

The Gonzaga Bulletin

A student publication of Gonzaga University

MARCH 7, 2024

www.gonzagabulletin.com

VOL. 135 ISSUE 16

Police detain woman for trespassing

Public record request offers more details to an incident that limited door access to College Hall

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

A 23-year-old woman was escorted from Gonzaga University after ignoring Campus Security & Public Safety officers' attempts to de-escalate the situation on Feb. 26. The Spokane Police Department was involved.

The incident was detailed in a police report obtained by *The Gonzaga Bulletin*

on Monday, which followed an initial email sent out from the university that outlined the incident and announced that door access to College Hall would be limited.

According to the police report, Iryna Paranka, the woman named in the report, trespassed on GU's campus and entered College Hall with her daughter, asking to meet with the university president and

identifying herself as an "investor."

The police report said Paranka started to scream when she was asked to quiet down and leave the building by campus security. After repeating "10-15 times" with the request to calm down, campus security tried to restrain her with handcuffs. The police report said that when campus security tried this, she began flailing her arms and almost struck

students in the hallway. They were able to restrain her eventually by "guid[ing] her to the ground."

When police arrived on the scene, the report said that Paranka was screaming in Ukrainian and English. The report said that Paranka was responsive to the officers, although kept on insisting that she was

SEE INCIDENT PAGE 2



Students dance in circle for the Bon Odori, a traditional dance seen at a Matsuri festival.

LUCY BOOTH IG: @lucyboothphoto

Japan Club hosts second annual Matsuri event

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

Spokane community member and dance instructor Izumi Pierce knows much about the value of community.

Leading members of the audience and her group in a series of Japanese dances, Pierce, who teaches dance and choreographed the performance, said it is important to have unity and community in addition to learning about different cultural groups.

"Unity in community is so badly needed," Pierce said. "When we learn other people's cultures, we learn so much, not only about new things, but about ourselves. And so, when we dance together, it gives you a beautiful feeling of joy."

Pierce's dances were one performance in a set of cultural acts featured in the second annual Matsuri event hosted by Gonzaga University's Japan Club. Matsuri is a traditional festival in Japan, and this event centered on the theme of harmony and unity in a diverse Japanese culture.

Lilia Pate and Riria Kawaguchi were two event chairs spearheading the planning of the second-ever major cultural club dinner hosted by GU's Japan Club. Pate said they wanted the annual cultural event to celebrate the different cultural communities of Japanese culture, while also bringing people together.

"Part of Matsuri is about community engagement and having the community come together to celebrate the summer, or to celebrate anything that they want to celebrate," Pate said. "That's exactly the message we wanted to bring to Gonzaga."

Pate said that Japanese culture is diverse and that it is important to showcase the wide range of cultural complexities because that challenges stereotyping and cultural erasure. Pate said that Japanese culture is beautiful when the cultural complexities are acknowledged.

Kawaguchi pointed to when the group highlighted the Indigenous island cultures of Hokkaido and Okinawa,

SEE MATSURI PAGE 3

GSBA club funding runs dry

By NATALIE KELLER

The Gonzaga University Student Body Association's club funding budget has been depleted for the academic year. The funds have been gone since the beginning of February.

Ashton Kopczick, a senior who serves as GSBA's club funding coordinator, announced the budget's status at a Club President's Council meeting last Tuesday.

"We're getting kind of tight around money," Kopczick said. "What this basically means for clubs is that they're not going to be able to get the GSBA support that they were able to get in the same way at the beginning of the year."

Every year, each GU club is able to request and receive up to \$3,000 from GSBA's club funding budget, which is generated by a student activity fee included in tuition. The funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and the requests must meet criteria outlined by GSBA's guidelines.

While Kopczick said he could not disclose how much money was initially in the budget, he did say it would have taken \$750,000 to give each of GU's approximately 250 clubs a full \$3,000 — an amount the club funding budget did not have.

Kopczick said that while it is typical for GSBA to exhaust its club funding budget in the spring, the funds ran out earlier than usual for several reasons. Namely, he said this year's club funding budget was \$51,000 less than it was last year.

"It is a record-breaking year," Kopczick said. "If you look at the last four or five years, it is a record-breaking year in when we've run out of money and it's also a



Kylie Mukai gavels at the end of a GSBA meeting.

DYLAN SMITH IG: @d.smithphotos

record-breaking year for how little money we've actually started the year with."

Michelle Singeo, the Center for Student Involvement's business manager, said that from 2018 until last year, GSBA did not use all of its annual club funding budget. Since not many events and activities were allowed during the COVID-19 pandemic, clubs did not submit as many funding requests. Kopczick said that at the end of each year, a portion of the leftover money

was taken back by the university and the rest rolled over to the next year's budget.

Singeo said that since COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, more gatherings were allowed and clubs requested more funding. The 2022-23 academic year's budget ran dry in the first week of April 2023. As a result, GSBA's club funding budget started this year with no rollover

SEE FUNDING PAGE 3

GU faculty approve handbook update

By NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

For the first time in almost two decades, Gonzaga University faculty voted to approve a draft of the faculty handbook, jumping over a major hurdle in the process of updating the employee document that has not been changed since 2007.

The vote for the update started on Feb. 26 and was held throughout all of that week, with the final tally 285-93 announced last Friday, hitting the quorum and supermajority requirement needed for the drafted changes to the handbook to be approved.

Now, the handbook will be sent to the Board of Trustees, whose expected vote on the draft during their April meeting will conclude the decade-long process of updating the faculty handbook.

"I had no expectation of whether or not it was going to pass," said Marianne Poxleitner, a professor of biology and the current faculty senate president. "I really didn't know. We just didn't know. I think I'm relieved, and I'm just so pleased at the amount of participation with faculty, not just over the last year, but over the 10 years that we worked on it."

The drafted update to the handbook includes some key revisions to the faculty employee manual, such as the creation of new ranks and protections around academic freedom, while also keeping some of the systems outlined in the old handbook, including structures for

SEE FACULTY PAGE 3

INDEX

News.....	1-3
Features.....	4
Opinion.....	5
Arts & Entertainment.....	6-7
Sports.....	8-9
Mini Zags.....	10

OPINION

Go beyond the Hollywood machine and explore the world of cinema.

PAGE 5

A&E

Ginger Ewing creates network for up-and-coming Spokane artists.

PAGE 9

SPORTS

Men's WCC Tournament bracket is set with the Zags seeded 2nd.

PAGE 10

Measles case confirmed in Spokane

GU health officials said university vaccine requirements would prevent potential outbreak

By HOLLY FIJOLEK

A case of measles was confirmed in a Spokane County resident on Feb. 21 by the Spokane Regional Health District, drawing a considerable amount of attention to a disease that has been virtually eliminated in the U.S.

Contact tracing has been conducted by the regional health district, allowing health officials to see the places and times where the infected individual visited and made exposure possible for others. One of the locations listed by the regional health district is Spokane International Airport, which is of concern for many Presidents' Day weekend travelers.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, measles is an upper respiratory infection. Symptoms typically manifest as a fever, cough or red, watery eyes in the first days of infection, after which a rash usually presents itself.

Gonzaga University requires the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, and this is communicated to students upon their acceptance to the school. This mandate requires members of the GU student body to have either achieved immunity through vaccinations or herd immunity.

Sharon Young, director of the Student Health Clinic, said there are two types of exemptions to the requirement. One is a medical exemption, where a healthcare provider lists physiological reasons for a student's lack of vaccination and signs off on it. The other is a religious exemption, which Young said does not require a signature from a healthcare provider or justification.

"The thing to understand about an exemption is that it allows you to be on campus, but you are still assuming some risks that you could get exposed to measles while you are here," Young said.

According to Dr. Trevor McCrorey, a physician at the Student Health Clinic, high vaccination rates on campus would slow the spread of the virus, which lowers the chances of an epidemic occurring at GU.

