decades later, Young proved that age did not slow down his talent. "Harvest Moon," released in 1992, is my personal favorite from Young's discography. It's a slower, debatably more romantic continuation of "Harvest." "Harvest Moon" is the perfect album for a quiet and scenic late-night drive — preferably "somewhere on a desert highway" — a lyric taken from my favorite track, "Unknown Legend."

Containing lyrics that elude to the familiar, Young-esque imagery of the great American open road, the title track, "Unknown Legend," and "From Hank to Hendrix" are my top song recommendations for potential listeners — especially those who enjoy contemplation, tend to romanticize the past and prefer to take the long road home.

1980s

I will admit that the 1980s are the one musical decade I struggle to consistently enjoy. While I do not have any particular favorite artists from this time, some classic songs I have on heavy rotation are The Psychedelic Furs' "Love My Way" in 1982, Queen's "Radio Ga Ga" in 1984 and The Cure's "Boys Don't Cry" in 1979, although it technically came out in the 1970s.

1990s

Among Seattle's original grunge pioneers, Alice in Chains have got to be one of my favorite artists from the 1990s. Songs like "Would?" and "Rain When I Die" from the album "Dirt" in 1992 showcase their capability to seamlessly blend heavy metal, grunge and alternative rock.

Containing one of my favorite guitar riffs of all time, my personal favorite from Alice in Chains is their second EP, "Jar of Flies." Released in 1994, one of my favorite riffs of all time by none other than grunge-guitarist god Jerry Cantrell, "Nutshell," is a hauntingly beautiful confession of what we can assume are lead vocalist Layne Staley's deepest darkest secrets.

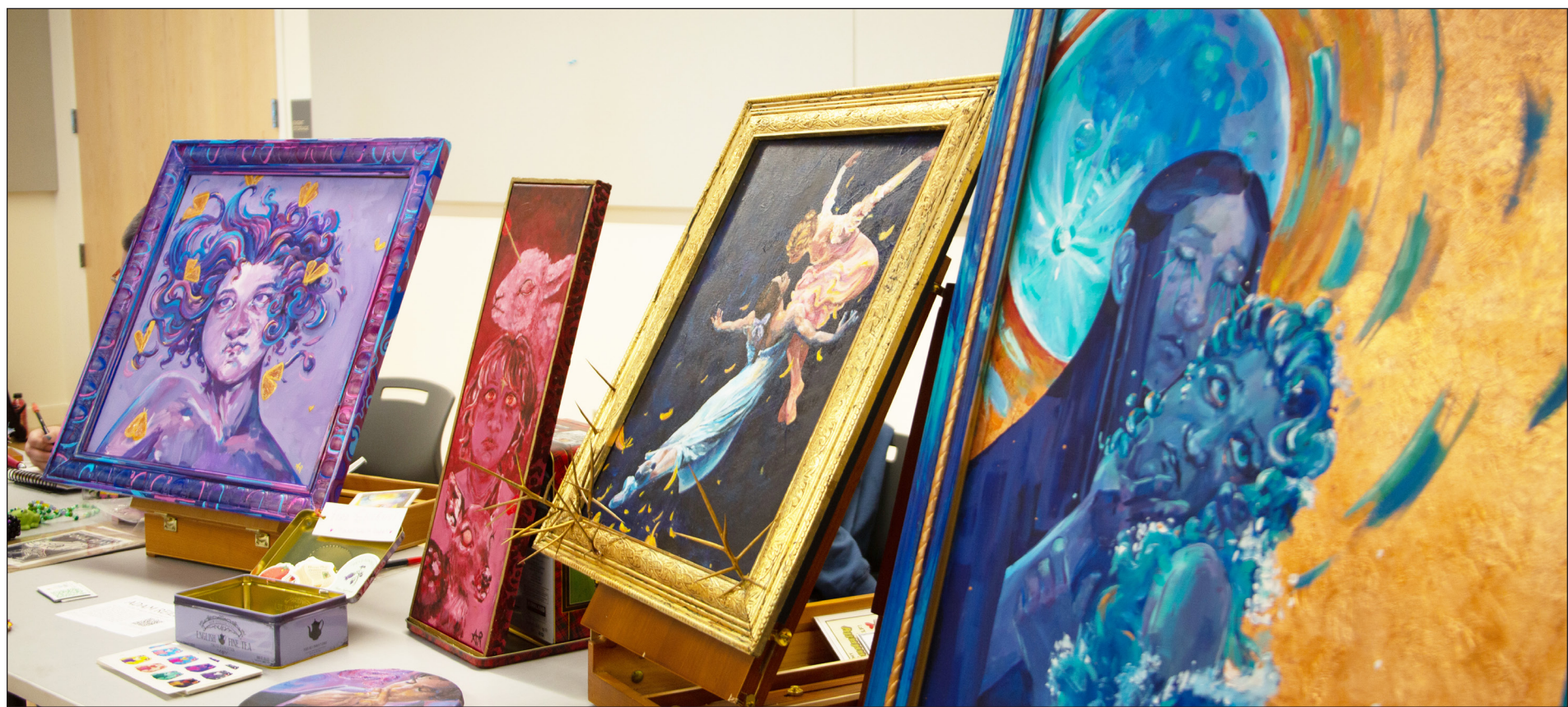
With lyrics like "And yet, I fight this battle all alone" and "If I can't be my own, I'd feel better dead," "Nutshell" is a hard-hitting emotional track. While depressing, the raw emotion conveyed by Staley's grunge vocals makes it worth listening to.

