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JOSH GARCIA IG: @flamedflicks

The layout and themes of the haunted house differ each year, with room themes ranging from Michael Myers' graveyard to "The Haunting of Bly Manor."

A nightmare on Sinto Avenue

Crimont Haunted House returns with chilling frights and campus thrills

By EMILY FROMAN

This year, Gonzaga University's Crimont Haunted House was full of new activities, sustainable goals and spooky themes.

The haunted house was planned as a collaborative event with the resident directors and resident assistants from North block and Coughlin block working together, according to Josephine Orlando, residence director for North block and GU alumna.

"It sounded like it was a very scary haunted house," Orlando said.

Each year, the haunted house's layout is different, Orlando said.

"The way that Crimont is built, it does kind of help make it more of a realistic haunted house experience just because it's one of our oldest dorms that hasn't been fully renovated," Orlando said.

Groups were led into the spider's nest first, decorated with spiderwebs and spider projections.

Then, students were led into the crypt, which was dark and had more spiderwebs. Additionally, it included streamers to create a sensory experience, Orlando said. This space also included the first

interaction with an actor in the haunted house.

"We had an actor who took creative liberty and would kind of parkour his way on top of the structure that's in the room," Orlando said.

The actor would then scare the group and chase them, according to Orlando.

Other rooms included themes such as a Michael Myers' graveyard room. Another room was called the "butcher shop" in which the actors were dressed in bloody pig masks standing over a mannequin on a table.

There was also an "It" themed hallway

with Pennywise actor and Georgie actors jumping out to scare the groups.

The surgeon room was bloody and had a bathtub in the middle.

"We had an incredible freshman actress in a bathtub screaming at people," Orlando said.

There were 14 actors in total at the haunted house, and 12 of these were Crimont residents, Orlando said.

"The actors were really good," said Sophie Cieslicki, the residence director of Coughlin block.

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NICO LOPEZ IG: @nlopez_photography

Torkelson's family collects neighbors' compost and scraps that would otherwise go to waste.

Neighborhood farm aims to reduce waste and serve community

By KAELYN NEW

Just north of Gonzaga University, nestled in the residential Logan Neighborhood, lies an urban farm brimming with fresh produce and the squawking of birds.

Spokane resident Amie Torkelson said she wanted to wait until she got more property to start a farm, but once the pandemic arrived, she realized that she could create the farm of her dreams in her own backyard.

"The farm is so much bigger than us," Torkelson said. "We say the mission and the heart of the farm is that we are here to love and serve the people right in front of us."

In the front yard of Torkelson's house on East Carlisle Avenue is a sharing garden that is open to the neighbors and surrounding community. There, Torkelson and her family grow an array of produce such as berries, herbs, squash and tomatoes. The sharing garden allows

for low-risk interactions, Torkelson said, where people come to grab some vegetables and spark conversations that build the foundation of trust in community-oriented relationships.

"I would not say that I'm an expert gardener," Torkelson said. "I just started. You would be amazed at what you can grow by just starting."

When Torkelson first started her garden, she said she attempted to grow over 32 different plants.

"My advice to people trying to start a garden is try 50 things," Torkelson said. "Five things will fail. I can almost guarantee you. Things are going to fail. You might as well open your odds to where you have more chance for things to survive."

In the backyard, Torkelson and her family raise livestock, namely chickens and quail. The backyard is also home to several beehives.

At its core, Torkelson said that her and her family's mission is to broaden

the community's involvement. Since the city limits the number of livestock that each residential building can have, she wants the surrounding neighbors to get involved.

But for Torkelson, the city farm in her yard is about more than just the growth of plants and livestock. While she personally strives to grow and preserve enough food to last a year, she said that her larger vision is to empower the entire community to join her in her sustainability efforts.

"I think Amie has provided so much additional education and insight onto things that I wouldn't have thought about previously, so that's kind of led me on a journey of kind of overhearing where are these food waste things happening and how can I get involved with it," said Shanna Porter, Torkelson's longtime friend in Spokane.

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Ballot measure brings jail debate to Spokane

By AMELIA TRONCONE

In the upcoming November general election, Spokane County voters will be faced with the decision of whether their tax money should go toward the construction of a new county jail.

This decision stems from Measure 1, a public safety sales tax increase that proposes to increase sales tax by 0.02% for 30 years. If approved, it would generate \$1.7 billion to go toward addressing criminal justice, public safety and behavioral health needs in addition to building and improving correctional facilities.

The Spokane Board of County Commissioners first voted to include Measure 1 on the November ballot in December, and in the 10 months since, it has sparked debate about whether a new jail is what Spokane County needs. Proponents say that this measure is important to address overcrowding in the current jail and modernize Spokane's criminal justice system. Those opposed argue that the measure is too vague and that expansion of the jail system is not the solution.

Angel Tomeo Sam is the campaign manager for Spokane's chapter of Justice NOT Jails, a political action committee that works to reform the criminal justice system. She said a key issue with Measure 1 is that it would perpetuate mass incarceration.

"Decarceration is really the way to go," Tomeo Sam said. "It creates resources in the community to not only get to the root of criminality, but it reduces recidivism and it creates a healthy community."

She said she also believes a new jail will not be effective in reducing crime in Spokane and making the community safer. Spokane has pushed to be tougher on crime in the past by incarcerating at high rates, Tomeo Sam said, yet the problems are still there. This is because the city is not prioritizing meeting people's needs nor offering proper rehabilitation resources, she said.

Union Carter is a community organizer at the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, a social justice organization that is campaigning against Measure 1. She agreed that this measure will only lead to higher incarceration rates, and that it will contribute to the systemic racism already seen in Spokane's jail.

"On the basis of race, you're seeing higher rates or higher disproportionate rates of people of color — specifically Black and Indigenous and [Latinx] people — being arrested and incarcerated in like the Spokane County Jail," Carter said.

Carter said she also believes this measure is an indicator of a larger issue: the criminalization of poverty

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From Omaha to Spokane, Adams fills new role

By ANDERS SVENNINGSEN

College living is notoriously intense — university culture encourages students to sacrifice well-being for their studies. It's these crucial moments where the dialogue shifts to focus on wellbeing, but usually after damage has been done. Gonzaga University's new Assistant Dean of Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Charmayne Adams is resolved to change this dynamic for the better and for good.

Adams is wrapping up four years at the University of Nebraska-Omaha serving as clinical mental health counseling coordinator and starts a new chapter as a Zag as she arrives on campus this fall. However, according to Adams, developing an understanding of how to respond to trauma influenced her transition into academia; her background in crisis work informs her approach to counseling and well-being.

"I've done a lot of trauma work, and I did what Tennessee calls mobile crisis," Adams said. "I was dispatched out for individuals who were actively in crisis, and I gave a clinical recommendation for them on-site ... that was the vast majority of my clinical work."

This focus on active crisis transformed into a concentration on identity-based trauma care. According to Adams, marginalized identity plays a crucial role in providing informed and effective care.

"A lot of research is focused on what happens when you encounter a single incident that you find traumatic," Adams said. "But here are micro-traumas that accumulate across a lifespan from holding one of these identities, and that's the kind of work I was doing most recently."

For Adams, student outreach converges around the value of understanding care. She said changing a community requires an open mind and willingness to be changed.

"When I went down to Guatemala for some service work, one of my professors said, 'You're not going to down there and change everything, but I hope when you go down there it changes you,'" Adams said. "That is part of what I've held with me. How can I be changed by the work I do? How can I become more humble, hold humility and really understand people's worldviews?"

Encountering GU's mission was a further extension of these values for her. Values woven into her personal outlook find reflection in the way the campus operates, Adams said.

"When I got onto GU's campus and heard about how actively people walk in the mission of Gonzaga and use their values to make the campus a better place — as graduates move forward to make the world a better



Charmayne Adams is GU's newest administrative advocate for student mental health and well-being. LUCY BOOTH IG: lucybooth.photo

place — that's something I knew I wanted to be a part of," Adams said.

Adams' particular care for principles and standards was evident even from the outset of the selection process, according to Vice Provost of Student Affairs Kent Porterfield.

"Dr. Adams really stood out as a candidate," Porterfield said in an email to the Bulletin. "She supports an approach to student wellbeing that addresses disparities, provides responsive and effective treatment, and engages students in proactive skill building toward resilience and effective stress management."

Adams said her values are accompanied by her commitment to change and action on behalf of GU's student population. She said the main goal is to create a dynamic environment of dialogue between offices centered around student wellbeing.