"We have documentation for at least 85% [immunizations]," McCrorey said. "An outbreak would not last a long time like COVID did."

The Student Health Clinic works closely with the regional health district, having monthly meetings to assess community risks and address them for students, according to Young.

"They are very much in concert with us and any big decisions that we make," Young said.

This partnership means there would be a lot of collaboration before GU would decide how to handle a measles case on campus, according to Young. She said that



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

Gonzaga University requires its students to have the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine.

there is a potential for limitations of campus activities and classes to only vaccinated individuals in a case of high concern of disease spread.

"It could be at some point, SRHD would help us to decide that students that are not vaccinated could not be here," Young said. "There are lots of decisions that lead up to if we ever had to send students away, but our goal is to protect all of us."

McCrorey said that the highly contagious nature of measles is one of its biggest potential threats to campus.

"The most important thing is making sure everybody has immunity that is on campus — masks and extra cleaning procedures may play a part," McCrorey said.

Despite the concern for unvaccinated students in the case that measles does spread to other members of the community, the health clinic provides many options for students, according to Young. In the case that a student cannot access their documentation records, Young said that a blood test is an alternative to documents to prove

vaccination.

"A titer is a blood test that finds antibodies to measles," Young said. "Then we would know you are protected against it."

Another option available to students is to get both MMR doses if they have not already.

"We have the measles vaccine here at the clinic," Young said. "Students can call and schedule or go through the health portal and request an appointment. They are also available at many retail pharmacies."

For the time being, GU students can focus on having their health portals updated and keeping up with the number of cases that are reported in the community.

"The best way to make sure our campus is protected is to make sure that you have your documentation in place," McCrorey said.

Holly Fijolek is a staff writer.

INCIDENT

Continued from Page 1

an investor and wanted to meet with the president. She was escorted off campus by campus security, after being cleared by medics, which had been called at her request.

The police report said that her behavior in the incident led officers to believe that there were underlying mental issues driving her behavior.

The police said they have served

Paranka with trespass documents and have not formally charged her with a crime. They said Paranka will be charged with trespassing if she returns to campus. There are no formal charges of trespassing currently on Paranka's record.

The details found in the police report are similar to those in the initial email, which did not name the individual, sent out by GU's campus security soon after the incident took place.

In the GU community email, campus security described a situation in which an "agitated" person, who was not previously

connected to the GU community, entered College Hall and confronted several individuals.

The email added that the person refused multiple attempts by CSPS to comply with the request of the officers and became aggressive, before being detained by Spokane Police and removed from campus.

The email ended by saying that all entrances to College Hall will be restricted to key card access after the incident and that the university will not relax restrictions until it has fully reviewed the incident.

The last time that College Hall had its access restricted was last spring when

a behavioral incident that also involved Spokane Police led to the change in door policy. In that incident, a student with mental health issues was removed from campus due to a fear of being a threat to others. Access to College Hall for that incident was loosened in the summer.

"As a university community, we are committed to maintaining an environment that is safe for all, including visitors and guests," said CSPS in the email.

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

DELL Technologies

EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS FOR STUDENTS

Students save an additional 5% on Dell.com purchases with exclusive coupon.

SHOP NOW
Dell.com/Gonzaga

MAC Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture

Harold Balazs:

LEAVING MARKS

FEBRUARY 3 — JUNE 2, 2024

Thirty works you've never seen from the artist who transcended the bullshit.

Uncle's Games
Puzzles & More!

GAMES, JIGSAWS, TOYS, AND MORE!

404 W. Main Ave. Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 456-4607
unclesgames.com

SOMETIMES THE DRAGON WINS

Cards, D&D, Books, Games, Comics, Figures, and more!

MERLYN'S
W 15 Main 509-624-0957
WWW.MERLYNS.BIZ

AUNTIE'S BOOKSTORE
SPOKANE'S LITERARY LANDMARK
YOUR PERSONAL BOOKSTORE

402 MAIN AVE SPOKANE WA 99201

(509) 636-0206
HTTP://MERLYNS.BIZ

FOLLOW THE BULLETIN ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@thegonzagabulletin @thegonzagabulletin

\$100,000 awarded to trail project

By AIDAN BRAATEN

Gonzaga University professors Greg Gordon and Katey Roden were recipients of a \$100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for their "Finding Our Way" project, marking the second grant that the pair have been awarded by the agency for their digital mapping project.

The project is dedicated to the Children of the Sun Trail in northeast Spokane, which runs parallel to U.S. Route 395, starting in Hillyard and stretching north of Mead. Although precise translation is disputed, "Children of the Sun" is believed to be the original meaning of Spokane's name in Salish, the language of the Spokane Tribe of Indians.

Gordon and Roden are collaborating with the Washington State Department of Transportation and Spokane Parks & Recreation for the project. The project seeks input from members of the Spokane Tribe of Indians to control stories about their own culture and practices.

Within the next year, the pair will be writing an application for the third phase and a \$400,000 production grant, Roden said. The two were first awarded a grant by the NEH two years ago to explore potential projects for underrepresented communities in northeast Spokane. This recent grant allocated a year's worth of funds for prototyping a digital map for the trail accessible via the internet.

According to Roden, the digital map will build interpretive materials that will provide opportunities for community members in northeast Spokane to tell their stories and gain access to information around climate change and environmental justice issues along the trail.

"Many of these communities are the most vulnerable in the area in terms of climate change," Roden said. "They have the highest heat indexes in Spokane and they're more likely to be struck by toxic smoke during fire season. Also, they might have industrial runoff from some of the



COURTESY OF CITY OF SPOKANE

Roden and Gordon's digital mapping project involves the Children of the Sun Trail.

industrial sites around them and have lead particles in their soil."

Gordon said he believes digital mapping to be an optimal approach to understanding northeast Spokane's multiple periods of historical development.

"Deep mapping is a way to express all of the complexities of a place," Gordon said. "We can ask ourselves, what was this place like in 1910? You may have historical buildings, or railroads that no longer exist. If you dig deeper, you may have [prior] Native American settlements."

Along with the digital map, the project intends to place physical signs along the trail with printed QR codes as an access point toward deeper digital records about Hillyard and the Spokane people. It also seeks to install a garden dedicated to Indigenous plants at the adjacent Wildhorse Park.

"We are working with Spokane Parks and Recreation to install an ethnobotanical 'Discovery Garden' that will feature native plants that have cultural value," Roden said.

Gordon said they are also working with the Spokane Tribe of Indians to get all the plants approved, which will follow a seasonal round of different foods and medicines.

Roden brings a rich background as a digital humanist to the project. For seven years, Roden worked as director for the College of Arts and Science's Digital Humanities Institute before its merger with the larger Applied Humanities center.

Rather than focusing on what GU can provide for northeast Spokane, Roden hopes that the project accentuates the unity between GU and the greater

Spokane community.

"We're not interested in providing, we're interested in building together," Roden said.

Additionally, Gordon hopes that the project provides teaching opportunities for students at Spokane Public Schools, including holding teacher workshops at Shaw Middle School and community workshops.

Both professors said they appreciate the project's interdisciplinary approach, with Gordon's background in environmental history and Roden's contrasting English background.

"The partnership has been fruitful, and I think it is an excellent testament to the value of a liberal arts education," Roden said.

Like the communities that "Finding Our Way" aims to uplift, the trail itself has been often overlooked in wider memory, Roden said its due to its urban setting, being hidden by the railroad tracks.

Roden hopes the project can help redefine common misconceptions about a lack of diversity in the greater Spokane area.

"Diversity tends to be invisible for many Spokanites," Roden said. "[The project] is a great way for us to think about how we can showcase the incredible diversity of peoples that have occupied this place."

Aidan Braaten is a staff writer.



LUCY BOOTH IG: @lucybooth.photo

Members of a community dance group performed at Matsuri, which is a traditional festival in Japan.

MATSURI

Continued from Page 1

along with the different experiences of being Japanese American, in spoken word and presentations as being valuable moments of sharing cultural complexity.

