

# The Gonzaga Bulletin

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## Skeletons in the closet: Meet GU's costume department



Read on page 7 about how members of GU's costume department work on creating costumes for performers.

DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos



Honors students work alongside international students to complete GELAB coursework.

NICO LOPEZ IG: @nlopez\_photography

## Honors goes global with GELAB

By HARPER HAMILTON

Gonzaga University will be welcoming a new group to campus this semester, one focused on bringing international students and honors students together through building and engaging with the community, both on campus and in the greater Spokane area.

The Global Engagement Learning Lab (GELAB), has the mission of gathering first-year honors students, all of whom take a required first-year seminar class together, with international students taking classes through the English Language Center, specifically the class, "Live, Learn, Grow."

GELAB, which was created in collaboration among faculty in the honors program, faculty in the Center for Global Engagement and faculty from the English Language Center, is comprised of a system of cohorts called learning pods, made up of two to three honors students and a similar number of international students that meet on a regular basis.

In these learning pods, students have the option of attending events located on campus, such as basketball games and clubs, exploring Spokane, whether it be through visiting museums or riding the city bus and finally through direct community service.

"We are hoping to create [an] international student community and a sense of belonging," said Claire Le Poullouin, the assistant director of international student and scholar services.

While listing the goal for the GELAB program, Le Poullouin also mentioned assisting both groups of students in their acclimation to college life at GU and in the greater Spokane area.

"We are working with new honors students and new international students, so the goal is that hopefully, we are both learning about Gonzaga

SEE GELAB PAGE 4

## Mission Integration splits

### Change comes after many vacancies in campus ministry

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

The previously called Office of Mission and Ministry has split this year into two separate departmental teams, following the departure of three staff.

The two teams will continue to do similar religious and mission work for the university but will undergo some rebranding, with the team in College Hall called Mission Engagement and the team in the John J. Hemmingson Center called GU Ministry.

The reorganization and rebranding was made by Ellen Maccarone, the vice president for mission and integration, who said she hopes the split will make the two departments more responsive and create a clearer distinction between GU's Ministry student-facing work and Mission Engagement's institutional efforts.

Maccarone said there was some confusion and inefficiency with the two teams overlapping under one department and that the separation will allow greater freedom for GU Ministry to continue providing spiritual guidance to students and Mission Engagement to educate faculty and staff on the Jesuit mission.

"I think the other reason for this decision is when the teams are more clearly led and identified, it makes it easier for people in the wider community to know who they should reach out to for different kinds of questions," Maccarone said. "And it makes it easier for that team to focus on their work not being pulled in multiple different directions."

The split comes after a series of vacancies in the Office of Mission and Ministry, including two campus ministers, Fr. Dan Mai, S.J., and Fr. Pat Conroy, S.J., in addition to Luke Lavin, who was one of the co-directors for the office.

Maccarone said she wanted to create these changes before new staff filled these roles and said these changes

SEE MINISTRY PAGE 2

## Spokane 'smoke season' to worsen, inequality increase

### Henning and Odegard reflect on increasingly dangerous effects of ecodisaster

By KAEALYN NEW

Just one month ago, the sun disappeared behind clouds of smoke and specks of ash fell from the sky as two fires burned just outside of the city of Spokane.

The Oregon Road Fire, located near Elk, Washington, began on Aug. 18, killed one person and burned nearly 11,000 acres. The Gray Fire, near Medical Lake, burned over 10,000 acres, destroying about 240 homes and killing one, KXLY reports.

While climate change may have not been the direct cause of the fires, it is possible that it made the fires more intense, said Brian Henning, philosophy and environmental studies professor

and director of the Gonzaga Center for Climate, Society and the Environment.

"[The fires] are in very different kinds of spaces, but they both are likely to be made larger and more intense because of the underlying conditions created by a changing climate — more arid, longer periods without water," Henning said.

Henning said that in many cases, human decisions contributed to fire, like in places such as Lahaina, Hawai'i, where local plantations became overrun by invasive grass species within the last century. Meanwhile, globally, lower-income nations and people are often the most devastated by climate change.

"I don't think it's controversial to say that there's a fundamental injustice at the heart of climate impacts," Henning said. "Those who are least responsible [for climate change] are most impacted and have the fewest resources with which to respond. So, it's sort of a triple injustice."

In Spokane, marginalized and low-income communities are more affected as well, according to Henning. Last spring, Gonzaga University's Climate Center published a report that indicated that lower-income communities and marginalized people within Spokane are more likely to face extreme heat because they are often located in urban heat islands.

"In a fair society, how much money you have shouldn't be correlated to how many trees, how many parts are in your community, and the same goes with race," Henning said.

Henning said that the idea of a smoke season only emerged in the years since 2015, and smoke has become a more regular occurrence. The conditions are only worsening over time, as this year, Canada and the East Coast faced unprecedented fires, Henning said.

Henning said the Climate Center conducts work to help the community

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A new thrift store is making waves and exchanging serious vibes around Spokane.

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### SPORTS

After injuries ended her 2022 season, Jody Smith excels in return to the court.

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# Block party unites community in local park

By NOAH APRILL-SOKOL

The broader Spokane and Gonzaga University communities gathered together on Friday evening in Mission Park, celebrating the annual Logan Block Party.

The neighborhood park event featured live music and games, while a series of GU and community booths advertised different resource booths for the community attendees to explore. Free food was also provided for the attendees.

"I've been here two or three times, and I just love it," said Sister Esther Velasquez, a community member who lives in the O'Malley Apartments. "Just the fact that I love to see all the people being so happy, so friendly."

The event was the second block party to be hosted since the pandemic in 2020 and was organized by GU's Center for Community Engagement, a department on campus which focuses on outreach work that bridges the GU and Spokane community.

Molly Ayers, the director of the center, said the event feels like it has grown since last year, turning out more students and community members to the block party, which she said was a testament of the organizing of the block party and the bouncing back from the pandemic by both communities.

"For our students, it is that they see themselves as part of this neighborhood, and I hope for our neighbors, it is that they feel welcome to be a part of the Gonzaga community, too," Ayers said.

While the event allowed for attendees to have fun, it also provided an opportunity for the GU community to connect with non-GU residents living in the neighborhood. Ayers said the event allowed for the whole community to feel united.



MAKOA DE ALMEIDA IG: @makoadalmeida

CCE volunteers provide cookies and popcorn to attendees at the block party.

Ayers said the unity was seen early on during the event when she saw a group of GU students, a couple of AmeriCorps volunteers and some broader Spokane community members, all sitting together in a circle and eating the barbecue.

"I think for me, it's just the humanity of that, building connection and seeing your neighbor like that," Ayers said. "I feel emotional when I see that. It's just the small connections that make this a great event."

Lindsey Shaw, the former Logan Neighborhood Council chair, had a similar

sentiment to Ayers, saying the community and connection of the neighborhood block party makes both students and non-GU residents more aware of each other.

"Students come and go every four years, and every year we get new students," Shaw said. "I think it's really important for not only our neighbors to get to meet the students — maybe there's some good conversations happening where it's less scary to talk to one another — but also for our students to see that families live here."

Shaw said the event tried to meet everyone where they were at and put

people on an equal footing, and she said more events similar to the block party should happen.

"It's really about community and respect for one another no matter how much is in our bank account," Shaw said. "Seeing everyone together in a space, it feels safe. It feels active — it's just beautiful."

Noah Apprill-Sokol is a news editor. Follow him on X: @noah\_sokol03.

## MISSION

Continued from Page 1

reflected her understanding of the Jesuit value of subsidiarity, the concept that those closest to the work should have the power to make decisions.

"The more often you can put agency in people's hands, the better because people get invested in their work when they have agency," Maccarone said. "Paying attention to setting up people for success and empowering them to be successful, that's something as a leader and as a good Catholic and Ignatian leader, I tried to do. You can see people sometimes struggling with a structure or system that they're in where they can't do their best work, and if it's in my power to change that, I want to change that. I want everybody to be successful who works for me."

While Maccarone said the departmental split should have little effect on the experiences students will have in

the office, there are some concerns that the loss of the two priests and a director will lead to some differences in the experience of students in the office.

Campus Ministers Meredith May and Janeen Steer have filled the director roles and reorganized responsibilities in the office to continue to maintain some consistency in programming in spite of the large departmental changes and turnover.

"We're doing everything, and it's a lot," Steer said. "We can't do more. I think that the tricky pieces are the discerning: How do we keep doing great ministry and when you all come in to say I want to do this, how do we do it? We need more people back on our staff to be able to keep growing alongside what you want to do. I'm not scared because nothing has been dropped. It just means all of us have stepped up."

May and Steer said the office will continue the same ministry programs offered to students previously, with the remaining campus ministers taking on more work. However, Steer said the office could not take on more

work, given the stretched capacity of the team.

May said the presence of the two Jesuit priests might be especially felt by some students who relied upon them to provide some of the Catholic mentorship, but she said the office has turned to Fr. Tim Breen, S.J., for help to fill in the gap.

"We don't have a giant Catholic population, but we do have students who are deeply invested in the Catholic faith here," May said. "So having access to clergy members is really important to them ... We still have Jesuits around for sure, but I think that dynamic, truthfully, does change without a Jesuit in the office."

Still, May, Steer and Maccarone said they were hopeful for the growth of the two departments and the whole of the Division for Mission Integration amid this reorganization and turnover and that they believe in the two teams' work.

Noah Apprill-Sokol is a news editor. Follow him on X: @noah\_sokol03.

## FEELS GOOD TO BE BACK!

## Caught Reading

Meredith Rupe was caught reading the Gonzaga Bulletin last week and won a \$25 gift card to Caruso's Restaurant. Read the Bulletin today and you could get caught too!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL CHEESEBURGER DAY  
NATIONAL ICE CREAM CONE DAY

SEPTEMBER 18  
SEPTEMBER 22

Zag Dining

### COOKIES & CREAM NIGHT

OUR FAVORITE COOKIE NIGHT IS BACK!