Other songs on the EP that share these melancholic themes with less intensity are "Rotten Apple" and the completely instrumental track, "Whale & Wasp," featuring acoustic and electric guitars as well as violin and cello.

Shaping alternative and experimental 1990s rock, this list would be incomplete without Radiohead. Their 1995 album, "The Bends," is my personal favorite, with "Just," "Fake Plastic Trees" and "Street Spirit (Fade Out)" being my top three tracks — although the album has no skips.

Highlighting the transition from grungy alternative rock to a more electronic sound, Radiohead's groundbreaking 1997 album "OK Computer" is a perfect album to mark the end of music in the 20th century. "No Surprises" and "Karma Police" have been on my list of favorites for years, and will likely stay there.

Laura Erickson is a contributor.



ISABELLA STOUT IG: @isabellacarlin.photography

The collection was a curation from sixteen artists that displayed a wide range of mediums, including embroidery, crochet, paint and poetry.

Art celebrates Trans Day of Visibility

By HOLLY FIJOLEK

Spokane's newly renovated public library in the heart of downtown offers space for community events. On Saturday afternoon, the library used this space to host the Trans Day of Visibility Art Show. This event was a collaboration with Trans Spokane and featured trans and gender-diverse artists local to the Inland Northwest.

Sixteen artists had the opportunity to display some of their work and connect with attendees by sharing their journey and inspirations in creating their art. The featured artwork included a wide range of mediums, including embroidery, crochet, paint and poetry.

Over 173 people expressed interest in the Facebook advertisement alone, said Elijah Wheeler, organizer of the art show. People lined up early and the event remained busy throughout the day.

Wheeler also said hosting this event was important to the queer art scene in Spokane.

"One thing that's really been missing from [queer art events] is space for specifically trans, two-spirit, nonbinary,

gender-diverse artists to share their work in a space that they know is going to be fully affirming for them," Wheeler said.

Jon Tohan, partner of featured artist Jhonas Amulacion, gave insight into "Body of Work," a collection of pieces done by Amulacion that used human and pig blood as a medium.

These pieces, Tohan said, were inspired by the fact that Tohan used to be a frequent blood donor, but was barred from donating after marrying Amulacion. It draws attention to the unfairness in the idea that male presenting queer people's blood is unhealthy due to blood diseases.

"You think human blood is a precious resource ... to display it as art would be a waste," Tohan said. "But, in reality, we couldn't donate this blood if we wanted to."

Amulacion gathered individuals from the Spokane community who wanted to donate their blood to be used in this project, and a local nurse donated her time to safely collect blood from the individuals. Then, Amulacion used ink-blot style brush marks to create the abstract style artwork that was on display.