"I think learning is also a very important part in even acknowledging and understanding culture in the first place, because there's so many stereotypes that come around any culture," Pate said. "As much as some of those stereotypes may be true, there's so much more to the culture that is beautiful, that should be acknowledged and embraced and learned

about."

The event also featured dances and games, with GU's Japan Club hosting a sumo wrestling tournament with the Unity Alliance of Cultural Clubs and bringing up audience members to join in traditional Japanese dances.

Kawaguchi said that these events balanced out a cultural club event that was still educational about Japanese culture.

"It's really simple for me," Kawaguchi said. "When we organize such an event, we want our guests to have fun. I think that goes for every single culture, but our culture has so much fun stuff. We wanted to introduce those really fun aspects of our culture that we have, so that our guests can

have fun and also learn at the same time."

The event ended with the annual senior send-off, which closed an event full of celebration, fun and learning.

"I think I will be remembering the end of the event, when so many people came up to Riria and I and were super grateful for the event that we put up," Pate said. "It really touched my heart because that's exactly what we wanted to come out of the event. It was just so much more than I could have asked for."

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

FUNDING

Continued from Page 1

from last year.

Additionally, Kopczick said inflation, GU's plateauing enrollment rates and the ever-growing number of clubs contributed to the early depletion of the funds. Plus, he said CSI's first-ever mandatory training for club treasurers at the beginning of the school year better informed clubs about how to submit funding requests and ultimately increased the number of requests GSBA received.

Kopczick said funding requests that were filed after the funds ran out will be left in a queue in case any additional money becomes available.

"Ultimately, my goal is not to judge clubs or to goalkeep any funding at all," Kopczick said. "My goal really is to give away as much of the GSBA club funding account as I can."

Elizabeth Cobb, president of GU women's club volleyball and an attendee at Tuesday's meeting, said that while her club did request and receive its maximum amount of money before the funds ran out, she empathizes with clubs that did not.

"I completely hear out other clubs," Cobb said. "I think it really comes down to planning and fundraising — and we did do a lot at the beginning of the season. We were looking at our finances for the whole year and were able to plan ahead accordingly."

Kopczick also said he understands why some club members may be frustrated with the situation.

"I've been in clubs as well," Kopczick said. "I know what it's

like being in a club and not getting funding. And I know how important it is to have the resources that you need to be able to succeed."

However, Kopczick said that while the club funding budget is meant to support clubs, it should not be their main source of income.

"The role of GSBA's club funding is to be more of a crutch or more of a supplement than a substitute," Kopczick said.

In the meantime, Singeo said there are alternative solutions for clubs.

Singeo said holding fundraisers, collecting club dues and soliciting donations are all viable ways for clubs to earn revenue. Out of over 100 club fundraisers held at GU this year, Singeo said only one was unsuccessful.

"Clubs are treated like a business," Singeo said. "And when it's treated like a business, you have to generate your own revenue."

Singeo also said she encourages any student whose club is struggling to make ends meet to schedule a meeting with her to discuss the options.

"You cannot be successful if you do not use your resources," Singeo said. "And CSI's office is a huge resource that is untapped, that students forget about all the time."

Kopczick said he is eager to help students and clubs be successful and self-sufficient.

"We may figuratively give people fish — that's the club funding," Kopczick said. "But our biggest goal is to teach people how to fish themselves."

Natalie Keller is an arts and entertainment editor.

FACULTY

Continued from Page 1

sabbatical pay.

Poxleitner also said there was a section created that would make updating and adding amendments to the handbook easier.

Still, most of the change to the manual, according to Poxleitner, is clarifying of language in the old handbook, which now will standardize many of the university processes, offering more structure and clarity for GU faculty.

"It standardizes it across the university, otherwise it can be interpreted in a lot of different ways and is not always interpreted the same by various people," Poxleitner said. "Having it standardized, it's really important for faculty to know what the rules and regulations are that they're trying to work under."

The successful passage of the vote concludes 10 years of actively working on the proposed changes to the handbook, which started in 2014 when the Board of Trustees announced that it wanted to initiate a handbook update process, according to documents provided by Poxleitner.

Poxleitner said the senate voted on a draft update in spring 2020 and nominated a group of five faculty to negotiate with administration in fall 2022. This group of faculty met with administrators every other week for a two-hour period, continuing into this past fall semester, when Poxleitner announced that the whole faculty would vote on the updates in the spring.

Heather Crandall, professor of communication studies, was a member of the faculty group meeting with administration. She said the whole process was "systematic" in which the group went line by line throughout the handbook.

"It was just we're going to take this section-by-section hour-by-hour," Crandall said. "The first hour is administration talking about the changes they would like to see and the second hour is faculty talking about our requests from the prior meeting ... It was not glamorous, it was so systematic."

The passage of the handbook, along with being praised by Poxleitner, also was commended by GU President Thayne McCulloh, who appreciated the work of the faculty senate in developing the changes. McCulloh said the process started even earlier, when he suggested the handbook be updated to the faculty president and academic vice president in 2011.

McCulloh said the Board of Trustees has seen drafts of the proposed updates in preparation for their vote in April, where, if approved, the updates to the handbook will become official.

"This milestone is also an opportunity to celebrate the impact of faculty leadership and collaborative effort," McCulloh said in an email. "The Faculty Senate has been an effective representative body in developing inclusive, thorough approaches to the questions raised during this process."

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

Life behind GU's hidden crucial worker

By CLARINNE KIRK

The first thing I noticed about Dino Alimanovic was his shining bright blue basketball shoes, a look that distinguished his otherwise typical uniform: khaki pants, collared shirt and a blue sweatshirt with "Dino" embroidered over the right breast.

Alimanovic sat down at a long table in the Plant & Construction Services office, a row of computers sitting idly behind him, a sign that read "men at work" hanging above one of the dark screens. With a smile, Alimanovic swung his chair toward me, expectantly waiting for the interview to begin.

Exactly 22 years before Alimanovic, an HVAC technician at Gonzaga University, was sitting in a Plant Services office, wearing blue basketball shoes and waiting to be interviewed by a student reporter, he was arriving at his new home in Spokane and reuniting with his wife, who had immigrated from Bosnia 11 months before, just three days after the two had married.

While living in Bosnia, Alimanovic had worked as a police officer. While work was steady, corruption increased and war raged around him and his new family. His new wife had been particularly hard-hit by the war, losing many family members to the fighting.

"She had a kind of rough life during the war and lost a lot of close family," Alimanovic said. "We talked to each other about, if we're gonna live together and establish a family, where do we want to be?"

For Alimanovic, that place was Spokane. Alimanovic's wife had relatives in Spokane, making it a good place to originally immigrate to. Alimanovic said he and his wife discussed moving to a bigger city, but after spending a day in early May by a lake, feeling the warmth of summer finally arriving while admiring the views of tree-covered hills in the distance, the moving discussions ended.

The first thing Alimanovic loved about Spokane was the basketball.

Growing up in Bosnia, Alimanovic played basketball with his friends, before the war forced him to consider pursuing other opportunities and place his focus elsewhere.

"That stupid war, it shifted everything away and after that, I was interested in [basketball], but I went a different route and went to school for policing," Alimanovic said.

In fact, GU's basketball success was one thing that drew Alimanovic to the university in the first place.

After arriving in the U.S., Alimanovic began working in an industrial park on lumber production, putting in long hours and attempting to establish himself despite only knowing a few words in English. He soon grew tired of the lumber industry and turned his sights to another opportunity. He was considering semi-truck driving when a friend told him that the school with the great basketball had a custodial opening.

Quickly, the school Alimanovic had loved to cheer on became his employer. But Alimanovic, ever searching for a greater challenge and opportunity to grow, grew tired of his role as a custodian after a few years of work. Alimanovic turned to a professor for advice, who suggested going to HVAC school, despite the challenges taking on schooling while working full time would impose on Alimanovic.