EVERY WEDNESDAY | 5-8PM | IGGY'S MARKET

BROWNIE SUNDAES	\$6
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# CARUSO'S

SANDWICHES & ARTISAN PIZZA

\* DAILY FRESH \*





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The California native reads a copy of the Gonzaga Bulletin while climbing at their favorite climbing gym Wild Walls.

# Meet Sydney Fluker: Fall editor-in-chief

A rockin' longtime staff member at the Gonzaga Bulletin climbs their way to the top

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

Gonzaga University senior Sydney Fluker will be the first to admit that their very first article for the Gonzaga Bulletin, a 650-word story on the outdoor packing essentials, was not the best piece that they have written during their journalism career.

But, Fluker, who is the editor-in-chief for the Gonzaga Bulletin newspaper this fall, has learned a lot since their first year, authoring over a hundred stories, from award-winning features on basketball to breaking news on hate group vandalism on campus.

Fluker, a journalism and Spanish major, will bring this four-year journalism experience, along with their deep love for climbing, quirky thrifted clothing style and taste for punk and alternative metal music, to the helm of the Bulletin.

**The Gonzaga Bulletin (GB): How did you find the Bulletin? What got you into journalism?**

Sydney Fluker (SF): When I first came to Gonzaga, it was at the height of a pandemic, because I graduated with the class of 2020. So, I came to Gonzaga and I just really didn't know what to do to fill my time. I was a political science major, but I didn't really like it. But, I saw an advertisement on Instagram for the Gonzaga Bulletin, and they were having an informational meeting. So I went, and there were only like three other people in the Zoom. The editor-in-chief at the time was Riley Utley. It was just her and the managing editor, Spencer Brown, and the two of them just talked to me basically one-on-one. I ended up being way more interested than I thought. So I was like, 'you know, if I send in an application and I get the job, then I should just do this.'

I did, and so I started writing for the Bulletin.

**GB: What is your leadership philosophy as editor-in-chief of the Bulletin? What goals do you have for the newspaper?**

SF: My leadership philosophy is leading with others. To me, that means just trying my best to walk alongside the people that I am trying to lead. A lot of the ways I implement that is by looking through what I wish I would have gotten from my leadership at different points in my Bulletin career.

When I was a staff writer, I would have really liked more one-on-one attention from the editors. When I was a newer editor, I would have really liked to not be afraid of my boss and to feel a little bit more comfortable in an environment of new people who are older than me and have more experience. A lot of those lessons that I've learned coming up through the Bulletin I've really tried to put into my leadership to give back to people, and so my goals are internally focused this year, and they're focused on strengthening the beautiful staff writers that we already have.

One way I'm doing that is by trying to help people out early on in the semester. That way, they're able to see the mistakes that they're making in their writing and strengthen it early on, rather than getting in this habit that they have to undo. I know when I'm doing that and then I find out down the line that I was doing something wrong, my thought is always: 'Why don't you just tell me that earlier?' We weren't telling writers how they could be better, and so I'm hoping that's one way I can help lead with others and get the quality of the paper up from the ground up by improving everybody's writing. Great writing will equal a great paper.

**GB: As someone that holds multiple identities as a nonbinary and Jewish person, how do you see those as being reflected in your time at the Bulletin and how do you hope for them to continue to shape your experience as an editor-in-chief?**

SF: I think being in the Bulletin has allowed me to be curious, and I think because of the intersections that I sit at, I've always been really curious, especially about my identity. When I came to Gonzaga, that (curiosity) was

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**My leadership philosophy is leading with others. To me, that means just trying my best to walk alongside the people that I am trying to 'lead.' A lot of the ways I implement that is by looking through what I wish I would have gotten from my leadership at different points in my Bulletin career.**

*Sydney Fluker, editor-in-chief*

reflected in me joining Jewish Bulldogs, now the Jewish Student Union, to get to know that side of myself better, to know my culture a little bit better. When I joined the Bulletin, I noticed a real lack of quality coverage of Jewish people and Jewish issues on campus, and I unintentionally made that my mission to fix. I think that can be reflected in that we've increased our coverage on those stories, and I think that also correlates to an increased Jewish presence on campus as well with getting the Torah and acquiring a whole sacred space.

It's been fun being on the Bulletin because I have those identities that I'm able to look at within myself and then try and best reflect through my writing and through the Bulletin. I'm able to almost zoom out and like, sit in other people's shoes. I try to read each article that we're writing with a lens of somebody who has this identity (in the story).

I have all these identities and they just feel like they're a part of me and in a weird way journalism does too — writing and telling other people's stories.

**GB: You have done so many odd jobs, from working in the engineering department on a concrete canoe to being a host at Bark. How do you think those experiences have shaped this new job for you as editor-in-chief of the Bulletin?**

SF: Yeah, I definitely have done a lot of odd jobs. I am really familiar with not knowing things, but still having the confidence to know that I can do them. I've been working since I was 14 or 15 in one official capacity or another, and then I've been raising animals my whole life, raising livestock and living on a farm. So, I've always not known whatever it is that I'm doing. I've always been a beginner, and I really like the beginner stages of things.

All of these experiences have taught me that I need to be able to approach things with the ability to grow from them. I can't join the engineering club thinking I know everything because newsflash I'm really bad at [engineering]. But they needed help with copy editing, and I'm a really good copy editor and can help them with that, even if I can't help them with the equations. Part of it is finding my strength and knowing what I can bring to the table, even if it isn't what you'd expect.

I really like people too, and working with the public has taught me so many lessons in terms of patience and not losing your mind when all you want to do is just start crying or throw your hands up to the sky, fall to your knees and start screaming. There's so many weird lessons I've learned from working at the farmers markets and working in coffee shops and now working in a restaurant, they all offer little things.

**GB: You've written for The Bulletin since your first year and have written for a variety of sections on many different issues. What was one of your most memorable**

**articles that you've written?**

SF: Most memorable article — I wrote an article on the ex-Gonzaga and NBA player Robert Sacre. It was about his true passion in life, which is horse breeding and riding horses. He was just so passionate and so philosophical, and he had so much to say about the philosophy of being somebody who works with horses and about what horses can give humans. I walked away with my mind absolutely blown, and I had so much fun just talking with him.

That was one of my first sports stories too. I was still finding my beat and now I really like sports writing, as much as I don't like sports in general. Still, that one, it didn't really feel like a sports article, but it was still about somebody who played in the NBA, went and played overseas professionally as well, and then came back because he just wanted to ride horses — that was just so freaking cool to me. I absolutely loved that piece.

**GB: The Bulletin can be busy and stressful. Where do you find rejuvenation?**

SF: I find rejuvenation in many different spaces. I find it in the climbing gym, and anybody who has had maybe three conversations with me has heard about it. I really enjoy climbing. It gives me a chance to focus on my body and move my body because I feel I spend a lot of the time writing, which is typically stationary. Because I don't have a standing desk or a treadmill desk, I'm typically just sitting for long periods of time, so it feels good to reconnect with myself like that.

I love going to punk shows. I find that there's no better way to relax than going to a show with friends at the end of a long week, which sounds crazy to some people because maybe relaxing for them is like watching a movie or TV on the couch. But I just really like being in the pit and being with my friends in these crazy environments, just getting to talk to so many people that I wouldn't normally see or don't get to see when I'm on campus.

**GB: If you were a part of a punk band, what would the punk band's name be?**

SF: OK, well, I have a list of this, because I just love thinking of funny names: Brisket Sheeple, Goats on Trampolines, Too Many Cobains, Stock Image Punks and Holland Oats. I think personally, I'd really like to be a member of Too Many Cobains or Stock Image Punk.

Noah Apprill-Sokol is a news editor. Follow him on X: @noah\_sokol03.

Sydney Fluker is the editor-in-chief. Follow them on X: @sydneymfluker.





BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

The institute will increase humanities research, including work in the broader Spokane community.

# Humanities future set

Strategic plan sets to create 'Gonzaga Institute for the Humanities.'

By CLARINNE KIRK

When we think of humanities, we often confine our thinking to students in a stuffy library, pursuing classics, philosophy and other subjects that are, while no doubt important, less seemingly practical when it comes to careers and life beyond college.

Addressing this misconception and expanding the humanities within Gonzaga University is just one of the goals of the Gonzaga Institute for the Humanities, an interdisciplinary institute focused on addressing and promoting humanity-based research efforts within GU and the greater Spokane community, according to Charles Lassiter, an associate professor of philosophy and interim director of the Center for Applied Humanities who works on the development and planning of the GIH.

"The humanities have a reputation of being what you do if you're wealthy and have leisure time," Lassiter said. "One of the things we are trying to do is show that [the humanities] are not a luxury, the humanities are necessary."

The GIH was passed as part of the larger strategic plan approved by the Board of Trustees in July and will build upon the strategic plan's overarching goal to elevate GU's status as a research institution.

"We want to support research that applies humanities concepts in an interdisciplinary fashion," Lassiter said. "[GIH] fits into the larger picture of the strategic plan by being a resource for faculty who want to connect and get help in applying for grants or getting funding, all with the goal of elevating the profile of the university."

GIH was created after the initial drafts of the strategic plan where Provost Sacha Kopp grouped similar, humanities-focused proposals and asked faculty to collaborate to form the Humanities Institute. The synthesis of many proposals and ideas from varying departments provided some challenges, according to Lassiter.

"We had to think at a more abstract level," Lassiter said. "So not just my plan, but also how these five or six plans can fit together to form an Institute for the Humanities. There's a lot of negotiating to figure out what the institute would look like and to incorporate our wide array of ideas."

While this type of large-scale, multidisciplinary collaboration can be challenging, it is also one of GIH's main goals, according to Caitlin Bagley, a collaborator on the project and an associate professor at the Foley Center.

"The GIH is designed to bring together all of these individual voices of separate departments and provide them with a cohesive plan," Bagley said.

The core purpose of the GIH is increasing humanities research and supporting faculty and student-faculty research in partnership with the greater Spokane community, so as to align the GIH's mission with community engagement and social justice.