Tohan and Amulacion have been active in the queer event scene in Spokane and

this was the second art show they have both attended in the area, Tohan said.

"The Spokane Library ... it's an excellent thing that they're doing," Tohan said. "I'm grateful to be here."

Attendee Leonard McDaniel said he agreed with the meaningfulness and success of the event.

"I think this is a really good selection of artists in our community, especially in the trans community," McDaniel said. "They're so talented."

Adam Reilly, a featured artist, displayed his art for the first time in the Spokane community outside of the Spokane school district. Reilly featured paintings that are part of an AP art portfolio for school, which he said he hopes to earn college credit for. Reilly also built his own frames and customized them to match the paintings.

"My theme is what it was like to be raised as a girl with the perspective that I now have, as I'm no longer a girl," Reilly said.

Reilly explored this in one of his paintings, "Moon Mother and Girl Tide."

"It was about affection being something that is expected of you being raised as

a girl," Reilly said. "You don't really get to have a lot of boundaries, especially with older women figures in your life ... returned affection is expected."

Another one of his pieces, which pictured a lamb and deer with an arrow through their heads, depicted Reilly's experiences of observing his female friends after transitioning.

"People treat you a lot different when they perceive you as a man," Reilly said. "Watching the other girls be harmed and hunted by systems in place that are no longer affecting you is really interesting and really kind of scary."

Reilly said the event was an exciting way to share his artwork and connect with other trans artists in the community.

"Most of the artists here I have never met before ... it's amazing to meet other queer artists that are local and that I can continue to interact with in the future," Reilly said. "I probably never would have discovered them without an event like this."

Holly Fijolek is a staff writer.

Basket's best: Make your next picnic a walk in the park

COMMENTARY

By HANNAH BROWN

There are few things better than enjoying a meal with a view, but as college students, high-class dining experiences can seem unattainable.

Let's face it, getting delicious and sustaining food can be difficult as a college student, especially while you're living on campus. Eating out is expensive, cooking in the dorm facilities can be cumbersome and eating at the COG often leaves you longing for a home cooked meal.

When I'm feeling like I need a little extra nourishment for my mind and body that is both practical and affordable, I turn to an age-old fine dining experience: picnicking.

Having a picnic is the perfect opportunity for a reset, and it doesn't have to be complicated. Grab some of your favorite foods, maybe a blanket and go sit down at your favorite spot on campus.

This was one of mine and my roommate's favorite rituals for when we were having a rough week. We would go to the store and grab our favorite assortment of foods: a container of raspberries, a bag of salt and vinegar chips, a thing of pepperoni and two sparkling



RACHEL TRUSSELL IG: @racheltrussellphotography

Curating a spread of your favorite snacks is perfect for picnicking in a transportable and sharable way.

waters. It didn't require anything extravagant, just some of our choice snacks, a place to sit and enjoy each other's company, but it never fails to make my impending responsibilities feel a little bit more manageable.

To elevate this experience further, change up the location and enjoy one of Spokane's many beautiful natural areas. Head to Manito Park, Riverside State Park, Mount Spokane or even just walk down to the shore of the Spokane River to enjoy your

food with a view. If you're venturing off campus to enjoy your picnic, you'll probably want a place to sit. My equipment of choice is a classic picnic blanket. My favorite is my Ruml Blanket. It's weatherproof, durable and insanely comfortable, making it perfect for all terrains. However, this is a pricier option. The old and tattered blanket I keep in the back of my car does the trick for any occasion and gives something that has been well-

loved a new life. If you want to make a little bit more of an excursion out of your meal, my absolute favorite way to picnic is to cook outside. It requires some more materials, likely a camp stove and some dishware, but I promise you the experience is worth the investment.

While a nice camp stove can cost a hundred bucks, there are many more affordable options. Even better, items like this often end up at thrift stores. Buying

the items you need here is more attainable for the meager college budget, and more sustainable. Grab yourself a cooking setup, some sturdy dishware and you're ready to hit the road.

This is how I acquired my collection, and during the summer I just have to throw the Sterilite bin I store it in into my car, and I'm well on my way to having an impromptu dinner date with my friends.