"I was basically working the night shift from 11 [p.m.] to 7 [a.m.] and then going to school at 8 o'clock," Alimanovic said.

While working grueling hours and balancing work, school and caring for his family, Alimanovic was uncertain that his sacrifice would materialize in any real opportunities. But hard work and luck lined up for Alimanovic, and after finishing HVAC school, a general maintenance position opened up at GU, and Alimanovic quickly seized the opportunity.

Working the afternoon-evening shift, Alimanovic arrives on campus at 2:30 p.m., as the sun is falling in the sky, holding on to her last few hours of light.

"Hello," Alimanovic calls while walking



RACHEL TRUSSELL IG: @racheltrussellphotography

Originally from Bosnia, Dino Alimanovic has worked for Plant Services for the past 22 years.

through the door. Alaina Steiner, a life safety technician at Plant Services and co-worker of Alimanovic, said this "big hello" and Alimanovic's positivity never fails to brighten her day.

"It's really nice to work with somebody who's happy, and he wants to be here," Steiner said. "He comes in and just makes us laugh."

Alimanovic's typical shift includes a combination of periodical, scheduled maintenance assigned to specific buildings and putting out fires as they flare up, responding to calls for maintenance requests.

Many of these maintenance requests come from students, who arrive back to their dorms late in the evening only to notice that the heat won't turn on or the fridge isn't working. Ultimately, Alimanovic's job is to keep the school functioning properly.

"The biggest thing is to support the university and the students," Alimanovic said.

Like two intricate snowflakes, no two days are the same. According to Alimanovic, a single day's work can span from hanging pictures, to checking an outlet that doesn't work, to fixing a broken fridge in a student apartment, to maintaining the Rudolf Fitness Center pool, to fixing the bleachers before a basketball game. This daily variation is one of the things he loves most about his job.

"I love that every day is different," Alimanovic said. "It's not like I come in and, 'these are things to do and here's where I need to go for the day.'"

"So you have a lot of varying responsibilities then?" I ask.

"I personally enjoy [having a lot of responsibilities], because it gives me an opportunity to learn," Alimanovic said. "When I finish at the end of my day, and I go home, and I've learned something new, I'm happier."

"It seems like you're very good at handling a lot of different needs and having a wide variety of skills, but how do you balance and juggle all of those different responsibilities at once?"

"It's just like in basketball, you try to manage the best you can with the things you know," Alimanovic said.

Alimanovic not only gets fulfillment from learning new skills but also from sharing these skills with the students he helps. Many of his calls are a matter of education rather than maintenance. Alimanovic recalled complaints of heaters

not working, only to find that the AC was cranked at full volume, counteracting the heat released from the vents. Responding to these calls provides Alimanovic with an opportunity to teach students even simple maintenance skills that they can take beyond GU as future homeowners.

"Students will call in and say, 'my furnace isn't working,' and you go there and they just didn't turn on the thermostat," Alimanovic said. "We just give them a little bit of education, and tell them this is how it works."

Taking time to help educate students fits into Alimanovic's larger belief in the importance of caring for one another.

"I think it means a lot when we care for each other," Alimanovic said. "You know, you see students get stuck in the snow, and some people will just drive by, but what is it gonna hurt to help push the car out from the snow? The sky's not going to fall if you spend five minutes to help someone."

This deep care for others is what Steiner said is her favorite quality of Alimanovic.

"I feel super lucky to have him as a co-worker because he's there, and he's not just there for his coworkers, he's here at Gonzaga for the students and for the university," Steiner said.

At 4:30 p.m., Alimanovic and his coworkers file into the Plant office, sitting around a long wooden table to take a break. After a few minutes of chatting, Alimanovic scans the room, checking to see if anyone is missing.

"Hey! Are you buried somewhere?" Alimanovic jokingly texts the missing coworker.

While Alimanovic and his coworkers like to joke around, he also said that these text messages are important ways to check in, especially in a profession where injuries and danger loom.

"Things can happen," Alimanovic said. "You're at least showing that you care for each other. We try to maintain communication, and then, you know if somebody needs help."

This concern for his coworkers and desire to look after them does not end when he clocks out, Steiner said.

"Whether he's scheduled to work or not, if I call him, he answers," Steiner said. "If I say, 'Dino, I need help,' he will be there no matter what."

After 22 years at GU, Alimanovic has not only built connections with students and community among his coworkers but has made friends in a variety of departments, a reality he credits in part to

his love of conversation.

"I'm connected to pretty much any department that I can because I talk a lot," Alimanovic said with a laugh.

Acting on his love for basketball, Alimanovic especially values the connections he has created with basketball players over the years, teasing them when he sees them walking down Bulldog Alley, trying to play a small part in making them, in making his team, a little stronger.

"When I see the players, I joke with them and say, 'Don't screw around, go to practice!'" Alimanovic said. "I joke, 'I don't know a lot, but with what I do know, I'm really dangerous, you know, I can turn off the power and the internet in your apartment, so you can leave the PlayStation and go to practice.'"

One player who took Alimanovic's advice and put in the hours of hard work was Derek Raivio, a 2003-2007 guard who shot 92.7% from the free-throw line during his four years at GU. Alimanovic said Raivio's high free-throw shooting reflected his determination and strong work ethic, values Alimanovic admired.

"He was a great free-throw shooter because he, for three or four hours, would be on the court shooting," Alimanovic said.

In basketball, and in almost everything in life, Alimanovic believes in giving his all.

"Of everything you try in life, try to come with 100%," Alimanovic said.


"Except one thing," he added. "Don't donate 100% blood, because then you'll be dead," Alimanovic said, laughing.

Alimanovic's laugh slowly faded and was replaced by a sincere look as he offered me the advice 22 years of working at GU and a lifetime of trials, opportunities and joys had taught him.

"Use this time to get an opportunity, to pick it up the best you can, to learn, because it's gonna pay back later in life, it's gonna be good for your future," Alimanovic said. "Do as much as you can, like the good, and then it's gonna come back."

When 11 p.m. comes and Alimanovic drives toward home under a dark sky, the street illuminated by stores and traffic lights, he said he feels fulfilled. He knows he has learned something new, has shared connections with others and has given his all. And he knows that tomorrow will present him with new opportunities to learn, to connect, to grow. To do it all again.

Clarinne Kirk is a news editor.



Congratulations to
Abby Zappone for
winning Squeaky
the Squirrel and
a gift card to
Carusos!

SQUEAKY SAYS "READ THE BULLETIN!"

Start exploring the world of cinema

Foreign films and shows have been rising in popularity in the past few years, and with good reason. When people think of foreign films and shows, "Parasite" and Guillermo del Toro movies might come to mind. However, there is a much bigger world of amazing international films that deserve recognition.

Getting into foreign films may be intimidating or seem like a lot of work because of the language barrier, but these movies open up a whole new experience of watching movies. You are able to create a connection with the characters and stories from another culture that you may not have in one of the popular Hollywood movies.

Studio Ghibli films are a perfect start to your exploration of foreign movies. It's a Japanese animation studio, and while the movies are originally in Japanese, most of them are now dubbed in English.

One of my favorite films from Studio Ghibli is "Howl's Moving Castle." If you have not seen this movie, I would highly recommend it. This is on my constant rewatch list, and it never gets old.

There is a haunting beauty to this movie, with complex themes of love and finding your purpose in life. The story is so relatable that it captivates anyone who watches and leaves you wanting more.

Even though there are European influences in the film, it was created in a traditional Japanese animation style with subtle influences from the culture on the



By MARY CLAIRE PHELPS

characters. The director, Hayao Miyazaki, did an excellent job of incorporating both Western culture and Japanese culture in this film in order to reach a broader audience.

This movie is genuinely one of my favorite films of all time, and I will never stop talking about it. Studio Ghibli's choice to include both Japanese and Western cultures makes it a great starter movie for you to dip your toes into the world of foreign films.