"We want to look at national trends and campus-wide trends, my hope is to have all three departments [Counseling Clinic, Student Health Center, Health Promotions] in synergy," Adams said. "We want to be proactive and reactive, where Student Health and Counseling have micro details that inform the approach the public arm of Health Promotions."

Creating this beneficial environment has brought Adams in touch with new student perspectives. She said it's been a new challenge, but is energized to bring solutions to those who need them.

"At University of Omaha, I got to train counselors,

students who had a clear idea of what they wanted to do," Adams said. "It's been really interesting to shift back to students who don't have a clear idea of what they want to do and letting them know that's OK has been a goal."

Undergraduate culture brings difficulties that push students to the brink of their capabilities, Adams said. According to Adams, a holistic approach can be proactive to combat the more destructive behaviors of meal skipping, poor sleep quality and social strain that comes with the territory.

"The way that college is talked about on TV or in movies it seems amazing and sunshine-y, but in reality, college is extremely challenging, it's hard finding new friends, managing classes and different environments," Adams said. "I really hope I can help students that are wondering if this is their place make it their place."

Throughout it all, Adams said she's focused on using her skills to be a driver of positive change. She hopes to energize change at GU while remaining open to the ways it might change her.

"As we focus on high achievers and superstars, there's a subset of students really struggling," Adams said. "That has been one of my objectives is making sure they're connected to the resources they need while they're here. Everyone should get a chance to experience the positivity college brings, and all the wonderful opportunities of time here."

Anders Svenningsen is a news editor.

JAIL

Continued from Page 1

in Spokane. Government officials have proposed housing people experiencing homelessness in the new jail, which Carter said is not the answer. Instead, she believes the city should focus on investing in people and funding recovery services.

In addition to not focusing on the correct ways to address social issues in Spokane, Carter said the county does not have any real plans to carry out what is written in the ballot. Out of all of the things that the county has listed in the ballot language, she said the only concrete plan in place is to build a jail.

In July, Democratic County Commissioners Chris Jordan and Amber Waldref suggested moving Measure 1 from the Nov. 7 general election to the August 2024 primary election to allow for better planning. Their proposal was denied by Republican commissioners Al French, Josh Kerns and Mary Kuney.

"There's no plan for these behavioral

health programs, there's no plans for any other like criminal justice support system or anything like that," Carter said. "Literally the only thing that they have planned is the jail."

Another key grievance that many people hold with this measure, according to Carter, is that it uses unclear language that can confuse voters.

PJALS, along with nine other organizations, took the county to court in August 2023 on the basis that the language in Measure 1 was prejudicial by not clearly stating that the money would go toward building a jail. Superior Court Judge Tony Hazel agreed and ruled that the measure's wording would be changed to include the words, "including building and improving jails or correctional facilities."

"The vague wording, to some people, is necessary, but it's a vague wording coupled with actually no plan to properly spend this money," Carter said. "That's really a very dangerous combination."

Carter said voters should do their own research on the measure so they can be sure to get a holistic view about what it

really says and means for the city. Tomeo Sam agreed that voters need to know what they're voting for and encourages people with criminal legal convictions to register to vote.

"The folks who are impacted — the folks who have lived experience — we're the folks who have been and are closest to the problem, and if we're closest to the problem, we're also closest to the solution," Tomeo Sam said.

If Measure 1 is passed, Spokane's Board of County Commissioners would decide how the yielded money is spent on criminal justice. The commissioners voted to support the measure during a public hearing on Oct. 10, with the motion passing 3-2.

Jordan, who voted against the measure, stated at the public hearing that Measure 1 does not deserve the public votes because it lacks details and specific goals. He pointed out that this measure is one of the largest proposed tax increases in Spokane County history and that a new jail would cost the city \$540 million.

"There are not clearly identified

and budgeted priorities for how local governments will spend the remaining \$1.1 billion in new taxes," Jordan said. "That is the definition of a blank check."

Kerns, who is in favor of the measure, said at the public hearing that there is an urgent need for Measure 1.

"People are tired of being victimized, people are tired of the revolving door that we have at our current jail facility because of capacity," Kerns said.

Commissioner Waldref opposed the measure with Jordan, calling it a proposal without a clear roadmap. She said that instead of focusing on historical data, the city needs to be investing in the programs and services that have been proven to prevent and reduce incarceration.

"This whole measure is based on the past, and I would like to see a measure that's really based on what we want to see differently in our criminal justice system in the future," Waldref said.

Amelia Troncone is an arts & entertainment editor.

FARM

Continued from Page 1

Porter said that she met Torkelson about six or seven years ago and has learned so much about the community and sustainability since.

"It's just like this slow progression of inviting the community in and just serving together," Torkelson said. "The last Saturday of every month we do a community dinner, and we do a taco salad bar because I think it's really important that people feel like they're contributing, like they have something to bring to the table."

Torkelson additionally leads garbage walks every Monday at 10 a.m. where members of the community can join her and her family as they walk around the neighborhood collecting trash.

Last year, she took a wagon to donate plant starts and walked door-to-door around the neighborhood asking people what they would like to grow. She said that months later, one of her neighbors sent her a photo of tomatoes that they had grown from this effort.

Torkelson said her efforts for sustainability and zero-waste are ever-present. Neighbors drop off compost that would have otherwise been thrown away, and a food bank shares its leftover produce that Torkelson uses to feed the chickens.

"(Torkelson is) caring for her community in a way that we often don't see anymore," Porter said.

More than anything, Torkelson said that she is guided by her faith. She said that God told her to stay in Spokane and fight for her neighborhood in creating the change she wishes to see.

"I have big dreams," Torkelson said. "This vision is like these 17 blocks would be the city farm, that people would be moving to this neighborhood to be a part of the city farm, that there's a community here that encourages and empowers other people and shares what we have. Further, I dream of seeing every community gathering at their elementary school once a month to pick up garbage."

Porter said that when Torkelson took time off work, she started a ministry within the community with her farm project.

"Her persistence to that has been absolutely incredible and really a blessing for me to watch," Porter said. "It's been

so neat to see from her first garbage walk to today when there are people showing up at her house randomly as people are building a greenhouse just to say hi."

In the future, Torkelson said that she wants to start doing three garbage walks per week in addition to other efforts to increase sustainability. But for now, she is focusing on the people around her.

Each time a neighbor moves in, Torkelson said that she brings a gift basket to make them feel welcome. Through those actions, Torkelson hopes to empower the community around her.

"Mama says, 'make an excuse to knock on your neighbors' doors,'" said Kennedy, Torkelson's five-year-old daughter.

Torkelson said that those in the community looking to get involved should reach out to her at leadempowered@gmail.com or stop by her house, located at 1304 E. Carlisle Ave. to participate in events such as community dinners and garbage walks.

Kaelyn New is the managing editor. Follow her on X: @kaelyn_new.

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MSA brings community to Muslim students

By CLARINNE KIRK

By increasing solidarity, providing educational opportunities and addressing the hardships minority students face, Gonzaga University's new club, the Muslim Student Association, aims to serve as a safe harbor for GU's minority students.

The creation process for MSA began in the spring with a smaller, informal worship group of about six students. This fall, the group grew to about 30 members and finalized the official club application process.

Despite the growth of membership, Salsabel Khalid, MSA's treasurer and co-secretary, said finding new members and getting the word out about the club remains a challenge.

"One hardship right now is finding students who are Muslim to join the club," Khalid said. "Not a lot of people know about [MSA] even if they're Muslim, and that's why we're having a hard time connecting with other Muslims even though we know that they're out there."

For Khalid, the creation of this club was important in helping her feel represented on campus, as previously there was not a club she could fully identify with.

"When I came here, there wasn't any club that I could associate with, I don't fit into any club," Khalid said. "Even though I'm Southeast Asian, it's like you're not seen as Asian."

MSA President Dylan Tantomo similarly experienced feelings of isolation and marginalization, sparking him to get involved with creating MSA.

"I had a feeling of being a bit of a marginalized group in this Catholic establishment," Tantomo said. "I wanted to hold prayers, but I didn't know where other Muslim students were here. There is this need for Muslim students to have this faith-based community."

Tantomo said that creating this faith-based community for Muslim GU students is at the heart of MSA's mission.

"We want to create a faith-based community where Muslim students feel safe and be able to practice our religion on a Catholic campus," Tantomo said. "We have the right to practice our religion even as a minority on this campus."

Khalid added that the mission of the club is not exclusively aimed at Muslim students; the club also works to educate students on Islam and dispel harmful and false stereotypes.