"Our focus is going to be on research, but it's going to be research either involving the community as a partner, or being able to be applied to the community, either the Spokane community or other communities," Lassiter said.

By centering research around the greater Spokane community, Bagley hopes the GIH can further GU's mission of social justice and service to others.

"We were thinking specifically about things like, 'how do we align with the poor and vulnerable?'" Bagley said. "What does Spokane need from us?"

Not only will the GIH focus on research in collaboration with communities beyond GU, it will also attempt to increase research between faculty and students, filling a gap in student research within the humanities identified by Lassiter.

"I'm hoping the institute can foster more faculty-student collaboration within the humanities," Lassiter said. "It seems within sciences like biology, there are lots of opportunities for [students] to jump in on research. I don't know that there are as many opportunities when it comes to humanities work."

One way the GIH will increase humanity-based research is through fellowships surrounding selected topics running on annual or biannual cycles. Lassiter said he hopes the GIH will be able to fundraise and do grant writing to provide financial support for research, starting with a summer fellowship.

Lassiter and the other collaborators on GIH are working to hire full-time staff for the institute including a director who will lead initiatives and oversee the GIH's vision, a coordinator in charge of scheduling and logistics and an advisory board comprised of GU faculty and staff members.

Lassiter hopes to fill these positions and finalize a mission statement for the institute by the end of the 2023-2024 academic year.

Clarinne Kirk is a copy editor.

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**If we fail to take bold and aggressive action to mitigate and adapt to climate change today, our children and grandchildren will suffer even greater throughout this century.**

Kara Odegard, adjunct instructor

## FIRES

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understand and respond to a changing climate. In Spokane, the two main climate hazards that especially impact low-income people are extreme heat and wildfire smoke. Within the past year, the center launched Spokane Beat the Heat to help the community prepare for and understand extreme heat, and the center plans to launch a new project in collaboration with the city and regional partners to help advance work related to wildfire smoke.

"Smoke will impact everyone in Spokane, but those impacts will not be felt the same," GU adjunct instructor Kara Odegard said in an email statement. "Last year, my family installed a new heat pump and furnace at my house so that during summer smoke events, we have access to both cooling and air filtration. Not all people can afford these upgrades."

Odegard, who co-teaches for the new Professional Certificate in Climate Action Planning with Henning, said that extreme heat kills more people in the U.S. than other natural disasters combined, and communities are highly underprepared to combat climate change's effects on people, especially those most at risk. She said that she is motivated to change the hearts and minds of people who may not believe in climate change to begin living in harmony with surrounding ecosystems.

"How our community and leaders respond to climate change is truly an issue of social justice," Odegard said. "We must prioritize support and programs for those who are disproportionately at risk from climate change."

Henning said that there are several opportunities for the community and GU students to take action, the first being by participating in the Spokane Candidates Climate Change Forum on Oct. 4 in the Cataldo Globe Room. Henning said that students are given the opportunity to see how local candidates will respond, on a policy-level, to climate change and its impacts. Henning also said that it is important to vote and conduct thorough research on politicians' stances.

"We all need to be able to protect ourselves because these events occur very frequently," Henning said. "Right now, we live in an area where fire is possible, and if you get a level-one evacuation notice and have to immediately leave, do you know what you would do? Where would you go? So, you should have a personal plan."

There are several resources online, including advice from the Center for Disease Control, that details how to construct a go-bag, according to Henning. He additionally said that, because we live in a world where climate change is real, people should be reactive and resilient.

According to Odegard, neither Spokane nor Spokane Valley have climate action plans. She said that it is integral to hold elected leaders accountable by attending public meetings and stressing the importance of climate action within governments.

"If we fail to take bold and aggressive action to mitigate and adapt to climate change today, our children and grandchildren will suffer even greater throughout this century," Odegard said.

Kaelyn New is the managing editor. Follow her on X: @kaelyn\_new.

## GELAB

Continued from Page 1

together, and we're both learning about Spokane together," Le Poullouin said. "So really, it is like an open entryway for both sides."

This sentiment for expanding community knowledge through intercultural friendships rings true for Karen Petruska, associate professor in communication studies and associate director of honors.

"We thought, wouldn't it be neat if we could build everybody's intercultural competence, also create opportunities for cultural exchange and social pleasure, and help this group of students, together, expand their understanding of this campus community and also the broader community?" Petruska said.

Jeff Dodd, an associate professor of English at GU and one of the voices central in pushing for the creation of GELAB, expanded on the importance of the presence of international awareness on GU's campus.

"There are diverse populations that have a different experience of Gonzaga, because we don't always recognize that they are there," Dodd said. "So if students can get involved in the global conversations program, they can learn more about international students, and the countries that they come from and that they represent, while they're here."

With the GU mission at the heart of the program, GELAB aims to grow both the knowledge and interconnectedness of international students and honor students in a mutually beneficial way, said Ashley Davis, director of the international student and scholar services at GU.

"The mission — I would think that the

reason it has the global engagement and intercultural competencies — is to prepare students and to expand them," Davis said. "Educating students holistically is critical for Gonzaga. And I cannot emphasize enough the preparedness part — both career-wise and for future engagements, so students have the skills, if they are not already, to engage with folks who are different than themselves."

The internationalization of GU has also been at the forefront of the creation of GELAB.

"Also, as an institution, internationalization and internationalism are also critical," Davis said. "When we look at internationalism it is again, preparing for, and mitigating for all the unstoppable forces of globalization."

Leadership through diversity is another priority focus of the GELAB program.

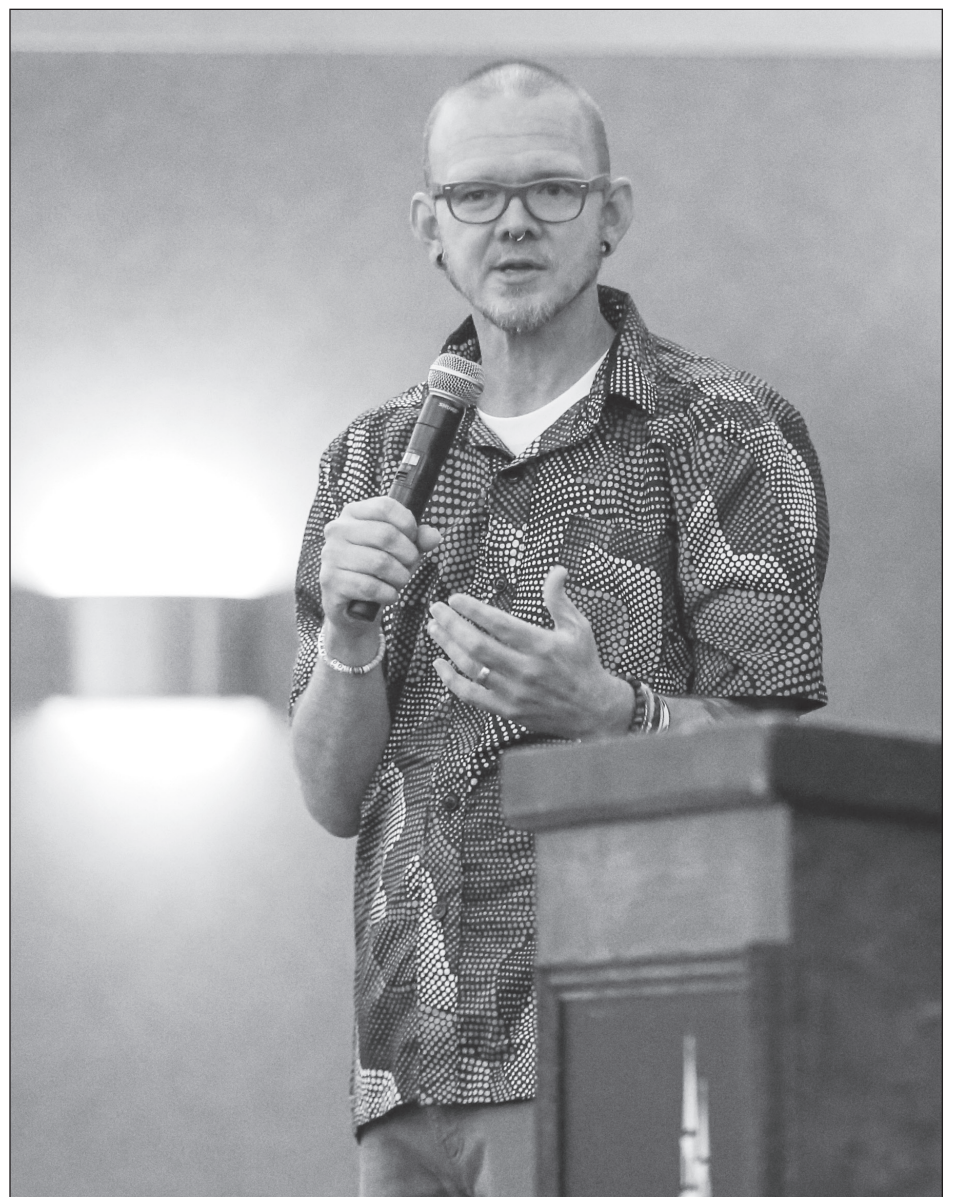
"It is really hard to lead anywhere if you don't really feel like it is your home and you belong," Le Poullouin said. "And I think that in order to help equip our leaders from all around campus, this is a great first step in helping diversify the face of who leads organizations on campus."

The first large-scale program of its kind at GU, GELAB's success will not be measured in the stereotypical ways many student-focused programs usually are, Dodd said.

"I think success can be measured if we actually see our students, our honors students, having lunch with their international peers two years from now," Dodd said.

The Global Learning Engagement Lab will be starting its pilot season this fall on the GU campus, with hopes of future continuation in semesters to come.

Harper Hamilton is a staff writer.



NICO LOPEZ IG: @nlopez\_photography

Jeff Dodd, one of the organizers, addresses students in one of the first outside class events.