With the Oscars coming up, the movie buzz has been filling social media feeds and news with people's predictions of the winners. However, in all this movie buzz, there is a category that does not get enough recognition. The Best International Feature Film category contains many amazing movies that are often overlooked in all of the commotion

of the awards.

I am particularly excited about the nominations in this category for this year because it has one movie that I think deserves so many awards. If you are learning Spanish, like me, or just have an interest in Spanish-speaking films, this movie is perfect. The movie "Society of the Snow" is a heart-wrenching and harrowing story about the 1972 Uruguayan rugby team whose plane crashed in the Andes Mountains. I have seen this movie twice since it became available on Netflix. This is one of the best foreign films I have seen since starting my exploration of international cinema. The movie is entirely in Spanish and composed of Uruguayan and Argentinian actors with Spanish filmmaker J.A. Bayona directing.

The movie goes through the experiences of the passengers and how they had to survive in some of the harshest conditions while also experiencing the death of their friends and family.

This film perfectly captures what the survivors went through and the impossible decision they had to make. One of the reasons why I love this film is because they had some of the survivors work on the movie with them. This made the film seem even more personal, knowing that the real survivors worked so closely on the film. I also think this film did an incredible job of respecting the integrity and memory of the passengers'

experiences.

The survivors made a decision to participate in cannibalism in order to survive, and the film respectfully depicts the decision to do so, while other films would have most likely exploited the opportunity to be grotesque.

From what I have read, this movie is extremely accurate to the real crash, and they wanted to share their story of survival and a bond that will tie them together forever.

They filmed most of the movie in Spain, Uruguay and even at the actual crash site in the Andes Mountains. This film brings a level of authenticity that you rarely find in typical Hollywood films. It was such an emotional film to watch and does an incredible job of telling such a difficult story.

Foreign films bring so much to the world of cinema that people unfortunately overlook. Watching foreign films opens the door to new cultures and stories that we can't get by only watching Hollywood blockbusters.

After watching many international movies, I realized that I had been missing out on so much. These movies have a way of deeply connecting to their audience and telling stories in the most beautiful way. So if you haven't already, turn on those subtitles and start watching.

Mary Claire Phelps is a digital editor.

The beginning of the modern age marked by Y2K

The turn of the 21st century was a cultural moment: from people thinking that the "00" at the end of 2000 meant the end of the world to questionable denim choices and scandalous celebrities, it seems that Y2K is an aesthetic that attempts to mirror these phenomena.

Although I didn't experience most of the early 2000s myself, its effects certainly leaked into the early 2010s and has since returned through social media and the generally cyclical nature of fashion trends. Designers bring back aspects of certain trends from 20 years before. This explains the chokers and dark lipstick of the late 2010s that paralleled '90s fashion.

My favorite early 2000s fashion staple is the small, rectangular-shaped purses to wear on your shoulder. Fendi introduced these as the "baguette bag" in the mid-'90s, and since, numerous other designers and manufacturers have mimicked its size and shape.

A similar phenomenon occurred with the Louis Vuitton "pochette" bag that was featured in "Mean Girls" on Regina George. Another iconic purse was the Dior Saddle Bag, which was introduced in 1999 as a part of Dior's spring/summer 2000 line. All three bags are still manufactured by the designers today.

However, expensive designers didn't completely dominate the fashion scene, and names like Ed Hardy, Baby Phat and Juicy Couture became synonymous with the styles of the day. Personally, I prefer the edginess that some of these brands were able to embody.

The early 2000s also featured celebrities in a way that was previously unseen. There were so many "it girls" it's almost hard to keep track and all of them were friends or had beef, and were seen in Los Angeles together often. The scandals that surrounded them proved the public's infatuation with them — Lindsay Lohan and Britney Spears have so many iconic paparazzi photos that took



By EMILY NEIMANN

over the tabloids.

This was partially caused by the introduction of reality TV, which effectively killed the sitcom and gave us Paris Hilton, Nicole Richie and Snookie, to name a few. In fact, "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" appeared in 2007, and is probably one of the biggest pieces of pop culture in the last 20 years. "America's Next Top Model," "Survivor," "The Bachelor," "American Idol" and "Jersey Shore" are all reality TV shows that made waves, some of which are still on today.

While reality TV was one path to stardom, movies and TV still continued to churn out celebrities and content for the public to consume. If you're looking for the best era for the rom-com, look no further than the early 2000s.

Although some of the motifs are questionable today, movies like "Mean Girls," "13 Going on 30," "John Tucker Must Die" and "Bring it On" are classics that still seem to garner relevance, even 20 years later.

There are returning classics even outside the

rom-com genre, like "Superbad," "Final Destination" and "Remember the Titans." If you're looking for an obscure, totally hilarious early-2000s sitcom, "Arrested Development" seems to capture exactly what living in southern California at that time felt like.

From Britney Spears to Destiny's Child and the Spice Girls, the pop queens really had the public in a tight grip. Rap and R&B had their own moments, rocketing artists to stardom we still know today. Not to mention the way rock and emo subcultures began to emerge, giving us a new style of music that challenged these norms.

For another slightly obscure recommendation, Norah Jones' music is something I always come back to if I want an early 2000s chill pop vibe. Her voice is raspy and soothing, and it reminds me of wine country and August; her music is what I would listen to if I was a mother in 2007 making pasta for dinner with a glass of red wine in my hand.

There simply isn't enough time to truly explore what made this decade so special. Perhaps it's simply the nostalgia that makes me hope that some of these trends that are re-emerging are here to stay. If movie studios don't realize the importance of bringing back rom-coms, I will be very sad.

The hard part about social media, especially TikTok, is that the way we're moving through fashion trends and nostalgia in general is speeding up at an alarming rate. We're supposed to stay interested in the early 2000s for the next couple years, but I don't necessarily see that happening if we continue to push it forward so quickly. But, I'm also just hoping we can really bring back low-rise jeans.

Emily Neimann is a staff writer.

The Gonzaga Bulletin

Editor-in-Chief

Marissa Conter

Managing Editor

Henry Krueger

Digital Editors

Mary Claire Phelps

Madeleine Reed

News Editors

Noah Apprill-Sokol

Amelia Tronccone

Clarinne Kirk

Arts & Entertainment Editors

Shei McLaughlin

Natalie Keller

Sports Editors

Zach White

Kaya Crawford

Opinion Editor

Sofia Beltran

Photo Editor

Dylan Smith

Diversity Editor

Sophia McKinstry

Online Editor

Ben Vandehey

Copy Editors

Sydney Fluker

Kaelyn New

Adviser

Kip Hill

Technical Adviser

Brett Hendricks

Assistant Director, Student Media

Joanne Shosaki

Program Coordinator

Morgan Scheerer

LETTERS POLICY

The Gonzaga Bulletin welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters should be typed and no more than 800 words. The Gonzaga Bulletin reserves all rights to edit letters. Please include your name and a telephone number for confirmation purposes only. 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.

The Gonzaga Bulletin is a weekly student publication serving the Gonzaga community. Weekly circulation is 3,000. Opinions expressed in the pages of The Gonzaga Bulletin represent the views of their respective authors and not necessarily those of the faculty, student body or administration of Gonzaga University. Please direct all queries to bulletin@zagmail.gonzaga.edu or 509-313-6826.

Contact Info:

Email: bulletin@zagmail.gonzaga.edu

Office phone: 509-313-6826

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

www.gonzagabulletin.com

Bored with the buildings? Pondering a new campus star

In 2023, Gonzaga University announced it would be adding a new 'semi-suite' dorm building on Sharp Avenue, but could they use another new addition to the campus?

One thing that is noticeably missing on campus is a true activities building.

Yes the RFC exists, and is a great place to hoop or lift, but when visiting other campuses, often times there is a building or two designed for the enjoyment of the student population.

With most of the recreational opportunities being off-campus, it seems only fitting that Zags finally get a space to have fun for free. This would create a new space to build community outside of the academic context.