"The purpose of our club is to expose the Islamic culture to the campus because I



NICO LOPEZ IG: @nlopez_photography

MSA invited religious studies lecturer Fr. Patrick Baraza to speak at one of its meetings.

know a lot of people have the stereotype of what Islam is, and we want to show that it's not what you see in the media," Khalid said.

Tantomo said the club's purpose of creating a representative space for GU students and educating the larger campus on their culture fits into GU's larger mission of social justice and diversity.

"We have different cultures, nationalities, races and ethnicities, and in the mission statement, they emphasize the importance of inclusivity," Tantomo said.

Tantomo added that the creation of this club also acknowledges and highlights the diversity present at GU.

"Our existence on this campus is important to show that there are students of color and students of different ethnicities and races," Tantomo said.

In addition to highlighting diversity within the GU community, MSA further highlights the diversity of races within the Muslim community, according to Khalid.

"Even within our club, we're all different races," Khalid said. "The common thing between us is we're Muslim, but it doesn't have to be specifically one race."

Not only does MSA highlight the existing diversity on campus, but Khalid also said she hopes MSA will increase campus diversity by expanding who feels

represented at GU.

"Let's say there's a tour, and there's someone who looks like me, and they see me on campus and learn about MSA, they will feel like they fit in and that GU can be a place for them," Khalid said.

Despite the solidarity and community that MSA provides, Khalid and Tantomo said there still are some challenges to being of a minority faith on campus, especially involving balancing faith and academic commitments.

"These are the kinds of barriers that I feel as a Muslim here, where the prayer times intersect with class times," Tantomo said. "I feel like I have to be quick or otherwise I'm gonna miss my prayer; but on the other hand, I also have to fulfill my obligation as a student."

To help alleviate this struggle, Tantomo and Khalid said one goal of MSA is to increase the amount of quiet, accessible spaces to pray across campus beyond College Hall's interfaith hallway. Having prayer spaces dispersed throughout campus would allow Muslim students to easily leave class to pray and return without missing too much content.

Providing a safe and private space for prayer will not only make prayer more accessible to students but will also protect

their right to pray without harassment, according to Khalid.

"One of our club members was praying in the [John J. Hemmingson Center] and someone was bullying her because she was praying in public," Khalid said. "But she should have that right [to pray], even if others don't know what it is. They should respect it."

Another challenge Muslim students face is a lack of awareness about Muslim students' fasting, which can make completing class work more challenging, Khalid said.

"Sitting in a class while not eating or drinking all day can be exhausting," Khalid said. "That's why we want the professors to know about Muslim students, so they can check on them."

Khalid said MSA plans to distribute posters to educate on fasting and ask students not to eat in front of fasting Muslim students in class, which will not only help alleviate the stress some Muslim students experience during fasting but will also provide an opportunity to educate and foster respect.

Despite these challenges, Tantomo said he still feels welcomed at GU.

"I feel proud and safe in this community," Tantomo said.

MSA club meetings include socialization, community building, guest speakers and education on Islamic culture. One of the daily prayers also occurs during the club meeting, allowing MSA members to pray together.

"We're looking forward to building friendships and connections with other people within our club," Khalid said.

In the spring of 2024, Khalid said MSA hopes to put on an event celebrating the holiday Eid. This event will provide the opportunity to share their culture with the larger campus and provide a community for Muslim students, especially for those who may feel homesick during this time of familial gathering.

"This celebration is between family and friends, and some students live without their family," Khalid said. "We're all going to come and make it feel like home with a big celebration of good food and lots of people chatting."

MSA meets in College Hall on Mondays at 5 or 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit MSA's Instagram, @msa.gonzaga. Club meetings are open to students of all faith backgrounds.

"You don't have to be Muslim to join our club," Khalid said. "We welcome everyone because that's what our religion is about."

Clarinne Kirk is a copy editor.

Are there jobs for humanities majors?

By CLARINNE KIRK

For those who are humanities majors, it might not be unheard of to tell someone your major and get a response along the lines of, "What are you going to do with that?" For Jonathan Byers, director of career education at Gonzaga University's Career and Professional Development, this common retort stems not from an actual gap in career opportunities for humanities majors, but from a misconception about the practicality of a humanities degree.

"There's a perception of a gap, but I don't know if I agree that there's a gap per se," Byers said. "Sometimes parents in society feel like if you don't get a degree in business or STEM, you won't get a job. To me, that's a false perception because that's just people not understanding the steps in the middle to help that person get a job."

Though this gap is just a misconception, according to Byers, it has had some tangible impacts on career development at GU, resulting in a lack of career development culture within the College of Arts & Sciences. Byers has been increasing collaboration with CAS in order to brainstorm ways to increase the emphasis on career development within the college.

One individual with whom Byers has been collaborating is Stacy Taninchev, associate dean of student success in CAS. Taninchev said the misconception about the practicality of a humanities major is a concern and believes it comes from a lack of understanding about the value of a humanities major in a wide range of industries.

"People think, 'If you study history, you have to be a historian,' but there's lots of different jobs historians can do," Taninchev said. "They can do jobs in business and consulting, the skills that you gain and the knowledge and the attitudes that we develop in our students, they're useful for a multitude of jobs that students don't even realize."

According to Taninchev, skills of critical thinking, strong communication, public speaking and writing are all highly valuable to employers and built into any major within the college.

The lack of understanding of how majors connect to varying industries could be due to the fact that the path between liberal arts majors and a specific industry is broader and less linear, Taninchev said.

"One of the ways that I try to help liberal arts majors understand career development is helping them understand the different industries and connect with their majors and the skill sets they have in their majors," Byers said. "If you're a psych major, or philosophy or English, there's not one specific career path you have to follow."

Because this path is less linear, Byers said students often have to be more creative in understanding what they can do with their skill set and how to connect their skills to

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There are some very indirect ways to connect liberal arts majors to industries, but it does take being creative in how you market yourself and seek out different opportunities for jobs.

Jonathan Byers, director of career education

potential jobs.

"There are some very indirect ways to connect liberal arts majors to industries, but it does take being creative in how you market yourself and seek out different opportunities for jobs," Byers said.

Another resource the center offers to educate students on which industries are applicable to them is a resource on their website called "What can I do with my major?" which breaks down a variety of industry opportunities for each major. Other resources CPD provides to help students proactively prepare for their career include resume help, networking practice, career advising and career fairs.

They also provide connections and job opportunities for students through a website called ZagsConnect, where alumni looking for potential employees can advertise to GU students.

Though CPD offers extensive resources, Byers said that they are often underutilized by students, especially humanities students, who may not realize all the services available to them.

"I do feel like there's a lack of awareness in many cases, and so we're trying to be more intentional with working with the college to be able to share information and throw reminders out," Byers said.

In addition to providing resources for students, CPD empowers faculty to engage with students' career development through workshops like Career Kindlers, a program that educates faculty on the ways they can bridge the gap between students and the opportunities for career development GU provides.

Taninchev said that increasing faculty participation within the program is one goal of the CAS.

"The idea is that the more of us (faculty) that have that training, the more we can send students to get the resources that exist," Taninchev said.

HOUSE

Continued from Page 1

For the next room, Orlando said the inspiration was taken from the show "The Haunting of Bly Manor." Actors in the room were faceless, with masks covering their faces.

"[This] was playing on not being able to recognize the fear," Orlando said.

The last room is the "Christmas gone wrong" room, which had a creepy feel, Orlando said.

"We had strobe lights throughout the event, and had warning signs throughout the event [about this]," Orlando said.

The haunted house's line outside of people waiting was pretty full, according to Orlando.

"It was a good turnout and people sounded like they had a lot of fun," Cieslicki said.

Every year, the haunted house has a component of supporting a local nonprofit. This year, students brought non-perishable food items such as canned goods for entrance.

"That is a way for us to ensure

that it stays as a program that any student would be able to have access to," Orlando said.

As the cold weather approached this year before Halloween, there was a need to keep students warm, Orlando said.

To accomplish the goal, an outdoor heater was implemented at this year's haunted house.

Other new aspects this year included additional activities outside for students waiting in line.

Activities outside of the haunted house consisted of pumpkin painting, games like

Connect 4 and food, Cieslicki said.

Reusable materials included tarps that will be reused from year-to-year, as well as the outdoor heaters that can be used for other housing events, Orlando said, to make the event sustainable.

According to Orlando, the organization of the event relied on the collaborations between various groups apart from the two housing blocks: the marketing committee, the flow coordination committee, the acquisitions committee, the fest committee, the office of sustainability, the Residence Hall Association, GUEST services,

Sodexo and campus security.

Students should attend events like these to get more involved on campus, Cieslicki said.