# Letter to the editor: Navigating a historically white institution

Adjusting to college life and feeling a sense of belonging on a predominately white campus is a deep struggle for BIPOC students.

Often, we are navigating spaces that were not made for us, and thus are met with a variety of challenges, such as micro and macroaggressions, forced assimilation and ostracization from our white peers. With a lack of support and resources for students of color on campus, many of us struggle to find spaces where we can be our authentic selves.

Reflecting on my own time at Gonzaga University, a predominantly white institution itself, I remember feeling like I didn't deserve to occupy this space. The constant questions about "where I'm really from," comments about my "surprisingly good" English and the constant instances of exoticization I'd receive from white peers whenever I told them about my Samoan roots made me feel like an outsider.

There were so many times over my past four years at GU that I wanted to leave. However, what kept me here over the past four years is the community I formed in cultural clubs.

The cultural clubs on campus are some of the students' first access points to finding community on campus. The executive board members of these clubs work tirelessly from the summer all the way through the academic year to foster



By JOSIAH SAIFOLOI

community for incoming students through weekly club meetings, camping and ski trips and, most notably, signature spring semester events that highlight the cultures represented by the clubs.

The cultural clubs provide a space for BIPOC students to feel at home and validated in their struggles navigating a predominantly white institution. They allow space for these students to find community with one another through common experiences as ethnic minorities on campus.

Reflecting on my experiences as a member of the Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders Club, it was the first space on campus where I felt like I could be my authentic self without having to assimilate into the dominant culture here. The

weekly meetings hosted by the club were a place of refuge for myself and my fellow peers, where we'd play games, share foods that we grew up eating and listen to music that we all grew up on at home.

While the cultural clubs on campus have done amazing work to make BIPOC students feel welcome and included at GU, a large problem remains: the work done by cultural clubs to help recruit and retain students of color at GU goes largely unrecognized and uncompensated by the university.

Upperclassmen in the cultural clubs serve as informal mentors to the underclassmen members, often guiding them along the first two years of college and helping them overcome the challenges that come with student life. In some ways, cultural clubs contribute to the recruitment and retention of BIPOC students at GU by providing them with a space and a community to feel loved and included in, alleviating the pressure of fitting in with the predominantly white community at GU. These clubs and their board members provide moral, academic and financial support to their members, and often do so at the expense of their mental, physical and emotional health.

A prime example of this is cultural club festival season, which happens in the spring. While cultural club festival season is a very enjoyable and highly coveted time for cultural club members, it is also

a time of great stress and exhaustion; the university gets to enjoy the fruits of the cultural clubs' arduous labor to organize these festivals, but never have to see the great amounts of stress, burnout and anxiety that go into it.

Furthermore, while GU community members flock to these events to indulge in the cultures of our BIPOC students, the university never clearly acknowledges or recognizes the efforts of the clubs, nor do they compensate them for their work; they simply get to relish themselves in these cultures and then leave them at the ballroom doors, a privilege that BIPOC students will never have.

It's time for GU to recognize the place that cultural clubs hold to make BIPOC students feel welcome and included on campus. The work that cultural clubs do on campus is a labor of love for the students these clubs serve, but at its core, this labor is highly inequitable and deserves compensation.

GU needs to provide more resources and support to these clubs and compensate them for the work they do to recruit and retain students of color. It's time for this work to stop being thankless. Our cultural clubs are the reason we stayed, and it's time GU stops making us do this work for free.

Josiah Saifoloi ('23) is an alum.

## Food for thought: Eating as a Gonzaga student

You've been on campus for a hot minute, sitting in Foley Library just grinding away at some assignment due tomorrow that you could've started three weeks ago — but procrastination is fun and pressure makes diamonds, baby. A pang of hunger and stomach rumble break your concentration, and you glance at the clock. It's nearly dinnertime; the fuel has consisted of iced coffee and vibes since your morning bagel with cream cheese. Where in the hell do you get some grub?

Gonzaga University has a pretty diverse food scene around campus. Walking distance puts a good number of great spots in our radius. So, let's do a little thought experiment, starting in that uncomfortable Foley chair numbing your butt with every passing minute.

Are you an underclassman with a meal plan? Let's pretend that's the case. Abundant options lie at your starving fingertips. Let's break it down.

You've got Duffs or some to-go "Pick three" type options. These are consistently low to mid at the very best. Dealer's

choice: an awful salad or a 'meh' sandwich with a bag of chips plus an apple that looks like it's been hiding at the bottom of the basket since Labor Day.

There's Cataldo Hall, which I haven't personally patronized since my first year. It's convenient, close and not terrible. I knew people who swore by this dining hall, but I couldn't stomach macaroni and cheese and chicken strips more than one night in a row, forget three.

Cataldo is certain to be extremely average dining hall fare, of course with the classic Sodexo salad tray of spinach broken up by a few carrot slivers and red cabbage morsels peppered in. All in all, if you're hungry and feeling severely picky, it'll get the job done.

But today you're not looking to simply satisfy nutritional needs in the style of the Soviet Union or the American prison system.

Your mind wanders to the John J. Hemmingson Center. If you're flush with bulldog bucks, Qdoba is looking pretty good. It seems



By ANDERS SVENNINGSSEN

people are happy with it, but why isn't it a Panda Express, or Chick-Fil-A? There's a Qdoba right across from Kennedy and I'm ticked because it feels redundant.

So, you've got a solid shot with Qdoba or the serious hike to Caruso's — but closer on the east side lies Otori, Dinaridi's, Indigenous Eats (a fantastic new place), Rincon Tapatio, even Frugals. You're wavering with indecision — but there's a few I'd personally cross off the list automatically. I know this is a flaming take but I've never enjoyed Ultimate Bagel (also it's not open for dinner).

Pita Pit is a tried-and-true classic for most — it's nearly impossible to go wrong with a numerous variety of good entrees, but you've been there already this week (plus you used up the BOGO from the Student Media coupon book). So that leaves the COG.

The COG is one of the most polarizing food spots

on campus and maybe in the known universe. If I had a nickel for every conversation about the COG where it was the butt of the joke, worshipped like a god or received a level of hatred I haven't even seen directed at Taylor Swift, I'd probably have more money than Taylor Swift.

I'm not here to end that debate, because frankly I don't think it will ever end. But remember when we started this thought experiment by determining you were an underclassman? Well now pretend you're an upperclassman without a meal plan and you can throw it all pretty much out the window.

My contribution to the COG slander/adoration dialogue is this — appreciate what you have, cause it ain't going to be there forever. Someday you're just not going to have the COG. After I got off a meal plan, I discovered that there is a fresher hell than the line for Spike's when you're starving.

Fluorescent lights, cramped aisles and appalling prices are a recurring part of my nightmares now. The 'Un-Safeway' near the Logan is the opposite of my happy place. I know if I've entered, I'll leave having spent too much money and chipped a piece off my soul. It's a vibes black hole in there. It's a place I will make a serious effort never to step foot in again once I've graduated.

As I've transitioned into off-campus living and begun my upperclassman journey, I've realized how difficult life

without a meal plan or ability to eat at restaurants casually can be. I'll complain about dry COG chicken just as often as the next person, but I'm working to be a little more grateful when I get the chance to wait in line for Richard to sauce me a quality omelet.

Reflecting on these last two years, it's no wonder food insecurity is a struggle for so many. I'm fortunate to have saved money, receive support from family and small-time kickback from a campus job to diffuse the check. Feeding yourself is a chore — one I didn't truly understand once I lost the COG, cranked through leftover Bulldog Bucks and bummed a few more swipes than is socially acceptable from my friends.

It's expensive and difficult. Eating well on a constrained budget takes financial wherewithal, careful planning and a great deal of practice. My heart goes out to those less fortunate who simply don't have the options afforded the average GU student on the daily.

All this to say, there're some pretty good spots around campus. You've heard my perspective, but next time you're stuck for dinner, maybe throw a lil' dart at the map — chances are you'll settle on something satisfactory. And if not? Simple Servings is probably rocking that all-you-can eat cardboard chicken tonight.

Anders Svenningsen is a news editor.

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## Capitol Hill could populate a retirement home, what gives?

The elected representatives of our government — both in Congress and the White House — are borderline ancient. The average age of Congress is 58, and the oldest members are all pushing 90 years old. At this point, Washington, D.C., is just a gigantic retirement home, and congressional aides are better off serving fruit cups and mashed potatoes than preparing legislation.

The fact that the most important people in our government are all geriatric has become a hot topic as of late, and rightly so. Our two leading candidates in the next election are both over 75 years old. The race these days seems like Thanksgiving with elderly relatives: President Joe Biden is your 80-year-old grandpa who can't remember where he is and Donald Trump is the great-uncle that is absolutely convinced chemtrails are real.

While one can make the argument that wisdom comes with age, there is a certain limit to that adage. Politics is one of the more obvious places where advanced age can be a liability rather than an asset. Our elected representatives are some of the most powerful people on Earth; for them to do their jobs effectively, they must have the mental and physical acuity to understand what is going on.



By JACKSON HUDGINS

Today, however, the leaders of the free world are not able to do the work of governing, and it has become even more obvious with the election of Biden, the oldest president on record. Throughout his time in office, the president has a penchant for stumbling over words and forgetting key details. According to both Snopes and the New York Times, he also has a habit of telling less-than-truthful anecdotes in an effort to relate to Americans. This is not encouraging behavior to see from someone who runs the most powerful branch of government.

It's not just the president that has been showing symptoms of aging; members of Congress and other candidates are not doing so hot, either. Former President Trump is showing signs of forgetfulness and physical slowness, which does not inspire confidence in anyone looking

to elect him next time around. Members of the Senate are also experiencing physical decline, with Minority Leader McConnell freezing up at multiple news conferences.

I could go on about how aged the government is, but that doesn't do much to solve the problem. Citizens of this nation are really the only people who can make any progress on this issue, and it is important that we understand the implications that age has on our politics.