Drive to your favorite destination and prepare a gourmet meal, or just cook up a box of macaroni & cheese. I swear that any food cooked outside tastes so much better than anything that can be made in a dorm kitchen. Better yet, take a walk or hike and when you get back you can cook up something to eat right in the tail of your car.

It's no secret that adjusting to eating in a dining hall and preparing food to nourish yourself is one of the largest challenges faced by college students. If you're looking for a way to recharge, eat some good food and enjoy the outdoors, especially as the weather gets warmer, picnicking is the way to go.

Hannah Brown is a staff writer.

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Gonzaga men's basketball finishes strong

Zags bounce back late in season plagued by setbacks with notable wins

COMMENTARY
By ZACH WHITE

In a season filled with both euphoric highs and crushing lows, Gonzaga University's men's basketball team was able to band together to achieve most of its goals, despite encountering numerous obstacles.

Last Friday, the Zags came up short in Detroit against No. 1 seed Purdue in the Sweet 16. Only a few weeks earlier, it was uncertain whether or not GU would even compete in March Madness at all.

The Zags lost four starters and several bench pieces from the 2022-23 season, an unprecedented amount of roster turnover for a program such as GU. In early February, GU had no Quad 1 wins, posted losses to Washington and Santa Clara and had just lost its second home game of the season in a defeat to conference rival Saint Mary's.

After this loss to the Gaels, the Zags buckled down and consistently played to the elite level they had shown flashes of earlier in the season. GU finished the remainder of the season with a record of 11-2, picking up key victories along the way.

"I think the majority of teams in college basketball probably would have folded up in January, with the expectations that we have in our program and what we were dealing with," Few said. "These guys doubled down, they showed their real character and competed and got even closer instead of pulling apart. I think they deserve a lot of credit for that. They stayed coachable the whole time, which was just a joy."

GU's 2023-24 regular season campaign began with a 86-71 home victory over NCAA Tournament team Yale. In the all-Bulldog clash, five Zags scored in double figures as freshman Braden Huff announced himself in front of a sold-out Kennel with 15 points.

Only days earlier, the Zags were dealt a severe blow when former Big Sky Player of the Year Steele Venters suffered a season-ending torn ACL mere days before the season was set to begin. In Venters' absence, Dusty Stroman slotted into a starting position.

Following a routine rout of Eastern Oregon, GU headed across the Pacific to compete in the Maui Invitational. In the Aloha State, the Zags picked up two wins and one loss in their matchups against college basketball powerhouses.

In a Sweet 16 preview, GU faced the Purdue Boilermakers for the first time on the season, losing 73-63 in the opening match of the Maui Invitational. Despite leading at halftime, the Zags were unable to capitalize, and shot just 18.8% from 3-point range in the loss.

GU's next opponents in Maui were Syracuse and UCLA, two elite programs experiencing uncharacteristic down years. GU cruised to a 19-point victory over Syracuse, before Anton Watson scored a career-high 32 points to give the Zags their third win over UCLA in the last three years.

Following its Maui Invitational participation, GU headed to Las Vegas for a showdown with the USC Trojans. The Zags earned a comprehensive 89-76 win over the Trojans, their last win over a Pac-12 program, as they fell to in-state rival Washington the following week in Seattle.

GU's misfortune on the west side of Washington continued into December, as it was soundly defeated once more in Seattle by eventual Final Four participant UConn. The Zags would fall once more in December, losing to San Diego State at home, leaving them with a 9-4 record heading into conference play.

The Zags rang in the new year with some rotation



DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

GU men's basketball players thank the travelling fans and bid farewell to the 2023-24 season.

changes, moving Stroman to the bench and adding Ben Gregg to the starting lineup. This switch saw an immediate shift in GU's offensive capabilities, and in the 18 games following Gregg's addition to the starting lineup, the Zags ranked No. 1 in effective field goal percentage, No. 3 in 2-point field goal percentage and No. 4 in offensive efficiency while posting the third-lowest turnover rate in the country, according to Bart Torvik's advanced analytics.