"If there are other things that you hear about going on on campus, just put in the effort to go and support various organizations and meet new people," Cieslicki said.

Emily Froman is a staff writer.

Republican party flails during the race for House Speaker

Every week, it seems like our political class continues to show itself to be ever more pointless, out of touch and silly. The absolute epitome of this unfortunate phenomenon is the recent clown show of a speaker race in the House of Representatives.

As of me writing this article, Mike Johnson is the speaker, having been elected on Oct. 25. However, the events preceding this final vote were some of the lowest in congressional history and were wholly unrelated to the job Congress is supposed to do.

The whole speaker debacle started on Oct. 3. The previous speaker, Kevin McCarthy, was voted into the position very narrowly after 15 ballots. In his quest to garner votes, he made a number of concessions to the most conservative factions of the House, including a promise to change House rules to allow any single member to propose a motion to vacate. McCarthy remained in the position

without much fuss, up until a deadline for the budget rapidly approached. After contentious interparty disagreements, McCarthy facilitated a bipartisan agreement to fund the government until November.

This angered Congressman Matt Gaetz of Florida, who then put forward a motion to vacate; he and seven other Republicans then joined all Democrats in voting for McCarthy's removal.

When asked to give reasons for his actions, Gaetz stated that McCarthy "broke promises" he made to the conservative faction while he was Speaker of the House. However, when pressed, Gaetz couldn't name which of these alleged "promises" McCarthy broke, and instead lambasted McCarthy as a "Republican in Name Only," which is a common term that Trump supporters use to discredit any Republican not on their side.

And herein lies the absolute stupidity that resulted in this



By JACKSON HUDGINS

terrible decision. If Matt Gaetz truly cared about Congress promoting even a semi-conservative agenda, he would understand that the math really isn't in his favor. Republicans control the House, sure, but the Senate and presidency are controlled by the opposition. As such, almost any bill would have no chance of passing unless there are serious negotiations.

But Gaetz couldn't care less; he represents the deep

red Florida Panhandle, and as such is in no danger of being unseated, unlike his numerous other colleagues in swing seats. He only really cares about raising his national profile and seeks to do so even if he sinks GOP election prospects in the process.

And Gaetz's pointless ousting of McCarthy could do just that, since the Republicans in the House now look needlessly chaotic and disorganized. Voters never reward that behavior, so Republicans are jeopardizing their majority for no real reason. Republicans have better answers to economic and national security concerns when compared to the Democrats, but Gaetz's stunt ruined any momentum they might have had.

It also took Republicans a little under a month to select a new speaker, and each successive nominee went down in flames as the caucus remained bitterly divided, further exacerbating the image of dysfunction.

All of this is to say that the Republican party was broken by Donald Trump. Conservatives that abandon principle to cash in on popularity through faux populism can't be punished by the party as easily as before, so they remain bitterly entrenched within the party framework.

Republicans have the answer for governing, but hitching their wagons to the former President will bring them down for years to come. If the previous two elections are any guide, the Republicans should banish him and his allies and should never be fooled by grifters like them again.

Jackson Hudgins is a staff writer. Follow him on X: @judge_hudge63.

Lime scooters sour Spokane's safety for unsuspecting pedestrians

Strolling down Centennial Trail, I cannot help but stand in awe of the vibrant river or changing leaves, aflame with the sun's golden hue. The moment is tranquil, a respite from the hustle of the city, until a haunting ringing sound blares from behind as an electric Lime scooter whirs past, narrowly missing me as I jump off the path to escape a collision. Others are not as lucky. My friend, Grace, was recently trampled by a 12-year-old loose on a joy ride turned slaughter.

Pedestrians are not the only ones at risk of Lime-related injury. The scooters are also notoriously dangerous to riders, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association. In its study, JAMA found that injuries associated with electric scooter use, especially fractures and head injuries, were prevalent, particularly in young adults.

The injuries were exacerbated by the fact that only 4.4% of riders were documented wearing a helmet. Part of these levels of injuries comes from the fact that riders are often reckless and drunk. And understandably so, because isn't the recklessness the ultimate fun of Lime scooters? Why slowly meander down the trail when you could carelessly cruise at speeds of 15 mph?

Not only are Lime scooters often



By CLARINNE KIRK

carelessly ridden, but they are also thoughtlessly parked, as Lime scooters are often strewn about the city, lying across sidewalks and blocking doorways. While these littered scooters can be an annoying eyesore, they also pose a more serious hazard, impairing the accessibility of Spokane streets for individuals with disabilities.

To address this concern, the city of Spokane stipulated rules for users in its contract with Lime that stated that parked scooters must not obstruct buildings, crosswalks or sidewalks. Yet, rules to limit the reckless use of Lime scooters are often unsuccessful and hard to enforce.

The Spokane police department only has violations for 0.0115% of total rides, while one walk through downtown will show that the improper use of Lime scooters is a vastly larger percentage.

Lime scooters pose a danger not only to human health but also to that of the Spokane environment. According to a study by North Carolina State University, two-thirds of the time, Lime scooter trips generate more greenhouse gas emissions than an alternative source of transportation, including a car. This large carbon footprint comes from the unsustainable raw materials and energy used in manufacturing, the short longevity of Lime scooters and the energy needed for vehicles to collect scooters and take them to a charging station before redistributing them throughout the city.

Lime scooters also degrade the health of our river. Vandals commonly throw scooters into the Spokane River, leaving their batteries to pollute the water with toxic heavy metals that pose a serious threat to aquatic life. As of April, 257 Lime scooters had been recovered from the river bottom since 2019, according to The Seattle Times.

While Lime scooters may seem like a fun and easy way to get a quick adrenaline rush and commute across the city, their

ability to be dangerously misused without repercussion undoes any intended good.

The misuse of Lime scooters further highlights our flaws as humans: the tendency to sour originally well-intentioned technology, especially when that technology is temptingly easy to misuse.

Even when this technology becomes misused, companies are unlikely to make any serious strides in implementing proper use, as misuse can be majorly profitable and markets to our inner desire for recklessness and rebellion.

Within this city, Spokane granted Lime a monopoly over other electric scooter companies, de-incentivizing Lime from making any improvements. The relationship between Spokane and Lime is mutually beneficial, with Lime providing a financial boon for City Hall of a whopping \$530,000 since 2019. The financial boost Lime gives the city makes it unlikely that serious action or limitations on the company will occur.

It is up to us to hold Spokane and Lime accountable for the dangers they cause or face continued consequences to our city's safety.

Clarinne Kirk is a copy editor.

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All written correspondence will be considered fit for printing unless otherwise requested. Email letters to bulletin@zagmail.gonzaga.edu with "OPINION" in the subject header. The deadline for letter submission is 4 p.m., Tuesday.

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Professor pet peeves: Hidden lessons to learn

Tiny things get on people's nerves — it's practically human nature. If you're clapping when the plane lands or maybe you're one of those bring-a-jug-of-water-to-the-gym kind of people, congratulations, you may have inadvertently annoyed someone.

Professors can brilliantly give off this effect — and usually to a varying degree. Some of these pet peeves are big and some very small.

A big one for me is oddly specific deadlines for assignments. Why is my paper due at 11 p.m. when it could be due an hour later? Canvas automatically sets all due times for 11:59 p.m., which means my professor changed it specifically to 11 p.m. on purpose. What is it about those extra 59 minutes that make a professor go, "not today?" It peeves me.

I'm aware I'm a procrastinator, and this isn't a problem everyone deals with, but sometimes those 59 minutes are pretty important. It could have been a busy day, and sometimes assignments need a final late-night round of edits to be a much neater end product.

If all that matters is the paper is submitted by the time a professor logs onto Canvas the next morning, who cares when it was turned in as long as it's in? I understand teaching accountability and punctuality, but unless my professor starts the weekend grading papers while eating dinner at 5:30 p.m., I think we could have a little more time and flexibility. I've overdone the time thing, I'll move on.

I think a lot of my professor pet peeves have formed from generational differences in technology use. While students have most likely grown up with



By JACK TALBOTT

it, some professors haven't, and it's harsh of me to desire perfection when integrating technology into the learning sphere.

That being said, we've all had a professor leave the cursor on the screen while showing a YouTube video. This one's frustrating because it's not that hard. The cursor will disappear if left alone on 95% of the screen, but somehow, this happens regularly. Sitting through a Ted Talk is genuinely harder to watch when at the bottom of the screen is a frozen Mickey Mouse hand and the YouTube bar. Then, when the video is done, somehow autoplay is always on.