Steering the world's largest economy and military, as well as the second largest diplomatic network, means that our government should be filled with only the most qualified individuals. By allowing our politicians to hold office while reaching their twilight years, we risk slowly destabilizing our government and foreign relations.

Politicians are the new Methuselah, and we should make it known by our votes that we will not stand for it. Term limits and competency tests are bipartisan solutions to the problem, and we should enact them as soon as we can. After all, if soldiers and pilots have to retire at 65, why should their bosses in government get to serve for life?

Jackson Hudgins is a staff writer. Follow him on X: @judge\_hudge63.



# Fall Fashion

By KAELYN NEW

Fall semester is back in full swing here at Gonzaga University, bringing with it cooler temperatures and changing leaves.

I remember in my first few years at GU, I was still figuring out which style suited me best and would panic each day before the start of school. With time, I figured out what looked .best suited and began to treat clothes as an extension of my own personality. There's no better time to show off your passion for fashion than in the fall.

So fear not, first-year students and campus fashion connoisseurs, I am here to tell you some autumn essentials and incoming trends.

I like to think the color black is in style all year long. You can catch me donning black overalls and skull T-shirts in 100-degree weather, but dark colors are especially essential for your wardrobe come fall and winter. If gray and black aren't your thing, opt for mauve, dark brown or rusty orange.

Let's start with the basics. Some wide-legged pants —

denim, corduroy, linen or otherwise — are essential for the cooler temperatures and they can help to tie together an outfit nicely. Keep in mind, skinny jeans are (thankfully) no longer in style. Pants with a flared leg or some loose jeans are the perfect closet staple. Pair them with a hoodie on lazy days or dress them up with some Dr. Martens and an off-the-shoulder blouse.

Another fall essential is a plain old-fashioned leather jacket. Leather jackets, in my humble opinion, will never go out of style. I have one authentic vintage leather jacket from my mom that has withstood the test of time. Pair it with a skirt and tights, slacks and a tee or even a trusty pair of jeans. Personally, I recommend buying secondhand for leather and other animal-derived fashion items. Many thrift stores boast authentic leather jackets for relatively cheap prices, my favorite being Global Neighborhood Thrift.

Now, let me get on my soapbox to preach about the most vital fall wardrobe

## What to wear as weather changes

staple I own — Dr. Martens. Though they have become more popular within the past five years, I doubt they will ever become unfashionable. I have had a trusty pair of Dr. Martens boots since the beginning of high school, and they have yet to falter. Rain, shine or snow, they are reliable shoes that are worth the price tag. They come in an assortment of different colors, from brown and maroon, to green and black, making them suitable for any style.

With the changing seasons comes newly anticipated trends, the first being lace everything — shirts, skirts, dresses, you name it. The sheerness of lace allows for some interesting texture and layering in your everyday looks. Layer a white lace maxi skirt over a black mini skirt and pair it with some knee-high boots, and you'll have one of the most interesting outfits on campus. Pair a black lace maxi dress with a maroon "hollow out" sweater and a leather tote and prepare to stun.

If dresses, skirts and frills aren't your cup of tea, prepare to accessorize. Adding some fingerless gloves, a hat and some jewelry is a surefire way to stand out.

The final prediction that I have isn't specific to one item or style. It's the color red. I

have seen more and more fashion influencers boasting maroon accessories, blood red jewelry and burgundy lipstick. Red is a bold color, so including a red statement piece (like a jacket, pants or bag) will make your look more defined.

What will never be in style, you ask?

Fast fashion brands like Shein and Zara will almost always look cheap, and if that's the look you're going for, more power to you, just don't be too shocked when your "Y2K neon graphic halter top" melts in the dryer. Buying secondhand or investing in sustainable clothing helps to ensure that your wardrobe pieces don't look overly trendy, so you can get as much use out of the piece as possible.

It's true that campus isn't exactly a runway, and there is no harm in wearing the same sweatshirt every day — especially once finals season rolls around — but if you're up for the challenge, dressing up in your own way can be a rewarding way to make the changing leaves and season's breeze feel a bit more like home.

*Kaelyn New is the managing editor. Follow her on X: @kaelyn\_new.*





# GU's closet: the craft of costuming

By MARISSA CONTER

One of Gonzaga University's work-study opportunities doesn't take place behind a desk and computer, it's actually done with a needle and thread.

Located next to the Tilford Center, a handful of students in work-study hold jobs in the costume shop. Johanna Specht, a junior and student designer for the costume shop, applied to work there because she wants to pursue a career in costume design.

"I have been sewing all through high school," Specht said. "I've always been a very crafty person. I'm very into clothes, so it's such an amazing opportunity to get to start to do that, even in college. It's a super fun job that I love to go to."

Students like Specht get to work with faculty who have been involved in costume design for years, such as Kim Heide, the costume shop manager. Originally from Whitworth University, Heide came to GU in 2017, although she has been putting together costumes since 2011.

"Every day is different," Heide said. "We'll be doing alterations and fittings, and then we'll shift gears and I'll have a few students working on a dance piece and a few working on a directing piece. It's just a little bit of everything, anything that needs clothing."

Despite the school year just starting, the costume shop has already begun to design for some fast-approaching shows, as they are responsible for practically all dance and theater productions at GU.

"We're working on the

big show for the theater department this year, which is Spring Awakening," Specht said. "So, once we get all the actors cast, we'll do measurements and then Leslie [Stamoolis] is going to design costumes, so she'll start giving us things to pull. Then we'll do fittings and then alterations, so the costumes fit."

According to Specht and Heide, the costume shop is also working on costumes for "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) [Revised] [Again]," a comedic play that summarizes all of Shakespeare's plays. They are also working on the dance department's annual 60x60 showcase as well as Eugene Oregon's Ballet Fantastique in "Nevermore: Stories of Edgar Allen Poe."

Despite all the planning that goes into each show, Heide said it can be difficult to predict if the costumes will work onstage.

Once, a dance show had a 1920s themed piece which involved a quick change from a suit to glitter leotards that the dancers had on underneath. Most of the dancers exited the stage for the change, but one dancer had to do the change onstage.

"We had to make her a tear-away suit, and the change had to be done in three beats," Heide said. "It was a challenge to figure out what could be velcroed and which part could go where."

Heide designed costumes for last year's Spring Dance Concert and the spring main-stage production but said the opening of the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center showcase stood out to her.

Specht has been at the



costume shop since her first year, during which she got to design costumes for a number from the musical "Six" which was performed at last year's Musical Theatre Dance Revue.

"Most of the time when you're designing a show, you don't want to look at previous designs of the show, because you don't really want it to influence your creative vision and the themes that your production team are talking about," Specht said. "But I got to look at these old shows for some inspiration, and then figure out what we had in stock that would match it and kind of add things and move things around."

Heide said that working with the work-study students is the favorite part of her job, as she loves to watch them improve and take these skills

outside of the costume shop's walls.

"It's just this beautiful, creative atmosphere, where people get to learn skills that either they'll take on and work with theatre and dance, or that they will go home and sew a button back on their jeans," Heide said. "There's no last end goal here and it's always going to be practical in whatever they do in life. I feel very blessed for the student workers I've gotten to work with. They are what make me excited to come into work every day."

Heide encourages students to utilize the costume shop space, whether they wish to learn how to fix a zipper or want to hang out or study in a quiet, creative space.

*Marissa Conter is a news editor. Follow her on X: @marissaconter.*





# Buffalo Exchange opens store in downtown Spokane

By CAM MCCANN

Gonzaga University students and Spokane residents looking to enhance or thin their wardrobe have a new one-stop shop option in downtown Spokane.

Buffalo Exchange, located near the corner of Main Avenue and Washington Street, is a chain thrifting store that opened its newest location downtown. At Buffalo Exchange, shoppers can buy thrifted clothes and sell from their own closet for store credit or cash.

According to the website, prices are kept low by the use of store credits, giving customers the ability to exchange old clothes for credit to buy new from Buffalo Exchange.

Racks full of clothes and accessories line the store, which out-of-town thrifter Charles White said gave him lots of selections to choose from.

"I went on either opening day or the day after, so there were lots of people there," said GU senior Carmella Famolaro. "I think the employees were a little stressed with the crowd but they were very helpful and got me in the fitting room quickly. The vibe in there was pretty neat, there were some cool items from nicer brands like Urban Outfitters. The prices weren't too bad either, I don't think I saw anything over \$20."

One customer, Kate Hardman, walked out with a haul that she said she got entirely for store credit after trading in her old clothes.

GU senior Isabela Asencio said she enjoys thrifting as a way to de-stress from nursing school and find cool pieces to fill her wardrobe.

"I like [Buffalo Exchange] because I can typically count on finding something there, since they have buyers instead of just relying on clothes from donations," Asencio said. "That sort of reliability is nice when I'm in a rush but need to thrift a T-shirt or something for an event."

According to Asencio, though



DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

Buffalo Exchange sells quality brand name clothes and goods for lower prices.

the prices may run higher than other thrift options, like Global Neighborhood Thrift and The Arc, Buffalo Exchange tends to carry more name brands.

"The prices are higher than a thrift store but were still reasonable," said GU junior Johanna Specht. "It's cheaper than from a retail store and more sustainable."

Quality is also very reliable because they have buyers examining the clothes before bringing them into the store for resale, Asencio said. This process helps Buffalo Exchange build consistent store styles so customers more or less know what to expect to find when they come in.

"I find a lot of good tank tops, dresses, shoes and accessories

here, especially because they tend to put out what's in season," Asencio said.

Asencio's favorite Buffalo Exchange find is a floral red sundress, with a pair of green Converse high-tops coming in second. She recommends the store for those wanting clothes of an array of styles and decades to choose from.

"I love Buffalo Exchange," said GU sophomore Esther Alvarez. "The customer service is great, they were just as excited about sustainable fashion as all the customers. The vibes are just as you'd expect, funky and quirky but always welcoming."

Alvarez's favorite piece from Buffalo Exchange is a green shoulder bag.

"I had been looking for a new

one for months and I think the thrifting gods were on my side that day," Alvarez said.