With Gregg now in the starting lineup, GU began West Coast Conference play with an emphatic GU win over Pepperdine in the Spokane Arena, followed by a victory over San Diego in The Kennel.

A narrow 77-76 loss to Santa Clara was an unwelcome setback for GU, with the loss denying head coach Mark Few his 700th career win and effectively losing the WCC regular season title for the Zags. Similarly, the Zags fell out of the Associated Press Top 25 poll for the first time in 143 consecutive weeks.

GU turned the loss around and powered through its next five games, earning wins over Pepperdine, San Diego, San Francisco, Pacific and LMU.

An early February showdown against heated rival Saint Mary's would see the most controversial moment of the season ensue. In a narrow home loss that included some contentious calls against GU, fans in the student section resorted to throwing objects onto the court to show their displeasure for the referees.

The Zags lost a home game for the second time on the season, fueling the fire for a rematch in Moraga. With its back firmly against the wall, GU turned its attention to an all-important road showdown with college basketball blue blood Kentucky.

Against Kentucky, the Zags reaffirmed their position as national contenders, earning an incredible 89-85 road win, its first Quad 1 win of the season. Graham Ike proved last season's foot fracture was firmly in the rear window, scoring 23 points against the Wildcats.

Throughout the remainder of the season, GU showed its biggest improvement on the season, which came from beyond the arc. The Zags shot 40.5% from deep over the final 18 games of the season, after shooting 31.7% in its

first 16 games.

The final week of the season saw GU face both San Francisco and Saint Mary's on the road. The Zags cruised past USF before spoiling senior night and an undefeated season for the Gaels with a 70-57 win in Moraga.

The WCC Tournament saw GU face the same two teams, with GU beating the Dons in the tournament semis before falling to Saint Mary's in the final.

GU switched its focus to the NCAA Tournament and its first-round matchup against McNeese State. The Zags were a popular pick for an upset, but dispelled all doubt with a resounding 86-65 win. Its second-round matchup against Kansas ended similarly, with the Zags picking up a 89-68 victory and reaching a ninth-straight Sweet 16.

Though GU ultimately fell to Purdue in the second weekend of the tournament, the 2023-24 season featured many successes. The Zags ended the season ranked 13th in KenPom, 17th in the NET and 18th in the AP poll.

Ike led the Zags in scoring on the season with 16.5 points per game, and Ryan Nembhard set a new GU single-season record for assists with 243.

The program and the city of Spokane said goodbye to one of its own, with Watson leaving after his fifth year in the program.

"I'm just super grateful, super thankful," Watson said. "It's surreal ... I enjoyed the season with my coaches, my teammates. All the fans, just all the love I've gotten this year it's been super special to me and I know my family appreciates it too. It's difficult right now but I love everyone here on this team and it's been a special year for me."

Despite Watson's departure, the Zags will likely return much of the 2023-24 roster, with the team poised to make another deep March Madness run in the upcoming season.

Zach White is a sports editor.



ISABELLA STOUT IG: @isabellacarlin.photography

Yvonne Ejim gives head coach Lisa Fortier a hug after winning the game against Utah in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Women's basketball season concludes with honors

Ejim wins Becky Hammon Player of the Year

Fortier wins Delaney-Smith Coach of the Year

By KAYA CRAWFORD

Gonzaga forward Yvonne Ejim was named the 2024 Becky Hammon Player of the Year on Wednesday morning.

The award recognizes the best mid-major player in the country and this is the fifth season it has been reported. Ejim is the first Zag to win the award.

Ejim played a key role in the Zags' NCAA Tournament run this season, averaging 19.7 points and 8.7 rebounds per game. In four of the Zags' eight games against Power 6 opponents, Ejim had at least 23 points and seven rebounds on 68% shooting from the field. She recorded 15 double-doubles over the course of the season.

Ejim announced that she will return for her final year of eligibility at GU and is already ranked sixth in points (1,659), seventh in rebounds (815) and eighth in blocks (111) in program history. These statistics come even after Ejim played only 6.6 minutes per game in her freshman year and did not start a game until February in her sophomore year.