The professor quickly turns off the projector but not the computer, and out of nowhere, a full-volume Squarespace ad is bellowing through the classroom speakers. Oops. This one's funny though, so it's low on my peeves list.

Toward the top of my peeves list is that fantastic mystery question on exam day. These show up in the middle of tests and you just know it wasn't on the study guide. Where did it come from? There's a chance it wasn't even talked about in class

either. How am I supposed to know this? Why give me a study guide if it doesn't correctly guide me on what to study?

These feel like relevant questions when sitting and staring at the blank exam page figuring out how to solve a brand-new concept. Shockingly, if the average test score in the class is 62%, it sounds to me like students weren't given the ability to properly prepare. At the very least, seeing an average score that low should evoke some sort of change in the class plan, because students missing nearly half the questions probably isn't part of the curriculum.

Speaking of the curriculum and more complaining, I am a strong believer in effective practice. A homework assignment that strengthens my knowledge of concepts or an essay that promotes a new structure of thinking are things that grow students as learners. A lot of time can be spent in education bogged down doing assignments that don't do much for the student.

A discussion post isn't really improving anyone's comprehension. Why are we doing them? We had a full pandemic to figure them out, and yes, they worked for a little bit, but these are wastes of time. I love an assignment that forces me to try something new or continue to develop my skills, but I don't think that's ever been the case for a discussion post.

Oh well. Maybe within the struggles of time management and effective practice, there are hidden lessons that promote us to be successful thinkers. Even if that's the case, I still find it irksome.

Jack Talbott is a copy editor.

Local choreographers 'Pivot' through the history of ballet

By EMILY FROMAN

Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center's Coughlin Theatre was well-attended last Thursday for Gonzaga University's "Pivot" dance event.

17 dancers performed in the event, which took place at 7:30 p.m.

"Pivot" featured multiple performances from the GU Repertory Ballet Company.

The performances are a culmination of pieces choreographed by various local choreographers from the Spokane area.

During the show, these choreographers were revealed to be Dee Turner, Rachel Samaha and Phaedra Jarrett. The pieces they choreographed were respectively the following: "Glory," "Una Fantasia" and "10 until 8."

"Pivot" began with two solo dances, followed by an explanation of the show's structure and meaning by Pamela Erickson, a lecturer of theater and dance at GU.

The explanation in between the pieces involved giving the audience a brief history of ballet and how it has changed.

"Pivot" then featured the three choreographers' pieces, consisting of various combinations of the 17 dancers and distinctive dancewear.

"I think the last performance was my favorite part of the show," Jordan Salazar said.

Salazar is a GU first-year who attended the event as an usher.



LUCY BOOTH IG: @lucybooth.photo

The performances featured in "Pivot" were created by three local choreographers.

"I really liked a lot of the group choreography in the last performance," Salazar said. "There were a lot of synchronized formations."

The choreographed piece mentioned by Salazar was 10 minutes long, according to GU senior and dancer Maria Scott, who performed in the piece.

According to Scott, the

combination of the length and the quick, intricate movements of the dance contributed to a need for stamina during the piece.

"It was a lot of cardio," Scott said. "Rehearsing it so many times helped build up the stamina for it."

All the moments of artistry in the third piece made it fun to perform, Scott said.

According to Scott, she has been dancing for a long time, and the sport means a lot to her.

"The fact that you can combine great exercise and movement with artistry and expression is just the perfect combination, and I want to do it for as long as I can," Scott said.

The benefits of dance are beyond physical exercise and

artistry, including mental and emotional benefits, according to Scott.

"[Dancing] is a release and a great way to express emotions," Scott said.

According to Scott, the dancers were originally supposed to work with Ballet Fantastique for an Oct. 26 event that was later canceled due to unforeseen circumstances. This is when the GU dance program pivoted to the locally choreographed dances.

Despite these initial complications, "Pivot" was able to succeed with the help of the three local choreographers.

"I feel like it went really well tonight," Scott said.

The initial uncertainties also allowed for the dancers in the event to all come together, Scott said.

"We all kind of just leapt into it, and I feel like a great community was built because of that," Scott said.

"Pivot" is not the last GU dance event of the semester if readers missed this event.

For more information and ticket purchases for future GU dance events, refer to the GU dance website.

Emily Froman is a staff writer.

'1989 (Taylor's Version)' will never go out of 'Style'

The record's songs from the vault and deepened soundscape make the album shine

REVIEW

By ALEXANDER PREVOST

In 2021, a naïve Alexander Prevost lovingly called "Red (Taylor's Version)" her greatest album.

It seems I was proven wrong yet again.

On the nine-year anniversary of her biblical, Grammy-award winning "1989," Taylor Swift released her highly anticipated rerecording: "1989 (Taylor's Version)." I must confess, I was not a "1989" girlie for the longest time. Swifties will argue that it's her most cohesive, bulletproof record next to "folklore" and I do agree to an extent, but something about the record just didn't click for me.

That was until the rerecording came out.

Immediately, I was able to pinpoint exactly what made the original record lack for me: Swift's vocals. Over the years, she has massively improved her vocal ability, but the complex, bombastic melodies of "1989" required a skilled hand to execute properly — a hand that Swift was still developing back in 2014.

From the belting on "Bad Blood" and "I Know Places" to the strength of her lower register on "You Are In Love," Swift executes a greater control of the sound of "1989" on her second go around while still maintaining that charm and wit in the performances that made hits like "Blank Space" so iconic.

And speaking of iconic, can we talk about the enriched production?

While "Red (Taylor's Version)"'s pop hits felt lacking in their depth and sound, Swift and her collaborators carefully recreated and deepened the soundscape on "1989 (Taylor's Version)." The bass on "New Romantics" hits harder, the acoustic guitar on "This Love" feels warmer and the synths on "Style" shine brighter.

To me, though, the best rerecorded track on this project by a mile and a half is "Out Of The Woods." Teaming up with her frequent collaborator Jack Antonoff, Swift and Antonoff crafted a soundscape for this adrenaline rush of a song that feels more urgent and more exhilarating. They even took some creative liberties, adding new snare hits on the passages between the choruses and verses. It was the rerecord I was most excited to hear from her, and mother did not disappoint.

Then there are the vault tracks, of which did not sound anything like I expected them to. Opting for a softer, "Midnight"-esque sound, the vault tracks on "1989 (Taylor's Version)" add a refreshing contrast to the more in-your-face tunes on the standard edition. If



COURTESY OF TAYLOR SWIFT'S X ACCOUNT

"1989 (Taylor's Version)" was released on Oct. 27, nine years after the release of the original album.

I were to critique anything about this record, I would say the vault tracks would benefit the most by being sprinkled within the original track listing rather than being tacked on to the end; it helps the project's pacing.

What are my favorite vault tracks, you might ask? "Now That We Don't Talk" is Swift's shortest song, yes, but that doesn't change it from leaving a deep impression. The 80s disco bop playfully details her joy at letting someone once loved go and all the things she no longer has to pretend to love.

"Sl*t!" was my most anticipated vault track based on title alone. Instead of opting for a commentary on the criticism she has faced for her dating life, Swift reclaims the pejorative. She is drunk in love, fit with a fizzy, shimmering production that sounds akin to something A.G. Cook would produce.

"Say Don't Go" feels the most at home on "1989" of the five new additions. Dipping into the pits of her lower register, the verses on this ballad ache with longing.

Meanwhile, Swift soars into her head voice on the anthemic chorus, challenging a wandering love to say, "don't go." Shout out to Diane Warren for co-writing this one.

You can hear how proud Swift is of this project in the melodies. "1989" was a career defining moment for her. Shooting her to superstardom, the songs off of this project were inescapable at the time and continue to age like fine wine. It brings me such joy that Swifties, old and new, can relive the magic of — dare I say — a pop bible.

As the saying goes, "The best people in life are free."

Timeless/10

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

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Senior goalkeeper Wessel Sprangers shines in first season with GU

By CAM MCCANN

With its program in need of a leader, Gonzaga University men's soccer team gained lofty experience between the sticks this season.

Wessel Sprangers is a 24-year-old senior goalkeeper from the Netherlands who stands at 6 feet, 5 inches tall. He has played for multiple Dutch clubs at both the amateur and professional level.

Sprangers featured for Willem II at the under-21 level, a club that has boasted world-class players including Barcelona midfielder Frenkie de Jong and Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk.

After leaving the club, Sprangers joined VV Dongen on a free transfer. He made 97 appearances for the side in the second tier of Dutch soccer before joining GU.

Sprangers said that the transition from playing in the Netherlands to the U.S. includes differences in the on-field physicality between the two countries.