Now before going over what the building would include, where would it go? GU is a university without much space to give, so a building on campus would need to find a place to call home.

In this completely hypothetical situation, let's get rid of one of the most outdated buildings, DeSmet Hall, so this new place would be the centerpiece of campus.

There would be about three floors, including an accessible roof for the days when the weather is nice enough to be outside, and gives more space to students who want to be in the (sometimes) beautiful Spokane weather.

The first floor would be a place to eat, and ever since Hemmingson added Qdoba, I have heavily desired a Chick-Fil-A on campus — this is a great time to add it in. Alongside that, let's add a two-lane bowling alley for fun.

There can be study chairs and desks as well, but they might find it difficult with the bowling going



By CAM MCCANN

on, plus the pool tables that are located behind the alley.

The second floor can lead up to an array of TVs playing different channels, but the main idea of this place is giving GU students a place to gather and celebrate games on campus.

This is maybe the most serious of my ideas, as there is no real place on campus for students to gather to watch away games, instead being left to their own devices to view the game with their friends rather than the community.

There have been gatherings at No-Li and other places outside of campus, but it feels like for underclassmen or those unable to find an easy way to these locations, it's impossible to find a public place to watch the game with other like-minded fans.

If you were unable to score tickets to one of the big games, this would create an ideal backup plan and make the resulting FOMO much more tolerable. In fact, it may become an equally popular option for many members of the community.

The second floor can stream all Zag sporting events in fact, potentially giving more light to sports other than basketball.

Most of us only watch the

basketball games from home, and this space could boost viewership for all GU sports.

On the third and final floor, there should be a place for students to have meetings on campus, or a computer room for student activities or homework. While there are plenty of places for students to meet on campus, there are few options open to all students that involve school computers.

With these meeting rooms and computers can be a place for mental relief, as GU has a heavy focus on mental health.

Most buildings on campus are, in some way, dedicated to academics, making them inherently more stressful environments. This space would be the ideal meeting place for when we all need to take a step back from the everyday grind and unwind.

These floors can all lead up to a roof that overlooks the majority of campus, giving students a perfect overview of the beautiful campus. The DeSmet roof has always been a place that would give such a great view, but does not allow anybody to go up and see.

This rooftop space would be the crown jewel of our new building. With each floor dedicated purely to the enjoyment of our fellow Zags, it is sure to be a smashing success.

While the actual chances of a new building might be slim, the current GU layout can continue to thrive, so long as the legacy of DJ DeSmet lives on.

Cam McCann is a staff writer.



RACHAEL HALEY IG: @RHALEYPHOTO

Members of the Spokane community gather at the recently re-opened Garland Theater, which was originally opened in 1945.

Garland Theater gets second chance

By EMILY NIEMANN

Nestled in the heart of Spokane's Garland District is the iconic Garland Theater. Opened in 1945 at the end of World War II, the theater has been a mainstay in the Spokane public memory for generations.

After being at risk of closing, the previous owner, Katherine Fritchie, who bought the theater in 1999, sold the property to Jordan Tampien in December. Through some drawn-out deals and a turbulent rehoming process, it seemed that the Garland Theater's days were numbered. Luckily, the Garland's new owners, Chris Bovey and Tyler Arnold, were able to buy and run the Garland Theater.

"As you can imagine, it's been a roller coaster of emotions this last year, going from the highest highs to the lowest lows," Bovey said.

Now, following renovations and updates, the theater was reopened last Friday.

Bovey, who also runs Vintage Print & Neon, spent last summer raising money to save the theater through GoFundMe. This effort caught the attention of Arnold, who also runs an arcade and museum called Jedi Alliance, which is based around pop-culture preservation. Thus, Arnold said a partnership between him and Bovey seemed like a perfect team.

"[It was] my favorite job when I was 18, and it's so unique," Bovey said. "It's not going to Regal or AMC or anything like that, it's a little neighborhood theater and it's so cool."

The theater now operates as a nonprofit, with Bovey and Arnold emphasizing

“

We want people to feel like it's their theater. It's a local icon that people are welcome to come into.

Tyler Arnold, Garland Theater owner

the importance of keeping the theater affordable to families. Customers can sign up for Movie Club, a program that requires them to buy one annual pass for \$5, which allows them to see a movie every Sunday for no extra charge.

"Hopefully, we'd like to build up the weekend audience, and keep it available for rentals the other days," Bovey said.

The new owners have put in work to revitalize the theater, renovating and updating its interior and redefining the purpose of the Garland Theater within the community.

"The theater was a second run theater, and what we're calling it now is a revival cinema, which basically means we celebrate those classic movies that everybody loves," Bovey said.

Arnold said the new glass doors they added remind him of the Death Star. Combined with an airbrushed globe ceiling adorned with black lights, a killer clown animatronic, movie props and

posters, repaired neon and a fresh coat of paint, Bovey said the Garland Theater definitely has a new look.

"We have created an experience that [starts] the moment that you step into the front parking lot," Arnold said.

Arnold said the renovations also extend to updating the movie experience itself.

"Being a movie fan and being a movie buff, that's one thing I'm really excited about, being able to have that first-class experience," Arnold said.

They've repaired the sound system, opened up the screen about 20% and repaired the 35 mm projector. Those projectors are the original film for classic movies and are starting to trend similarly to how vinyl records did a couple years ago, especially in cities like Portland, Oregon.

"We'd like to be able to show some of those classic films on film as they were meant to be seen," Bovey said.

The Garland Theater has been the heart

of the Garland District for a while now, according to Bovey. Arnold said he hopes revitalizing it will help bring more people into the district and attract visitors for the businesses around the theater.

"It's such an iconic theater in our community that losing it would be terrible, and it would be really detrimental to the Garland District," Arnold said.

With a whole new movie experience for avid movie buffs and casual moviegoers, the new owners and operators of the Garland Theater are hoping it can continue to be an iconic figure for the city of Spokane. The theater is about to celebrate its 80th anniversary, and Bovey said he's hoping the Spokane community will get to see the theater's 100th.

"We want it to belong to the community in the way it hasn't, since '99 or so," Arnold said. "We want people to feel like it's their theater. It's a local icon that people are welcome to come into."

Though Arnold said the journey toward reopening was tumultuous in 2023, he also said Garland Theater will remain a local landmark.

"I just couldn't see Spokane losing that," Bovey said. "It's worth saving."

Arnold said he hopes the theater will continue to gain traction in an upward trajectory. Arnold said he thinks that someday all their efforts will gain the attention, potentially nationally, that it deserves.

Those interested can visit the recently reopened Garland Theater at 924 W. Garland Ave.

Emily Niemann is a staff writer.

17th-century Shakespeare meets modern audience

COMMENTARY

By LAURA ERICKSON

Spokane Civic Theatre's skilled young cast of "The Comedy of Errors" proves that Shakespeare can still be funny, even in the 21st century.

Following the stories of two sets of identical twins who are separated at birth, the action begins in the ancient Turkish city of Ephesus when the first set of twins arrive, now grown young men, both unaware of each other's existence and both coincidentally named Antipholus.

Confusion is multiplied as the audience discovers that Antipholus of Syracuse, played by Calliope Carr, and Antipholus of Ephesus, played by Liam Lundberg, each have identical twin servants both named Dromio played by Josh White (Dromio of Syracuse) and Sirena Coulter-Kress (Dromio of Ephesus).

As the four young men try to navigate the city, they are overwhelmed with a series of absurd situations that evolve from those around them mistaking their identities. Even Antipholus of Syracuse's wife Adriana, played by Lily Savage, mistakes their identities.

Savage's excellent portrayal of Adriana's aggression and confusion regarding her husband's new apparent disregard for her is complemented by Nicole Ostlie's portrayal of Luciana, Adriana's sister. Together, their skillful performances work to reveal the play's themes

about gender roles in Shakespearean society.