This season, the Zags earned a program-

best No. 4 seed in the NCAA Tournament, becoming the first mid-major to earn one of the top 16 seeds in the tournament and have a chance to host the tournament first and second rounds since Delaware in 2012. The Zags' NCAA Tournament run came to an end in the Sweet 16 with a loss to No. 1 Texas. This was the first time since the 2014-15 season that the Zags made it to the Sweet 16 and the fifth time in program history.

This season, Ejim was named WCC Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year. She was also named WCC Player of the Week four times this season.

To be eligible for the Becky Hammon Award, players must compete in one of 26 mid-major conferences. The award is named after three-time All-American, six-time WNBA All-Star and current head coach of the Las Vegas Aces, Becky Hammon. Hammon led Colorado State to its only Sweet 16 appearance to date. With Hammon at the helm, the Aces have won back-to-back WNBA Championships.

Kaya Crawford is a sports editor.

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

After concluding a historic 2023-24 season, Gonzaga University women's basketball head coach Lisa Fortier has been recognized as mid-major coach of the year, making her the first-ever coach to be named with such an accolade.

The award — the 2024 Kathy Delaney-Smith Coach of the Year presented by Her Hoop Stats — includes head coaches from 26 conferences which are deemed as "mid-major" and over two hundred teams. It was started this year in honor of the former head coach of Harvard, who helped the team to 630 wins during her 40-year career.

Fortier led GU women's team to the most victories in a single season in program history with 32 wins, and had one of the longest at home winning streaks in the nation. Her team's wins this season include upsets over then-No. 3 Stanford and a perfect West Coast Conference regular season run.

The team ended ranked 16th in the Associated Press Top 25 poll and took home the regular season title for the 19th

time.

With Fortier at the helm, the team qualified for the NCAA tournament for the eighth time during her head coach tenure, and she coached her team to its fifth Sweet 16 appearances in program history and her second as head coach before losing to a top-seeded Texas team.

Fortier's name was announced on the 20-person preseason watch list in November and then on the 10-coach midseason watch list in March. The announcement that she won the award came on April 3 from Her Hoop Stat.

The announcement adds another accolade to Fortier's resume, who won this season's WCC Coach of the Year for the second-straight year and sixth time.

"What an honor," Fortier wrote in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter. "Thankful for our players and staff. We grow together!"

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

GU women leave their mark after historic 2023-24 season

COMMENTARY
By KAYA CRAWFORD

The 2023-24 Gonzaga University women's basketball team left its mark on GU's program after a record-breaking season that ended in the NCAA Tournament Sweet 16.

Four graduate students returned this season for their final year of eligibility, and their names will be remembered for years to come. The twins, Kayleigh and Kaylynne Truong, Brynna Maxwell and Eliza Hollingsworth played integral roles in leading the team to its first Sweet 16 since 2015 alongside the final starter, senior Yvonne Ejim, who will return for one more year of GU basketball.

"This is one season that I won't forget," Kaylynne Truong said after the Zags' season came to an end with a Sweet 16 loss to Texas. "We started as a team that I wouldn't say was broken, but disconnected a little bit in the beginning of the year. We worked our way through adversity."

With head coach Lisa Fortier at the helm, the Zags secured the most victories in a single season in program history with 32 and ended it ranked 16th in the Associated Press Top 25 poll. They went undefeated in conference play, becoming West Coast Conference regular season champions for the 19th time in program history.

While conference play was a breeze for the Zags, they played one of the most competitive nonconference schedules in program history.

GU's nonconference schedule featured 10 teams that finished in the top 100 in the NET last year, including then-No. 3 Stanford. The Zags only lost two games in nonconference play, with an overtime loss to Washington State (77-72 OT) in early November and a loss at the Betty Chancellor Classic to then-No. 15 Louisville (81-70) over the Thanksgiving break.

The Zags also participated in the Hall of Fame series for the first time in Arizona in December, where they defeated Arizona 81-69.

"[We're] very proud of how we played and how we fought through this nonconference schedule," Ejim said in a postgame interview after the New Mexico game on Dec. 22. "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."