"There are a lot of differences, here it's a bit more physical," Sprangers said. "In terms of energy it's higher because you can sub all of the time, in the Netherlands you can only sub three to five times, so the tempo is way higher with all the other rules."

Sprangers has also encountered differences in returning to the game at a lower level.

"I think the biggest difference is going from senior football to youth football again," Sprangers said. "With the younger guys, it's a process. Sometimes I see a mistake on a ball... but I'm really impressed with the level of play."

In terms of his role as the team's goalkeeper, Sprangers said he believes his transition has been seamless.

"The only thing I had to adjust was learning [how to play with] my defenders," Sprangers said. "Defenders are a huge part of preventing goals and blocking shots, and I had to adapt a bit. But as a goalie, I wouldn't say there's really many differences."

Coming to GU wasn't an easy choice for Sprangers, who had never been to the United States before joining the Zags. Leaving his club, family and girlfriend was a difficult decision.

His relationship with his future GU head coach Aaron Lewis enticed him to join a rebuilding program.

"It felt like the right time to make a different step," Sprangers said. "I really liked the connection that I had with Aaron [Lewis] and the way he did really good



DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

Sprangers joined the Zags from Dutch club VV Dongen.

research about me before we talked gave me a good feeling."

A strong connection with the coaching staff wasn't all that brought him to Spokane, with Sprangers enjoying the GU image and facilities.

"[GU] has a really good name," Sprangers said. "It's not a big school in terms of people, but in terms of name, it's a really big school. The facilities are great, our field is one of the best I've played on."

Sprangers joined the Zags over the summer, along with 15 other players new to the program.

While waiting on his graduation in the Netherlands, Sprangers missed team camp and the first three games of the season. In his absence, junior goalkeeper Stuart Herrerin was temporarily given the nod in Sprangers' place.

Despite his late start, the experienced goalkeeper has noticed the bevy of new teammates starting to adjust to playing together.

"You can see that players start to know

each other now," Sprangers said. "On which foot they want the ball or what place and stuff like that. So you see that has been a process that's developing."

As the oldest player on the team, Sprangers has taken a leadership and mentor role for the younger players on the team.

"I try to be a leader and help them where I think I can," Sprangers said. "Some of the younger players, I try to communicate with them a lot and get them to communicate with each other as well, I think that's where we've kind of lacked the last games."

Lewis also notes Sprangers' leadership role on the team, crediting his composure and experience.

"I think Wessel adds a different kind of composure to our group," Lewis said. "He's very experienced, and I give a lot of credit to him for that."

Sprangers' presence and composure has been felt on the field, as he has recorded three different six-save games.

Other highlights from the season include nine saves in a match against Seattle University and a performance against Cal State Fullerton where he saw 22 shots, only conceding one goal.

The Dutchman said he believes these performances come from something other than hard play. Sprangers plays the game with a smile on his face and with the trust of his teammates.

"I try to have fun because I think when you have fun, you can perform the best," Sprangers said. "I want to be a good goalie that [the team] can trust... We're only going to concede a goal where we made a huge mistake or a really good goal."

With the men's soccer season set to wrap up shortly, Sprangers looks forward to helping his team improve and build on their chemistry for the future.

Cam McCann is a staff writer.

Kennel Club outlines plans for 2023-24 school year

By EMILY FROMAN

This year's Kennel Club is back and aiming for improvement, with new board positions and plans for upcoming events.

While several members of Kennel Club graduated this past semester, a few of the returning members include President Jordan Atkins, Vice President Silje Squires, Treasurer Gigi Roesler, Vegas Coordinator Logan Abele, Social Club Coordinator Anna Porth and Chief of Staff Megan Corette.

Returning from a position as freshman representative last year is Kendall Featherstone, now filling the positions of the board's sophomore representative and graphic designer.

According to Atkins, a main focus of the board this year is to highlight women's basketball.

"We want to shine some light on them this year," Atkins said. "They don't really get the love they deserve. We feel they deserve a lot of love from the students. We're going to create some big events to create hype around women's basketball."

The content creator position was added last year, and more student interaction via increased social media content for the Kennel Club is another goal for this year as a result of the new position, Atkins said.

Max Volle is the social media coordinator, while Cooper Stepanian has the role of content creator.

Sam O'Connor is the membership coordinator, Kevin Cox is the Kennel Krew coordinator, and Keely Lipp and Ellie Doran are co-sports representatives. Klaire Perry is the Kennel Campout coordinator and Marlee Mikesell is the Kennel Cares coordinator.

Lipp and Perry are also the junior and senior representatives, respectively. The newest addition to the board is Freshman Representative John Burns.

Kennel Club also added additional features to its membership pack.

"We're trying to do a lot more for our membership packs," Featherstone said.

This year, a chance to win the first ever limited edition Kennel Club shirt is included in the membership pack. The shirt was launched on the Kennel Club Instagram page on Sept. 12, according to Atkins.

Golden Tickets will be incorporated into membership packs again this year, which allow someone to bring one friend to the front of any non-tenting WCC game. Also included in the membership pack will be a drawstring bag, a black long sleeve shirt, a red T-shirt and stickers.

Featherstone and O'Connor have been working hard on this new membership pack, which is offered throughout the year, according to Atkins.

Membership benefits began with a Ben & Jerry's truck for Kennel Club members at the beginning of this year.

Kennel Krew is also putting together more events like watch parties specifically for underclassmen, who can't participate in Social Club because they are under 21. Kennel Krew is in the process of securing a sponsor for these events, according to Atkins.

The Social Club is one of Kennel Club's programs and can be joined by anyone who's 21 or over at any point in the year. Sponsors for the Social Club include Zeeks Pizza and Tangen Hospitality.

Last semester, the Kennel Club board rebranded Tent City with the more inclusive title of Kennel Campout, Atkins said. Kennel Campout logistics for



MAX VOLLE IG: @vollephotography

Kennel Club will institute a host of new initiatives this year, including emphasizing women's basketball.

the year are being discussed by the board.

"You can always count on that St. Mary's game second semester to be a campout," Atkins said.

Involvement from the GU community in supporting school sports is encouraged by the board.

"Come, show up to all the games and get to know us," Featherstone said.

One of Kennel Club's first big events of the year, Kraziness in the Kennel, occurred on Oct. 7.

"Nothing better than being back in the Kennel for the first Zombie Nation of the year," Atkins said.

Kennel Club's Instagram account, @gonzagakennelclub, will be a main source of this new content and will include details for its events in the future. Membership packs and Social Club memberships can also be purchased on the Linktree in its Instagram account bio.

Emily Froman is a staff writer.

“

We want to shine some light on the [women's basketball team]. They don't really get the love they deserve. We're going to create some big events to create hype around women's basketball.

Jordan Atkins, Kennel Club president

Men's soccer optimistic about future amid up-and-down season

By CAM MCCANN

With two matches remaining, the Gonzaga University men's soccer team has a pair of chances to avoid finishing last in the West Coast Conference for the first time since the 2020-21 season.

The Zags (3-7-6, 1-3-1 WCC) are tied with Pacific at the bottom of the conference standings. Both teams have earned four points in league play.

GU and Pacific have an identical road ahead, with the squads taking turns against the top two programs in the WCC, Santa Clara and San Diego. The Zags host the Broncos on Saturday before traveling to play the Toreros on Nov. 10.

While GU was picked to finish last in the WCC Preseason Poll, head coach Aaron Lewis' group had a promising start to the year with back-to-back wins against UC Riverside and Sacramento State.

The Zags couldn't sustain their emphatic start, tying four and losing one of the next five matches. The squad finished off the main stretch of their nonconference slate with three straight losses before falling again in the WCC opener against Loyola Marymount.

GU showed a glimpse of hope after tying San Francisco and Washington, followed up by a thrilling 3-2 victory over Saint Mary's at Luger Field.

Despite having a chance to secure a mid-table spot in the WCC standings, the Zags have since fallen back to the bottom after two consecutive losses.

Regardless of GU's record in league play, goalkeeper Wessel Sprangers believes the team is better than its record indicates.

"To be honest, we were a bit unlucky," Sprangers said. "We tied a few games that we should have won."

Even if victories have been hard to come by, the Zags have kept the same mentality through the ups and downs of the season.

"Every time we step on the field we hope to get results in this particular group," Lewis said.

With the regular season almost over, the Zags remain optimistic about the future. Sprangers said he believes the team could be one year away from a breakout season.

"We are a really young group," Sprangers said. "Maybe you don't want to hear it right now, but think of next year, you have more experience and you know how to kill a game and that could lead to more wins."