Directed by local theater connoisseur Joshua Baig, the lively crew of actors successfully convey the play's comical confusion of mistaken identities, all while nailing Shakespeare's iconic slapstick humor. With multiple realistic face smacks, accidental injuries, hilarious sword fights and more, Baig's impressive directing guarantees a good laugh.

Sticking to the classic 17th-century script, the language in the performance may be difficult for those unfamiliar with older forms of the English language to understand. However, the abundance of comedic elements throughout the story, highlighted by Carr, Lundberg, White and Coulter-Kress, makes it easy to follow along.

Performed in the Civic Theatre's black box-style Firth J. Chew Studio Theatre, there is not one bad seat in the house. With no elevated stage aside from the set's balcony, the audience is on the same level as the actors, creating an immersive and intimate experience.

Despite the cozy venue's small size, the performance is accompanied by professional stage lighting as well as adorable and era-accurate set design and instrumental music that plays during scene transitions. There are a couple of instances where modern music is played in alignment with a funny incident onstage, including the infamous theme song of the hit show "Curb Your Enthusiasm," which adds to the play's humor.

In addition, costume designer Kearney Jordan brought the show to life with her variety of gorgeous and colorful Tudor gowns, particularly Adriana and Luciana's, and other Shakespearean garb. Even down to the old-fashioned penny loafers and combat boots, the entirety of the cast's wardrobe was highly accurate to the time period.

You can catch the show until Sunday, with performances scheduled on Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and matinee shows on Sunday at 2 p.m. One exception to the schedule is that this Saturday's performance will be at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$15 for students ages 5 through 15, and they can be purchased online through the Spokane Civic Theatre's website or at their box office on-location. Calling ahead to ensure that tickets are available before the show is recommended.

With a running time just slightly above 90 minutes, including a brief 15-minute intermission, "The Comedy of Errors" is a perfect opportunity to indulge in Shakespeare's work, regardless of age or experience in Elizabethan language.

Support Spokane's nonprofit community theater and have some laughs by seeing "The Comedy of Errors."

Laura Erickson is a contributor.

BULLETIN BOARD

GONZAGA CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

New postings go online daily. <http://www.gonzagabulletin.com/classifieds/>
Questions email: classifieds@gonzaga.edu



Nanny for Two Children

Looking for a part time nanny to hang out with two kids aged 2 and 5.

Contact Matt for more info
mccormick4040@gmail.com

BLOOMSDAY X COLLEGE CUP

MAY 5, 2024

Food

MASSAGE

RUN FOR PARTY

SIGN UP AS A GROUP

3 FOR \$75

5 FOR \$100

DM FOR MORE INFO

SUPPORT@BLOOMSDAYRUN.ORG 509-838-1579 EXT.13

Zags set to face top WCC teams in men's conference tournament

By ACE BALLERA-BALICOCO

The No. 19 Gonzaga University men's basketball team has set its sights on the 2023-24 West Coast Conference Tournament following the conclusion of its conference schedule.

The WCC Tournament will take place from Thursday to Tuesday at the Orleans Arena in Paradise, Nevada. The winner is awarded an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament.

The Zags (24-6, 14-2 WCC) are looking to win their fifth-straight WCC Tournament championship. They have won 10 of the last 11 tournaments.

The Zags head into the tournament as the No. 2 seed with a triple-bye into the semifinal round. The Zags will have to win two games to win the tournament.

"It's big for us to get that triple-bye," said junior forward Graham Ike following the team's win over San Francisco last week.

Ike is second in the WCC in scoring, averaging 16.9 points per game, and fourth in rebounds, averaging 7.3.

The Zags will face either third-seeded USF (22-9, 11-5 WCC), sixth-seeded Portland (11-20, 5-11 WCC) or seventh-seeded Loyola Marymount (12-18, 5-11 WCC) in the semifinal round on Monday. USF awaits the winner of Portland and LMU's second-round game on Friday.

GU head coach Mark Few is expecting his team to see USF in the tournament and is ready for the challenge. The Dons fell in three of their last four conference games to finish the season 22-9 overall and 11-5 in WCC play.

"It's a different feeling down there in the league tournament," Few said following the Zags' win against USF last Thursday. "But yeah, obviously we're only playing seven to seven and a half guys, so it's good to get one less game and probably have to play [the Dons] again for sure."

The Dons' roster includes the top rebounder in the WCC in Jonathan Mogbo, who averages 10.3 rebounds per game.

Few holds a 51-5 record in the WCC Tournament since becoming head coach of the Zags in 2000.

If the Zags win their semifinal match, they will likely play first-seeded Saint Mary's (24-7, 15-1 WCC) in the championship round should the Gaels win their semifinal game. It would be a rematch of last season's championship game, which the Zags won 77-51.

The Gaels' potential semifinal round opponents include fourth-seeded Santa Clara (19-12, 10-6 WCC), fifth-seeded San Diego (17-4, 7-9 WCC), eighth-seeded Pepperdine (12-19, 5-11 WCC) or



RACHEL TRUSSELL IG: @racheltrussellphotography

Graham Ike is second in the WCC in scoring, averaging 16.9 points per game.

ninth-seeded Pacific (6-25, 0-16 WCC).

The Gaels lead the WCC in rebounding, averaging 39.7 per game, and have the second-best scoring defense in the country, with their opponents averaging 58.5 points per game.

Winning the WCC Tournament would quell any fears about the Zags

missing the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1998. Without it, the Zags must earn an at-large bid from the Selection Committee.

An at-large bid is not guaranteed for a Zags team that is 3-5 in Quad 1 games this season, with early losses to

“

Everything's still in front of us for what we want to accomplish this season.

We're still playing for something.

Mark Few, head coach of the GU men's basketball team

UConn, Santa Clara, San Diego State and Washington hurting their resume.

A strong finish to the regular season boosted the Zags' chances at dancing in March. The Zags finished the season on an eight-game winning streak since its loss to the Gaels on Feb. 3, with Quad 1 wins against then-No. 17 Kentucky, USF and then-No. 17 Saint Mary's in a rematch.

The Zags have faced adversity all season, yet Few said they never wavered or threw in the towel.

"Everything's still in front of us for what we want to accomplish this season," Few said following his team's win at LMU last month. "You're still playing for something."

Performance metrics support the Zags' case for an at-large bid. In Monday's Associated Press Top 25 poll, GU moved up four spots to No. 19. The Zags are currently ranked 16th in the NCAA Evaluation Tool (NET). No team has been left out of the NCAA Tournament on Selection Sunday if they were ranked in the top 25 of the NET, according to Sports Illustrated.

In a conference that has looked more competitive compared to recent years, the Zags know it will take everything to win the WCC Tournament.

"That's why you play the game, to play against the top guys in the league and show what you're made of," Ike said.

The Zags' offensive productivity has helped their momentum heading into March. GU is ranked sixth in scoring offense, averaging 85.6 points per game, and second in field goal percentage with a 51.87% shooting clip.

The Zags have their work cut out for them if they want to win the 22nd WCC Tournament in program history, but Few said the team is confident in its chances.

"We're playing our best basketball and it's March," Few said following last Saturday's win against Saint Mary's. "It's a great sign, to come into this environment, against this team that I've got massive amounts of respect for with how they compete and how prepared they are and how they play together."

The Zags will play their semifinal game on Monday at 8:30 p.m. The championship game is set for the next day at 6 p.m. Both of GU's matchups will be televised on the ESPN networks.

Ace Ballera-Balicoco is a contributor.

Court storming: A chaos that may soon be a tradition cast aside in college hoops

COMMENTARY
By CAM MCCANN

After Wake Forest's Feb. 24 win over perennial Atlantic Coast Conference powerhouse Duke, home fans were eager to spill onto the court in pure ecstasy.

While celebrating, their actions would come to rekindle the flames of the debate about the validity and safety of "court storming."

It's hard to think of a world where college students don't rush onto the playing surface after an outstanding win, but what happens during this frenzy often has more negative outcomes than positive ones.