Specht's favorite find is a Rachel Zoe long dress, and she said the overall shopping experience was fun and enjoyable.

"I really appreciate the atmosphere and kind staff at Buffalo Exchange," said GU sophomore Luca Morones-Calcagno. "Although I'm not much of a thrifter, I still have fun looking through their unique collection of apparel."

Downtown Spokane's Buffalo Exchange offers two well-sized shoe sections, leaving plenty to explore for footwear options. Asencio said they even have rollerblades for sale.

The company also allows you to give to a local charity

through the "Tokens For Bags" program. The program gives you the option to donate five cents per bag needed to one of their charities or take no bags. The charities offered are 2nd Chance Ranch, Spokane Riverkeeper and Our Place Community Outreach, which is currently closed for donations.

Spokane isn't the only place in Washington where a Buffalo Exchange can be found, but it is the first to open on this side of the Cascades.

The store is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 407 W. Main Ave.

Cam McCann is a staff writer.

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# Traveling through time at Jundt

By MADELEINE REED

New to the Jundt Art Museum this fall, "Five Critical Decades of Art: The Stephens Collection" is open to the community. The exhibit stands as a product of 50 years of education, collection and celebration of art.

When entering the exhibit, observers are met by portraits of partners Les and Carolyn Stephens — the two collectors behind this exhibit. The couple, sketched with graphite and colored pencil by Allegra Askman (1972), are reclined and pensive, looking onward to the exhibit ahead — setting the playful and intellectual tone that the exhibit is meant to exude.

Walking farther, observers are met with pops of bright color and a variety of mediums that catch the eye. The exhibit features movements in art such as '60s pop art, sculpture, environmental art, video art, abstraction, photorealism and more through a multitude of mediums.

"The range and variety in our collection reflect our opportunities to travel and our interest in exploring the varied locations of the studios and/or the galleries available to us," Carolyn Stephens said via email. "Even today we choose to travel to American cities and regions where the arts are valued. Occasionally, we travel abroad where prevailing art styles, themes and mediums would be representative of other creative artists."

After attending Whitman University in 1971, the couple set off on their endeavors,



MAKOA DE ALMEIDA IG: MAKOADEALMEIDA

The new exhibition features a variety of artistic mediums such as sculptures and 3D media.

with the collection growing as years went by.

"The collection grew organically these many years as we added new works by artists whose work we had purchased earlier, and we explored the work of artists from whom we had not previously had the opportunity to purchase work," Stephens said.

When offered the ability to exhibit the collection by director and curator Paul Manoguerra, Stephens found that the space would serve the couple's message and purpose well.

"That the gallery served as an integral part of the teaching institution mattered to us," Stephens said. "We value the experience that a professional gallery program can offer to both campus visitors and especially to students."

The couple said they hope that the

art exhibited will serve the community that sees it. Stephens said that for art students, this exhibit provides a hands-on exploration of the intellectual lives of artists; for others, the themes present across the walls may speak strongly.

"Works of art act like a document of an artist's path of exploration and his/her responses to fundamental human issues," Stephens said.

When asked what her favorite pieces in the exhibit are, Stephens said that typically, responses are deeply personal and intimate, though there are a few pieces that she has felt herself and others drawn to.

"Les and I often respond to what you viewers also find provocative, sweet, funny, etc. I watched many gallery viewers lured to the fierce depiction of a shrew by Aubrey Schwartz, (1958 etching & engraving),"

Stephens said. "It is a beautifully executed print."

Stephens also said that the contemporary nature of this exhibit contrasts against the majority of the art within Jundt and provides a new perspective for the community.

"Students and visitors will have the opportunity to see work that has most likely influenced their reactions to modern art," said curator of education Karen Kaiser via email.

For student Carole Aludino, the exhibit is something unlike others previously displayed at Jundt. As a work study student, she said she observed the themes and commonalities among those of the previous year, which consisted of limited mediums — an exhibit of photographs or an exhibit of 3D media.

"Our other exhibits are usually based on a matching kind of theme, but this one is more of a collection, so you kind of have a piece of everything," Aludino said.

The variety in the Stephens' collection is appealing, and Aludino said she finds herself very fond of it.

"I think it's just so funky and fun," Aludino said. "You can honestly like look at each wall for hours and just interpret everything so differently ... it's a lot of fun pieces; you can laugh at some of them or just seriously contemplate."

The exhibit will be open until Jan. 6, 2024.

Madeleine Reed is a digital editor. Follow her on X: @madeleinesreed.

# Olivia Rodrigo's new album is 'GUTS' wrenching

REVIEW

By ALEXANDER PREVOST

There's something so primal about 19. It's that last year of true adolescence, of teenagerdom. You're not quite a child — you're legally an adult, but you've not quite grown into your skin. It's a messy, awkward stage of life.

It's a stage of life Olivia Rodrigo captures flawlessly on her sophomore record "GUTS."

Released on Sept. 8, "GUTS" follows Rodrigo on a journey of making those first adult mistakes, social anxiety and toxic age-gap relationship dynamics. Woven through the story of this record is this underlying existentialism — manifesting on the closing track "Teenage Dream."

But I'm getting ahead of myself. "GUTS" is, in many ways, a perfect sequel. It takes everything good and familiar about her first project, "SOUL,"

and ups the quality tenfold. The punk rock influence found on chart topper hits like "Good 4 U" and "Brutal" are cranked to an 11, fit with even more rage, angst and polish. The ballads which defined her debut project show more versatility in their instrumentation; they tackle much darker themes too. "The Grudge," for example, has Rodrigo admitting to herself that forgiveness requires strength — the kind that she lacks.

Something that's so impressive about Rodrigo's songwriting is that she earnestly conveys personal experiences with detail and conviction. Somehow, that's what makes it so universal. Through the record's narrative, Rodrigo captures a quintessential, Generation Z coming-of-age tale.

Also, props to producer Dan Nigro for creating such clean, emotive soundscapes. My personal highlights are as follows: "All-American B\*\*\*\*" serves as both a thematic prologue and vessel of feminine

rage. The acoustic, fluttery verses work in contrast to the crunchy, angry choruses. It captures the frustration and pressure Rodrigo feels to be a perfect, desirable woman in the industry. Imagine your happiest, kindest friend finally exploding after being treated like dirt for years. That's what this song feels like.

Also, the screaming on the bridge? Incredible. Immaculate.

Of course, how could I not talk about "Vampire." Sure, she's written about breakups before, but there's something so accusatory and vindicated about the way she tears into someone way too old for her. The manipulation, the taking, all of it is laid bare on this ballad-turned-banger. Fit with a mournful piano, pounding drums and a shuddering buildup, "GUTS" lead single is easily in my top five tracks of the year.

"Get Him Back!" features her best pen game, however. Turning the phrase on its head multiple times through the rap-rock track, Rodrigo contemplates whether

or not to get back at a toxic ex. Roaring crowd vocals featured on the chorus, this song is destined to be a hit at festivals and concerts.

I truly cannot find a song I dislike on this record. Even my least favorite track on this record is simply because I don't resonate with it as much as I do the rest, and it's far from a skip for me.

Rodrigo perfectly regales that existential, tragic, awkward in-between adolescence and adulthood. While many artists our age detail similar experiences, her staying power rests in the strength of writing, the range of emotion and the heart on her sleeve. If she continues in this direction, she has me hooked for life. Long live "GUTS" — the ode to 19.

Rating: 8.5/10

Alexander Prevost is a staff writer. Follow him on X: @alexanderprvst.

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level 1 2 3 4

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Solution to Last Week's puzzle

10/15/23

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3	9	7	1	7	6	8	9	2									
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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk)

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## Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19					20						21			22					
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### HOLLYWOOD ENDINGS

By Gary Larson

<b>ACROSS</b>	option	11 Small duck trips
1 Native Nebraskans	53 Chocolate cereal brand	12 Two-time NBA Finals MVP Kevin
6 Relishes	54 Like some conclusions	13 Like cheap toilet paper
12 Speck	56 Withdrawing	14 Beat
15 First word for some babies	58 Colorful tee	15 Downtown street
19 Spare place	60 Came out on top	16 Eager
20 Footnote notation	61 Hearth residue	17 Drop-down list
21 French article	62 Welcomes	18 PDQ
22 Grows old	63 Hungers	24 Capone cohort
23 Editing scenes from a Wesley Snipes vampire film?	64 Showing the final out of a Jennifer Lawrence sci-fi film?	29 Wishes undone
25 Steep stage	71 Winter coaster	30 "Ditto"
26 New Rochelle school with an award-winning pipe band	72 Deodorant brand	31 Enervates
27 Nth, for one	73 Hosp. areas	32 1950s politico Stevenson
28 Putting the final touches on an Ed Asner Pixar film?	74 No-goodnik	33 1950s politico Stevenson
31 Least risky	75 Chuck who broke the sound barrier	34 Haughty one
33 "Fire away"	76 Many a night owl	35 Drug bust unit
36 Dump	82 Gilbert and Sullivan work	39 ___ about: circa
37 Big letters in home security	84 Envelope	40 Brute
38 On top of everything	86 Skin care brand	42 Drink brand with a green leaf logo
41 Four score and ten	88 Tribal emblems	44 Declarer
43 Fireplace piece	89 Hiring actors for a Shailene Woodley survival-at-sea film?	45 Mortise inserts
47 Going on a promotional tour for a Sigourney Weaver family film?	91 Govt. security	46 Parades
	92 Singer/actress	48 Poet Manley Hopkins
	94 Word in the names of two MLB teams	49 Down source
	95 Island chain?	50 Isn't ___ bit like you and me?": Beatles lyric
	96 Dig	51 Actor Yul
	98 College major that may involve	54 Come clean, with "up"
		55 Cartoon canine
		57 Queens team
		59 "___ only money"
		62 ICU worker
		63 Formal agreement
		64 Apply haphazardly
		65 Officially give
		66 In apple-pie order
		67 Swenson of "Benson"
		68 U-turn from SSW
		69 Liechtenstein's language
		70 Coffee machine setting
		71 "Sicko Mode" rapper Travis
		75 Omani neighbor
		76 Carafe size
		77 Frazier opponent
		78 Canadian bank notes featuring civil rights activist Viola Desmond
		79 Thus
		80 Dark signs
		81 Allude (to)
		83 Pension beneficiaries
		85 Bhutan locale
		87 In a quarrel
		89 Big name in banking
		90 Chopping down
		92 Wheel securer
		93 Hudson River capital
		97 Hose woes
		99 Architectural style
		101 Botch
		102 Trainee
		103 Clothing line
		104 Baja resort, familiarly
		105 Nobel Institute
		106 Elated
		108 Solemn ceremony
		109 Poker stake
		113 Simpsons grandfather
		114 Peacock network
		115 ___ trip
		116 Get into



# Courtney Vandersloot continues to shine in first season with Liberty

COMMENTARY  
By NOAH APRILL-SOKOL

The last time Gonzaga University alum Courtney Vandersloot adorned a Zag jersey was during her senior season in March of 2011, when she led the then No. 11 women's basketball team to the NCAA regional finals in upset wins over the No. 7 Louisville and No. 3 UCLA Bruins.