Junior midfielder Chris Swider is second on the team in scoring with four goals this season.

“

We are a really young group. Maybe you don't want to hear it right now, but think of next year, you have more experience and you know how to kill a game and that could lead to more wins.

Wessel Sprangers, senior goalkeeper

Even after losses, Lewis recognizes his players' determination to get better.

"Our group is motivated to show that today's performance isn't who they are," Lewis said after GU lost to Cal Poly. "They are chomping at the bit to come back to work early in the morning."

Part of GU's improvement has been

driven by its positive team atmosphere, according to Sprangers.

"This is one of the best groups I've played for so far," Sprangers said. "Everybody gets along. You don't have any groups or anything."

With 16 newcomers on this year's club, it's only the beginning of Lewis'

GU SPORTS

Thursday, Nov. 2
 ➔ Women's basketball vs. Warner Pacific (Exh.), 6 p.m.
 ➔ Volleyball at Pepperdine, Malibu, California, 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 3
 ➔ Men's tennis at Gonzaga Invite
 ➔ Women's tennis at Michigan State Hidden Dual, East Lansing, Michigan
 ➔ Men's basketball vs. Lewis-Clark State (Exh.), 6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 4
 ➔ Men's tennis at Gonzaga Invite
 ➔ Women's tennis at Michigan State Hidden Dual, East Lansing, Michigan
 ➔ Women's soccer vs. Pepperdine, Malibu, California, noon
 ➔ Volleyball at LMU, Los Angeles, California, 1 p.m.
 ➔ Men's soccer vs. Santa Clara, 6 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 5
 ➔ Men's tennis at Gonzaga Invite
 ➔ Women's tennis at Michigan State Hidden Dual, East Lansing, Michigan

Monday, Nov. 6
 ➔ Women's basketball at Montana, Missoula, Montana, 6 p.m.

Home games in bold

ongoing transformation of the club since taking the helm in 2021.

Lewis and his players will look to finish the 2023 campaign on a high note against Santa Clara at 6 p.m. on Saturday and on the road at San Diego at 7 p.m. on Nov. 10.

Cam McCann is a staff writer.

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NOVEMBER 2, 2023
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NICO LOPEZ IG: @nlopez_photography

The Zags overhauled their roster this offseason after bringing in the ninth-ranked transfer class in the nation, according to 247Sports.

Men's basketball expects newcomers to make immediate impact

By DAVID SNYDER

After reaching the NCAA Tournament for the 24th consecutive year in 2022-23, the Gonzaga University men's basketball team aims to continue its period of dominance in the upcoming season.

However, the 2023-24 squad will look much different following the departures of Drew Timme, Julian Strawther, Rasir Bolton and several others.

Head coach Mark Few and his assistants had a busy offseason, which included hauling in the nation's ninth-best transfer class, according to 247Sports.

Headlining GU's list of newcomers is Ryan Nembhard, who is the younger brother of Indiana Pacers guard and former Zag Andrew Nembhard.

Before arriving at GU, Ryan spent two seasons at Creighton, where he averaged 11.8 points, 4.6 assists and 3.3 rebounds per game.

"Obviously [Andrew] had a great two years and a great time," Ryan said. "The main thing is the culture that we have and the culture that Gonzaga has."

Ryan spoke about his brother's success in the NBA playing for the Pacers and attributes the success to the culture that GU's basketball program has cultivated.

"Of course my brother had been telling me for years what a great coach Mark [Few] was," Ryan said to ESPN. "And it's obvious Andrew was well prepared for the NBA by coach Few and all the staff at Gonzaga the two years he was there; he started more games this year as a rookie than any other Pacers rookie has started in over 20 years."

For the first time in five years, GU isn't the favorite to win the West Coast Conference. Saint Mary's was picked No. 1 in the league's annual preseason poll voted on by its nine head coaches. The announcement was made during WCC Media Day on Oct. 12.

The Gaels took home five first-place votes and 61

points, while the Zags received four first-place votes and 60 points. The two programs shared the league's regular season title before GU took down Saint Mary's in the WCC Tournament championship last year.

"Saint Mary's is the same every year," Few said. "Very disciplined and purposeful with what they do on offense and what they do on defense."

Nembhard is excited to be part of the rivalry, referencing Saint Mary's depth as comparable to GU.

"They've got a bunch of great players," Nembhard said. "It's always a good battle. I love big games, so I'm ready."

Also announced in the poll were the All-WCC preseason honors, with GU being represented by Anton Watson, Nembhard and Wyoming transfer Graham Ike.

Ahead of the WCC slate, the Zags will go through a challenging nonconference schedule that includes matchups against multiple national contenders.

"We schedule to be a No. 1 seed," Few said. "It's the same every year, we try to front load in the preseason to prove ourselves as a dominant team. The WCC is always going to be way better than most people give it credit for."

With the WCC not recognized as a top basketball conference, GU's recent negotiations with the Big 12 were a topic of conversation at the league's Media Day.

"This is the WCC Media Day (and) we're playing in the WCC this year, so I mean that's kind of all I'm focused in on right now is this coming year," Few said. "This stuff has been going on for a while. If it happens, it happens. If it doesn't, it doesn't."

First-year WCC Commissioner Stu Jackson also addressed GU's discussions with other conferences.

"In all seriousness, we all know we're in a fluid landscape," Jackson said. "It's incumbent upon all of us that you have information so you understand what the landscape is."

Another area of discussion at Media Day was Few's handling of the new talent on the roster. GU has a lot of players getting acclimated to its system.

"It hasn't been too hard to fit in, it's been a pretty easy adjustment," Nembhard said. "All the guys have bought in and the chemistry has been pretty good over the summer."

GU recently defeated Baylor 81-78 in a closed-door scrimmage in Phoenix, Arizona.

Returning starters Watson and Nolan Hickman led the team in scoring with 17 points apiece. Eastern Washington transfer Steele Venters and Nembhard had 12 points, while Ike registered 11 points.

Few utilized a nine-player rotation, with forward Ben Gregg as the first player off the bench. Gregg had eight points, seven rebounds, two assists and one block in 16 minutes.

Braden Huff had the second-most playing time among GU's reserves, posting four points, two rebounds and one block in 15 minutes. Dusty Stromer and Jun Seok Yeo each missed one field goal attempt and had zero points.

GU will host Lewis-Clark State in an exhibition on Friday at 6 p.m. before its season opener against Yale on Nov. 10.

From there, the Zags will compete in the Maui Jim Maui Invitational Tournament in Hawai'i. The eight-team field includes Kansas, Tennessee, Syracuse, UCLA and other top-tier programs.

David Snyder is a staff writer.



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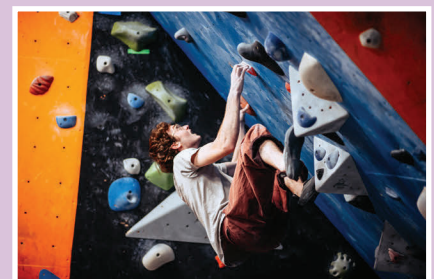
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Women's basketball relying on experience to navigate grueling schedule

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

In many respects, the 2022-23 season was a successful one for the Gonzaga University women's basketball team.

The Zags were the highest-scoring team in the West Coast Conference and took first place with a 17-1 record against league opponents.

However, GU's run came to a halt after losing to Portland in the WCC Tournament championship. The Zags received a bid to the NCAA Tournament as a No. 9 seed, but were eliminated in the first round by eighth-seeded Ole Miss.

As the Zags enter the 2023-24 season, the team is hoping not to relive the same ending as last year.

"We've been in the NCAA Tournament the last few years and we haven't gotten the seed that we love," said GU head coach Lisa Fortier during WCC Media Day on Oct. 11. "So trying to figure out if this would be the year to do our best with this schedule to at least position ourself. Obviously, you have to go out there and do something with the schedule on the court."

The Zags were once again voted as the favorites to win the WCC, edging out Portland in the conference's coaches poll with eight of the nine first-place votes.

GU also returns a majority of its top players, including Brynna Maxwell, Kayleigh Truong, Kaylynne Truong and senior Yvonne Ejim, all of whom started last season.

Kaylynne Truong was one of 20 point guards in the country named to the Nancy Lieberman Award watchlist, while Maxwell was added to the Ann Meyers Drysdale watchlist for shooting guards. Additionally, Maxwell, Kaylynne and Ejim were all placed on the Becky Hammon Mid-Major Player of the Year watchlist.