In the home matchup with Stanford on Dec. 3, the Zags broke their all-time



JOSHUA GARCIA IG: @flamed.ticks

The Zags defeated Utah in The Kennel to advance to their fifth-ever Sweet 16.

attendance record and came out on top 96-78.

Winning by double figures was something the Zags would continue to do for the rest of the season, as they averaged 80 points per game and held their opponents to 60.3 points. GU had a historic win against Pacific on Feb. 3 with a 69-point victory, the largest win over a Division I school in program history.

The Zags would go on to lead the WCC in field goal percentage, 3-point percentage, steals, assists and attendance.

At the WCC Tournament, the Zags fell to Portland for the second year in a row but used that moment to prepare for the NCAA Tournament.

"It hurt and it wasn't anything we were expecting," Maxwell said. "Looking back, I think all of us have a different perspective on it now. We learned a ton from that game. I don't think we would have unpacked as much if we had won."

Despite the loss, the women received the highest seed in program history on Selection Sunday and hosted the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament as a No. 4 seed in The Kennel.

To begin their NCAA Tournament run, the Zags defeated No. 13 UC Irvine to advance and face No. 5 Utah in the second round. Following the win, the Zags rushed into the student section that was full of blue in The Kennel.

"It's very special," Kayleigh Truong said after the win against Utah. "We said our goodbye speeches during Senior Night, but I'm just so grateful that we got another chance to play two more games at this home

court. There is nothing like it here. Like just a lot of gratitude ... to everyone that just showed up for us."

The Zags advanced to the Sweet 16 for the first time since the 2014-15 season and traveled to Portland where they fell to No. 1 Texas in a physical game. The Zags had the lowest shooting half of play of the season, only scoring 18 points.

"I think the best thing about being here was how much fun we had," Fortier said after the Zags' Sweet 16 loss. "Honestly, from the time we lost against Portland until now has been the most fun I've had all year."

Beyond a historic season for the team, multiple players set new program records and were recognized for their accomplishments.

Ejim was named WCC Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year. She was also selected as the 2024 Becky Hammon Player of the Year, which recognizes the best mid-major player in the country.

Her other honors include being region finalist for the 2024 WBCA NCAA Division I Coaches' All-American Team. During the season, Ejim missed a few games to help Team Canada qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics as well.

Maxwell, who scored a 3-pointer in every game, set the record for most triples scored in a single season with 96, breaking Kaylynne Truong's record from the previous season.

Hollingsworth was named to the WCC All-Tournament Team after securing a double-double in both the Zags' games.

Kayleigh Truong was third in shooting for the Zags, averaging 12.1 points per

GU SPORTS

Friday, April 5

➔ Track at Whitworth Peace Meet, Whitworth University, Spokane, Washington, all day

➔ **Baseball vs Santa Clara, 6 p.m. (three-game series)**

Saturday, April 6

➔ Women's rowing at Lake Natoma Invitational, Sacramento, California, (two-day regatta)

➔ Men's rowing at San Diego Crew Classic, Mission Bay, California, (two-day regatta)

Sunday, April 7

➔ **Women's tennis vs. LMU, 11 a.m.**

Monday, April 8

➔ Women's golf at Bobcat Desert Classic, Goodyear, Arizona, (three-day tournament)

Tuesday, April 9

➔ **Baseball vs Washington State, 6 p.m.**

*Home games in bold

game. She was second in assists with 153 and was named to the WCC First Team.

Kaylynne Truong was ranked ninth in the country for assists this season with 208. She was second in 3-pointers for the Zags, shooting 42.1% from beyond the arc.

Maud Huijbens, who put in valuable minutes off the bench, was named WCC Sixth Woman of the Year.

The Zags entered the season with a list of goals and though they did not win the NCAA Tournament, they are proud of all they have accomplished.

"Our goal (this year) was to be the most connected team we could be, the most connected team in the country," Fortier said. "I think we achieved that. There's no shame in not getting to the Elite Eight. I wish we did. I wish we got to the Final Four. I wish we got to do all those things. But it's been an incredible, incredible time. I'm just grateful for it!"

Kaya Crawford is a sports editor.



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