In the tournament, Vandersloot scored 29 points in each of these upset victories while also leading the Bulldogs in assists. She almost broke the record for most assists in a Division 1 game in the UCLA matchup with 17 passes, and she surpassed 2,000 career points and 1,000 career assists in the tournament run.

Now, the Seattle-born point guard finds herself at the helm of another big tournament run, this time at the top-seeded New York Liberty in the WNBA playoffs, with the team taking on the Washington Mystics in round one of the tournament.

"I wanted to play with not only great players but like-minded players," Vandersloot said in an interview to Yes Network. "I'm sure you've seen I'm pretty fiery. I put everything I have into this, and I see the roster here, one through 12 that those types of players are on this roster. I'm so excited to be able to just to elevate as much as I can but to be elevated too. That's what happens when you're around really good players and like-minded people, you just continue to grow together."

With the New York Liberty expected to make a championship push, Vandersloot finds herself continuing to rely upon the skills that made her dangerous on the court in college for the Zags — her passing — averaging 8.2 assists this WNBA season.

While the former Zag star has expanded her skill set as a defender in the WNBA, Vandersloot remains notable for her talents as a passer and playmaker and has become the second in all-time assists in her 13th season playing professional basketball.

This offensive talent, along with her experience as a veteran player, makes Vandersloot a key player for the New York Liberty. In addition to Vandersloot, the Liberty boasts additional deep talent, including the league's top power-forward Joquel Jones and two-time WNBA champion Breanna Stewart.

Vandersloot has previously won a WNBA championship when she helped the No. 6 Chicago Sky beat the No. 5 Phoenix Mercury in the 2021 finals. With the Liberty's talent and Vandersloot's offensive performance this season, the decorated point guard has a high chance to win another on this superteam.

"Her IQ is off the charts," coach Sandy Brondello said in an interview with ESPN. "She sees things happen before they actually do happen."

The opportunity to further improve her legacy by winning another WNBA championship this year solidifies Vandersloot as one of the top point guards and Zags to play professionally in the women's league, and



COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK LIBERTY'S INSTAGRAM

Vandersloot, who is in her 12th season, is a two-time All-WNBA 1st Team member and a five-time all-star.

it begs the question of what is next for this basketball legend.

Vandersloot was already recognized for her basketball impact at the Kennel, when last year in the spring she became the first women's basketball player for the Zags to have her jersey number recognized and hung in the McCarthey Athletic Center.

She has also played for 13 seasons in the WNBA, a long professional career compared to the average three-and-a-half year career of players in the league, and she continues to be recognized as an all-star with her latest performance in the star games being this past season.

If this season is any indicator, Vandersloot certainly has more to give to the sport and her basketball legacy. She will also be remembered for her championship tournament spirit, as her current performance is

reminiscent of that same style of play in 2011 during the Bulldog's deep tournament run.

"The child in me is always so amazed at how far my career has gone," Vandersloot said in an interview with FanNation. "Growing alongside the league is something I'm most proud of and I'm excited to see how we continue evolving. I'm so grateful for all the opportunities and experiences that have shaped my career in the WNBA."

Vandersloot and the New York Liberty will play on Friday at 5 p.m. in the third game of round one of the WNBA playoffs against the Washington Mystics.

Noah Aprill-Sokol is a news editor. Follow him on X: @noah\_sokol03.

## GU volleyball falls in fourth set to Eastern Washington, goes winless at home tournament

By NATHAN OMODT

The Gonzaga University women's volleyball team (3-8) took its third loss in a row and second loss of the season to cross-county rival Eastern Washington University (6-6) on Saturday at the Martin Centre in four sets (27-25, 17-25, 25-19, 25-15).

With this being the second match against EWU, the Zags were hoping to come out feisty and make up for the passing errors that plagued them during their first bout with the Eagles.

"We wanted to get back at them like we were all very fired up," said GU defensive specialist Viktoriya Ivanova. "We definitely played better [today] than the first game and we all wanted to win."

As planned, the Zags began the first set feisty and passionate. Quality passing led by Ivanova was the key takeaway from the start. This led to quality kill opportunities for outside hitters Zoe Thiros and Autumn Larson, who both lead the team in kills with 17 and 9 respectively.

Despite quality passing and communication from the Zags, EWU remained the more dominant team for the first set, where they were able to capitalize on Zag errors and get the best out of quality rallies.

After going down 24-19, the Zags had a late set comeback and secured six straight points fueled by impressive kills from middle blocker Jody Smith. After several close rallies, the Zags missed a crucial block losing the first set 27-25.

The second set was the Zags' best of the night, with the team only trailing twice the entire set. GU relied on quality blocking from outside hitter Fallon Thompson and setter Nia Damuni. Both players registered five blocks on the night

and were able to shift momentum during EWU runs.

Thiros continued her dominant performance, registering six blocks in the second to push GU over the edge. The Zags' two errors were the lowest amount they have had in a set this season, preventing EWU from taking advantage of mistakes. Despite a late comeback attempt from EWU, GU won the second set 25-23.

The third and fourth sets were GU's weakest of the night, with a lack of successful kills, errors and serving issues plaguing the team late in the match.

The Zags started the third set hot, going back and forth with EWU in every position until it was even at 13-13. However, multiple errors in a row including three serving errors interrupted their momentum, allowing EWU to slip ahead. The Zags were never able to recover and lost the third 25-19.

The Zags were unable to regain momentum in the fourth set, with EWU quickly racking up an eight-point advantage on the Zags that they were unable to get out of. Thompson and Damuni were the highlights of the fourth set, each providing critical defense in an attempt to prevent easy EWU kills. Despite a valiant effort, the Zags lost the final set 25-15.

"We couldn't get them out of system most of the time so it was really hard to stop that from a defensive perspective," Ivanova said.

The loss was GU's third of the weekend at its home tournament, where the Zags fell twice to EWU and once to San Diego State.

"I think we came in with a level of focus, but over time we just didn't do what we do every day in practice," Larson said. "So we're just waiting for the day



JANNA PRICE IG: @jannapricephotography

Freshman setter Nia Damuni recorded 37 assists against Eastern Washington last Saturday.

that it will all click and come together."

The Zags look to bounce back on the road against WCC rival San Francisco next Thursday at 7 p.m. This will be the start of WCC conference play for the Zags where they will be looking forward to facing even greater competition.

"Our conference is really awesome for

volleyball, so we're all excited to get to compete against [WCC] teams," Larson said.

Nathan Omodt is a staff writer.

## Women's soccer remains at No. 21 in United Soccer Coaches Top 25 poll, No. 2 in West Region

By HENRY KRUEGER

Despite winning its only match last week, the Gonzaga University women's soccer team received less support in Tuesday's United Soccer Coaches Top 25 poll.

The Bulldogs dropped six points to 38, but still managed to retain its No. 21 national ranking — the second-best mark in the West Region behind conference foe Santa Clara.

The Bulldogs (7-1-1) defeated unranked Arizona 3-1 at Luger Field on Saturday, stretching its unbeaten streak

to five matches.

All three of the GU's goals were assisted by defender Kelsey Oyler, who set up Giana Riley (18th minute) Marissa Garcia (33) and Paige Alexander (72). Oyler moved to No. 2 all-time at GU with 16 career assists.

"There's no way that in the 40 years of Gonzaga women's soccer that any defender has had three assists in a game," said head coach Chris Watkins of Oyler's achievement.

The junior was named West Coast Conference

Offensive Player of the Week on Monday. She became the second Bulldog to claim the award this season, following Kate Doyle's honor from Sept. 4. Doyle was recognized alongside goalkeeper Lauren Towne, who took home WCC Defensive Player of the Week.

The Bulldogs have a weeklong break before they travel to play South Florida on Sunday.

Henry Krueger is a news editor. Follow him on X: @henrykrueger.





JANNA PRICE G: @jannapricephotography

Smith (pictured above) is fourth on the GU volleyball team with 55 kills across 10 matches this season.

# Volleyball's Jody Smith back in action after injury-stricken year

By MADELEINE REED

Gratitude and determination are on Jody Smith's mind as she steps up to her senior year on the Gonzaga University women's volleyball team. The 6-foot-2 middle blocker is back on the court after an injury-plagued 2022 season, bringing a fiery enthusiasm with her.

Smith got her start in volleyball during middle school, though sports have always been a large part of her life. With a father standing at 6-foot-5 and a mother at 6-foot-1, it seemed to be inevitably in her genes, and her family encouraged her to try basketball.

The switch came around sixth grade, when Smith decided to try out for volleyball, breaking the basketball status quo set for her in her upbringing.

"I'm a super stubborn kid," Smith said. "I thought that [volleyball] was the coolest thing to do."

The act of rebellion was met with an upset, however, when Smith did not make the team. Determined to change that, she gained the help of her neighbor, who coached her and helped her to get into the sport.