Ejim led the Zags in scoring and rebounding with 16.8 points and 8.4 boards per game last season. She also averaged 1.6 assists, 1.5 steals and 0.9 blocks in 27.5 minutes.

Kaylynne Truong was the team's primary distributor in 2022-23, dishing out 5.0 assists in a team-high 32.4 minutes per game. She was second in scoring at 15.8 points.

Maxwell was the second-best 3-point marksman in the nation last season, shooting 48.1% from beyond the arc.

"I worked really hard," Maxwell said of her offseason training. "Coach Jordan (Green)

is our wing coach and he works out with me on my shot. But I think a lot of it is not thinking about the last one and focusing on the next one. Just having the confidence that this is going to go in and my teammates are great at giving me that confidence."

Kayleigh Truong, who received All-WCC recognition in 2021-22, was injured for most of last season. The senior guard appeared in 10 of 33 games, averaging 7.0 points and 2.8 assists.

"I think we have very talented players and I think we might have the right pieces that can fit together well," Fortier said.

The Zags will depend on its experienced core to navigate their grueling nonconference schedule that features multiple nationally-ranked opponents.

One of GU's first matchups is against Washington State in Pullman on Nov. 9.

Later in the month, the Zags will face No. 17 Louisville, Alabama and Liberty at the Van Chancellor Classic in Katy, Texas, from Nov. 24-26.

Shortly after returning home, GU hosts No. 15 Stanford on Dec. 3.

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

The team begins its conference slate against Portland, which gives GU a chance to avenge last season's WCC Tournament loss.

The Pilots return their No. 2 scorer in Maisie Burnham, who averaged 12.4 points per game last season. Burnham tallied a team-high 19 points against GU in last year's WCC Tournament title game.

The Zags hosted Warner Pacific in an exhibition on Wednesday in preparation for the season opener at Montana on Monday.

GU's home opener is against Toledo on Nov. 12.

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



DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

Kaylynne Truong was one of 20 point guards in the country named to the Nancy Lieberman Award watchlist and was also listed on the Becky Hammon Mid-Major Player of the Year watchlist, along with Yvonne Ejim and Brynna Maxwell.

“

I don't know if we've had this tough of a nonconference schedule since I've been on the staff. It's very, very challenging.

Lisa Fortier, Gonzaga women's basketball head coach

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Men's basketball set for formidable nonconference slate

By CAM MCCANN

A new-look Gonzaga University men's basketball team is set to begin their slate of 14 nonconference games. A total of seven games and one exhibition are set to take place in McCarthy Athletic Center and the No. 11 Zags have numerous games against college basketball powerhouses, potentially playing teams from each power-five conference.

The season begins with three consecutive home games. These include an exhibition against Lewis-Clark State (Nov. 3), followed by official games against Yale (Nov. 10) and Eastern Oregon University (Nov. 14).

The matchup against Yale provides a source of intrigue, with Yale boasting a 21-9 record last year and multiple wins against league rival and 2023 March Madness Cinderella story team, Princeton.

The Zags then travel west of the 48 states to participate in the Maui invitational (Nov. 20-22). The tournament has been relocated to Honolulu on O'ahu, with the site in Maui being used as a critical hub for wildfire recovery efforts.

The Invitational offers the Zags the chance to face off against some of the top programs in college basketball history, as seven of the eight teams in this year's field are ranked in the top 45 of all-time winningest schools.

GU will begin the tournament against the No. 3 Purdue Boilermakers and reigning National Player of the Year Zach Edey. This matchup represents an early test for the Gonzaga frontcourt, with the team's returning players looking to get past last season's loss to Purdue.

The next matchup will be either Syracuse or No. 9 Tennessee, depending on the tourney's results.

Syracuse lost two important figures in the off season, with long-time head coach Jim Boeheim retiring and last-season's top scorer Joseph Girard III entering the transfer portal. Despite their current uncertainty, the historic program is not one to be underestimated.

Tennessee is a top-ranked program fresh off a Sweet Sixteen run in last season's NCAA Tournament. The Vols have returned two of their top-three scorers from the previous season in Santiago Vescovi and Zakai Ziegler.

Other noteworthy programs in the field are No. 1 Kansas, No. 5 Marquette and UCLA, who were all top two seeds in last season's March Madness and are historically good programs.

After the tournament in Honolulu, the Zags return to the Kennel (Nov. 28) to face CSU Bakersfield and their returning top scorer Kaleb Higgins. CSUB has yet to win a game against GU in program history.

Following this matchup, GU will take on the No. 21 USC Trojans in a neutral site game in Las Vegas (Dec. 2).



DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

GU will face at least four ranked nonconference opponents, including both of last season's national finalists.

This top-ranked matchup will feature a backcourt battle, with Ryan Nembhard and the GU guards going up against all-Pac-12 guard Boogie Ellis, top-2023 recruit Isaiah Collins and Bronny James, the freshman son of LeBron James.

A trip to the west side of Washington to face off against the Huskies (Dec. 9) is sandwiched between two home games against Arkansas-Pine Bluff (Dec. 5) and Mississippi Valley State (Dec. 11).

The Huskies look to improve on last year's matchup with the Bulldogs, where they were handed a 17-point loss in the Kennel. With transfer guard Nate Calmese and returning star forward Keion Brooks Jr, UW is primed to seek an improvement from their .500 record from last year and are a dangerous team at home (12-6 in 2022-23).

2023 National Championship finalists represent two of the last three nonconference opponents for the Zags. UConn and GU will face off in Seattle (Dec. 15) in a rematch from last year's March Elite Eight.

The Huskies lost three of their key pieces from last year's tournament win, though head coach Dan Hurley brings in a top three recruiting class and returns stars Donovan Clingan and Alex Karaban.

The final two nonconference games will be in the McCarthy Athletic Center, with Jackson State up first (Dec. 20), followed by national champion runner-up San Diego State (Dec. 29).

San Diego State returns four of their top six scorers from last season, along with two transfer acquisitions in Reese Dixon-Waters from USC and Jay Pal from Campbell.

Following a gauntlet nonconference schedule, the Zags will begin their WCC campaign in the new year.

Cam McCann is a staff writer.

Women's basketball earns six-seed in latest ESPN Bracketology

By CAM MCCANN

Gonzaga University women's basketball holds a six-seed in ESPN's latest edition of Bracketology for the 23-24 season.

The simulation features ESPN's preseason look at possible NCAA Tournament seedings and estimates where teams will finish at the end of the season.

GU was initially ranked as a nine-seed, the same ranking they received in last year's tournament. The Zags are the only WCC team to make an appearance in Bracketology this season.

The team has been one of the premier programs in recent years for GU athletics, with Bracketology and other rankings backing the Zags to have another successful season.

The Zags have recently become accustomed to playing in March, with the team making the tournament in 13 out of the last 15 seasons, advancing past the first round in seven of those seasons.

The Zags, who received a nine-seed in the season's first Bracketology, initially found themselves with a familiar ranking, as they had been awarded that ranking the last two seasons.

Head coach Lisa Fortier looks to make an effort to change this seeding streak.

"We've been in the NCAA Tournament the last few years and we haven't gotten the seed we love," Fortier said.

Fortier has made an effort to bolster their future standings by setting up nonconference matchups against the NCAA's elite women basketball programs.

These matchups include 2023 Pac-12 tournament champions, Washington State, two preseason top-20 teams in No. 18 Stanford and No. 19 Louisville. The Zags



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Women's basketball was initially ranked a nine-seed in ESPN's latest Bracketology.

will also face Arizona and Alabama, two teams that competed in last year's NCAA tournament.

Stanford features in the latest edition of Bracketology as a four-seed, the highest of GU's nonconference opponents.

GU's other opponents feature similarly high, with WSU being listed as a seven-seed, Louisville as a five-seed, Arizona as an eight-seed and Alabama in the first four out.

For the Zags, Fortier believes their nonconference schedule gives her team the opportunity to earn a seed they want.

"[The team was] trying to figure out if this would be the year to do our best with this schedule to at least position ourselves," Fortier said. "Obviously, you have to go out there and do something with the schedule on the court."

Returning starting forward Eliza Hollingsworth, GU's second-leading rebounder from last year, shares the same sentiment as her coach.

"I think every time we come around to that stage of the year where we're finding our nonconference [schedule], I think we're all wishing we have those top-net teams because it's such a good comparison for us to see where we're at," Hollingsworth said.

The path to a tournament appearance is within GU's grasp regardless of their nonconference play, as they are heavy favorites to win the WCC. The Zags were recently voted as first place finishers in the WCC coaches preseason poll.

Cam McCann is a staff writer.

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