Gaining skill, Smith grew to dedicate herself fully to volleyball, joining a club team and looking to the future, specifically at GU.

"It just became something that I wanted to achieve as well," Smith said. "It's something I saw, and then [it] became a goal that I started chasing."

Throughout high school, Smith faced adversity on and off the court, notably when suffering a broken ankle her sophomore year. The time off-court provided Smith a new eye for the sport.

"I sat on the bench for a whole year and

I really started like have an 'aha-moment' watching from the sidelines," Smith said. "I [thought that] I never wanted to be on the sidelines again, whether it is in or out of my control. That's what really kept me motivated going forward."

That hope was flipped on its head when Smith started at GU. Her first year, the COVID-19 pandemic halted her performance. The next year, she saw action in 28 sets until she tore her ab mid-season; the year after, she tore her ACL during the preseason and was out for the full year.

Despite sitting on the bench, Smith became a pivotal part of team morale. Graduate student outside hitter Zoe Thiros said Smith's energy was essential last season.

"She was a great leader off of the court in the spring when she couldn't play," Thiros said. "It's hard to be impactful when you're hurt, but she guided our team in such a way that made us stronger."

Her leadership skills, Smith described, come from much of her mentality coming into college.

"I was super insecure in high school, and coming to college, this was the time that I could redefine myself," Smith said. "I just came into the college with the mentality [of] not comparing myself to others being strong in my beliefs, and I think confidence will just come with that."

That confidence, Smith feels, is what attracts teammates to a good energy. Bringing the team together is at the heart of her mission.

"I think it's really easy to get caught up in doing things that you think your coach is wanting you to do or that you think your teammates are wanting you to do, what everyone's expecting of you," Smith said. "But if I say something that's not

authentic to me, people are going to know immediately because I'm such a strong personality."

Smith has excelled since returning to the court, recording 55 kills across 10 matches this season.

"It feels really good," Smith said. "I've definitely been itching to get on the court and just show Gonzaga who I am as a player."

Thiros noted how pivotal a role Smith has played in the season so far.

"She is playing lights out right now," Thiros said. "She is probably our most confident and edgy player, but our team needs that from her ... having her on the court now is huge for us."

So far, the team's overall record stands at 3-8. The team's enthusiasm around the season remains strong.

"We have trained harder than we ever had before," Smith said. "We have one hard practice and then the next day we are training even harder, both mentally and physically."

Ultimately, Smith said her mentality stems from a deep thankfulness for the opportunities she's been given, despite the multitude of setbacks she may have faced.

"I'm just grateful for every moment I have to train with my teammates ... I'm grateful to have an able body and have my teammates around me, and be able to play with them," Smith said.

Off the court, Smith said she is thankful for the GU community, as it has provided her a strong community of support, both on and off the court.

"I always give the advice like when you're choosing to play volleyball, find a college that you want to be at ... that really held true for me," Smith said. "I visited a few schools before coming to Gonzaga, and when I came here on campus it just

## GU SPORTS

### Thursday, Sept. 21

➤ Volleyball at San Francisco, San Francisco, California, 7 p.m.

### Friday, Sept. 22

➤ Cross country at Roy Griak Invitational (Men only), Minneapolis, Minnesota, 9 a.m.

### Saturday, Sept. 23

➤ Volleyball at Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California, 1 p.m.

### Sunday, Sept. 24

➤ Women's golf at Coeur d'Alene Resort Collegiate Invitational, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, all day  
 ➤ Women's soccer at South Florida, Tampa, Florida, 10 a.m.  
 ➤ Men's soccer at Incarnate World, San Antonio, Texas, 11 a.m.

### Monday, Sept. 25

➤ Women's golf at Coeur d'Alene Resort Collegiate Invitational, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, all day  
 ➤ Men's golf at Nick Watney Invitational, Fresno, California, all day

### Tuesday, Sept. 26

➤ Women's golf at Coeur d'Alene Resort Collegiate Invitational, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, all day  
 ➤ Men's golf at Nick Watney Invitational, Fresno, California, all day

**\*Home games in bold\***

it felt right. There's this feeling you can't describe."

Madeleine Reed is a digital editor. Follow her on X: @madeleinesreed.

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The University of Washington School of Medicine at Gonzaga University is hiring testing proctors for on-site testing fall term.

Exams are typically Monday and/or Friday mornings from 8:30-10:30. The pay is \$18 per hour and you do not need to commit to both days.

For more information, please contact Carol at 509-313-7905 or [carol.weigand@gonzaga.edu](mailto:carol.weigand@gonzaga.edu).

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# Gonzaga men's basketball roster takes shape after busy offseason

COMMENTARY  
By ZACH WHITE

As Kraziness in the Kennel draws near, the Gonzaga University men's basketball team finally has its roster set.

Following a tumultuous summer that included a near-complete roster turnover, the Zags released their 2023-24 roster on Sept. 7.

While the team may be set, the rotation is anything but. With a host of key players leaving, the Zags will look to its newcomers to fill big roles.

Ryan Nembhard is one key transfer who will immediately find himself in the starting lineup. Nembhard joins GU from the Creighton Bluejays, who he led to the Elite Eight last season.

Both a scorer and facilitator, Nembhard averaged 12.1 points per game on 43.2% shooting in 2022-23, while also chipping in with 4.8 assists per game.

The 6-foot guard, who brings two years of experience as a starter, is expected to make up half of GU's backcourt duo alongside fellow junior Nolan Hickman.

Hickman called his 2022-23 campaign "average," showing dissatisfaction about his first year as a starter. Although it's easy to remember Hickman's 0-for-10 mark from 3-point range during the NCAA Tournament, he mostly fulfilled his duties as a low-usage, hyper-efficient playmaker.

Starting 36 games last season, Hickman averaged 3.1 assists on just 1.3 turnovers per contest. He was a serviceable scorer, posting 7.7 points per game and shooting 35.4% from beyond the arc.

Anton Watson is another returning starter from the previous season. The Spokane local found himself working out for NBA organizations over the summer, with his future with the Zags heavily in doubt.

Despite receiving interest from multiple teams, Watson opted to withdraw from the NBA Draft and use his remaining year of eligibility at GU.

Watson represents a key piece for the team's championship aspirations. He averaged 11.1 points last season, while also chipping in with an average of 6.2 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game.

A surefire starter, Watson will look to earn a host of conference and national honors while improving his NBA Draft stock in a crucial year for him and the Zags.

Partnering Watson in the frontcourt will likely be a pair of transfers, Graham Ike (Wyoming) and Steele Venters (Eastern Washington).

Ike will return to action this season after having missed the entirety of last season due to a leg injury. While there may be doubts about his fitness heading into the season, there are no doubts about his offensive ability.

In his last season with Wyoming, Ike averaged 19.5 points, 9.6 rebounds and 1.6 assists. Ike was the team's leading scorer as he led the Cowboys to an NCAA Tournament appearance. Having an extra two years of eligibility due to a medical redshirt season, Ike will be one of the program's main scoring threats in the immediate future.

"Graham is exactly the big guy we've been looking for and in need of for next season," said head coach Mark Few. "After having him up for a visit and meeting he



ISABELLA STOUT IG: @isabellacarlin.photography

Nolan Hickman (No. 11) started 36 of 37 games for the Bulldogs last season, only coming off the bench for Senior Night.

and his mom, he's just going to be the perfect fit for our program. He is a young man of high character, who is really focused and a hard worker. He has shown himself to be a highly effective player over the years."

The final member of the starting roster will likely be Venters. An Eastern Washington native, Venters will look to impress in his first season with the Zags.

In his previous season with EWU, Venters averaged 15.3 points on 45.7% shooting. A sharpshooting wing, Venters shot a remarkable 43.4% from 3-point range in the 2021-22 season.

While those numbers decreased slightly last season, Venters will benefit from Few's system that often relies upon wing players.

"They need a shooter and that's what I do best," Venters said. "I think I can kill it from any position. I've proven that a high efficiency from 3 and in the mid-range."

Last season, GU ran an eight-man rotation for the majority of the season. The tight rotation is a hallmark of Few's coaching style, and will certainly be in place this upcoming season.

Ben Gregg is sure to be a rotational piece, with Gregg inhabiting that role last season. Drew Timme's departure and Ike's return from injury signify that Gregg will get even more minutes this season than last season.

The candidates for the final two spots in the rotation will be Jun Seok Yeo, Luka Krajnovic, Dusty Stromer and Braden Huff.

Yeo came to GU last spring as a transfer from Korea University in Seoul, South Korea. While he didn't play in games as a freshman, he has a respectable reputation

overseas.

At the 2021 FIBA U-19 World Cup in Latvia, Yeo averaged a tournament-high 25.6 points to go along with 10.6 rebounds, 2.1 steals, 1.7 assists and 1.4 blocks.

Krajnovic, the Bulldogs' most recent pickup, is a freshman from Zagreb, Croatia, where he played for Bosco in the Croatian Premier League. Krajnovic averaged 17.6 points in 34 games in 2022-23, earning Most Improved Player of Year and Second Team All-League.

"Luka is a guard that can really help us," Few said. "He is versatile and has decent size. He also had good experiences playing against older guys back home in Croatia."

Stromer was the first Class of 2023 recruit to sign with the Bulldogs, joining the program as a 4-star wing from Sherman Oaks, California. As a senior, he averaged 17.3 points on 44% shooting as a senior, while leading Notre Dame High School to a Division I CIF State title.

Unlike the other three, Huff spent the entirety of last season with GU, where he redshirted as a freshman. The 6-foot-10 forward is poised to showcase the skills that made him GU's top high school recruit in 2022.

Huff, a former Illinois Mr. Basketball recipient, is a versatile scorer who can shoot 3s, maneuver his way in the post and attack defenders off the dribble.

Rounding out the roster are three walk-ons: redshirt junior forward Colby Brooks, junior guard Joe Few and freshman guard Joaquim ArauzMoore.

Zach White is a sports editor.



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