After its 83-79 loss, Duke sophomore forward Kyle Filipowski wound up with an ankle sprain and in visible pain after the crowd had all but trampled over the star center.

Requiring the assistance of trainers and teammates to leave the floor, Filipowski claims to have been hit intentionally, and that he was also punched in the back.

"I absolutely feel like it was personal," Filipowski said in an interview with WFMY News 2. "Intentional for sure. There's no reason where [Wake Forest fans] see a big guy like me trying to work my way off the court and they can't just work around me. There's no excuse for that."

Currently, the ACC does not automatically fine teams for court storming and it is unknown if the conference has an official policy on the issue. Following the events at Wake Forest, some in the college basketball world are calling for an outright ban on storming the court.

"When are we going to ban court storming?" said Jon Scheyer, Duke men's basketball head coach, in a postgame interview. "How many times does a player have to get into something where they get punched or they get pushed or they get taunted right in their face?"

Earlier this year, Iowa guard Caitlin Clark collided with a fan after her team's loss to Ohio State. She was helped off the court soon after by security. Gonzaga University's Anton Watson was injured in a court storm following the Zags' 77-76 loss to Santa Clara on Jan. 11.

It's a hard pill to swallow, but reckless traditions like this can be an ugly part of the games we love to watch and cheer for.

"I don't like court stormings," said Wake Forest head coach Steve Forbes. "They just don't feel safe."

Safe is certainly not the word that would be used in the case of Joe Kay.

Kay, a then 6-foot-6-inch high school valedictorian, was trampled in a court storming, and suffered a torn carotid artery and a stroke. His team won the game, but Kay ended up paralyzed on the right side of his body.

Having been awarded a scholarship to Stanford University to play volleyball, Kay would still receive his scholarship, but traversed the campus he thought he would play volleyball at in a motorized cart.

"I understand why people rush the court, they want to feel like they're part of the game," Kay said in an ESPN



COURTESY OF @WAKEMBB ON X

Wake Forest fans stormed the court after a 83-79 win over No. 9 Duke, causing injuries to Duke's Kyle Filipowski.

article. "But when fans rush the court, it's all chaos."

In the current era of college sports, the NCAA would seemingly be quick to dismiss this tradition that could potentially see an athlete suffer an avoidable major injury like Kay's.

As it is now, a handful of conferences have imposed a ban on court storming, and others have made the offense up to a \$500,000 fine. The incident involving Filipowski will only exacerbate this growing concern for the well-being of athletes, which is something colleges must take more seriously.

Court storming represents a clear flaw within security protocols at universities. Collegiate organizations should take extra security measures in games that can end up in chaos. Instead, security for players and fans alike is often ineffective at best.

GU recently saw an incident with fans when a controversial call in a game against Saint Mary's resulted in fans throwing trash onto the court.

"You have to have a plan in place," said Seth Greenberg, an ESPN analyst. "If you're playing this game and you're expecting to win, you have to hire extra security, you've got to have a plan in place to make sure these players get off the court safely."

There has yet to be a change in the rules on court storming, but after this season's end, the NCAA will likely look into introducing stricter protocols on the issue.

Cam McCann is a staff writer.

GU enters WCC tourney with perfect conference record

By CAROLINE SLACK

With the start of the West Coast Conference Tournament upon us, No. 16 Gonzaga University women's basketball will look to continue its undefeated streak in WCC play, while defeating reigning tournament champions Portland in the process.

The Zags (29-2, 16-0), who clinched the conference regular-season title on Feb. 17, have been awarded the No. 1 seed for the upcoming tournament. GU will enter the tournament with the longest active winning-streak (23) and second-best record in the nation.

Santa Clara (24-7, 12-4) will be the No. 2 seed in the tournament, followed by Portland (18-12, 10-6) and San Francisco (14-15, 10-6).

Following GU's win over Portland last Wednesday, the Zags tied the program record for the most consecutive wins and established a new program record by going undefeated at home for the second straight season.

In Las Vegas, head coach Lisa Fortier and company will have a triple-bye until the semifinals on Monday. In the semifinals, the Zags are scheduled to play one of San Francisco, San Diego, Pepperdine or Pacific.

Following GU's first undefeated conference slate under Fortier, the Zags have a fair shot at winning the semifinal game and heading to the championship game, where it will likely play either Portland or Santa Clara.

"Every team we play has a defensive nightmare: trying to figure out where to stop us," Fortier said. "I think we're gonna be able to come out of [the WCC Tournament] in good shape but it is difficult sometimes, mentally. I'm grateful that we have such a veteran team because ... they know what's happened down there before. Teams save stuff for the tournament, and we see stuff we've never seen before."

Heading into the tournament, the Zags boast the conference's top scorer, senior forward Yvonne Ejim. She is averaging 20.0 points and 8.3 rebounds per game, having recently been named WCC Player of the Year.

"I'm very happy and very proud of myself," Ejim said on receiving the award. "I'm also very grateful for the year I've been able to have and the year my team has been able to have. I feel like a lot of my success comes from them as well. I'm very grateful that I was able to play on this team and with these players."



RACHEL TRUSSELL IG: @racheltrussellphotography

The Zags defeated the other top-four WCC teams by an average of 31.8 points.

Graduate guard Brynna Maxwell is GU's second-leading scorer, averaging 14.4 points per game while shooting 45.3% from 3-point range. Kayleigh Truong is the third option for the Zags, averaging 12.4 points on 44.8% shooting.

Among the other teams in the field, Santa Clara's Tess Heal is the conference's second-leading scorer. She averages 19.6 points and 4.8 assists per game. In Santa Clara's most recent game against Pacific, Heal dropped a career-high 40 points and added seven assists in an 85-77 win.

The second-seeded Santa Clara team is currently on a nine-game winning streak heading into Vegas. Olivia Pollard and Marya Hudgins are the Broncos' next highest scorers, averaging 15.2 and 8.0 points, respectively.

The No. 3 seed Portland Pilots are led in scoring by Emme Shearer, who averages 12.1 points and 3.9 rebounds per game. Portland's next options are Maisie Burnham and Kennedy Dickie, with Burnham averaging 11.3 points and Dickie averaging 9.7.

Rounding out the top-seeded teams are the No. 4 seed San Francisco Dons, who are led in scoring by Jasmine Gayles.

She averages 16.8 points per game while shooting 36.3% from the field. Debora dos Santos is the team's second-leading scorer, averaging 15.1 points and 10.6 rebounds per game. The Dons also boast WCC Newcomer of the Year, Freja Werth.

Dos Santos, an All-WCC First Team forward, finds that the Dons are headed in the right direction heading into the conference tournament and a potential semifinal matchup with GU.

"We're finally having a better bond on the court," dos Santos said. "At first, we took time to click, but I feel like we're finally playing better together. [We need to] just keep going. I really want to finish in a better position this year, I believe everybody wants to."

In its six games against the other three top-four seeded WCC teams, GU outscored its opponents by an average of 31.8 points.

Behind Fortier, the WCC Coach of the Year, the Zags have steamrolled through conference play and look set to earn a conference title and an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

"If we can guard people, we have

GU
SPORTS

Thursday, March 7

- ➔ Baseball vs. Minnesota, 3 p.m. (3 game series)

Sunday, March 10

- ➔ Men's golf at Bandon Dunes Championship, Bandon, Oregon, all day, (3 day tournament)
- ➔ Women's rowing at Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, all day
- ➔ Women's tennis at Cal State Fullerton, Fullerton, California, 11 a.m.
- ➔ Men's tennis at UC San Diego, San Diego, California, 11 a.m.

Monday, March 11

- ➔ Women's tennis at WCC Tournament, opponent TBD, Las Vegas, Nevada, Noon
- ➔ Men's tennis at San Diego State, San Diego, California, 2 p.m.
- ➔ Men's basketball at WCC Tournament, opponent TBD, Las Vegas, Nevada, 8:30 p.m.

*Home games in bold

options all over the floor," Fortier said on GU's game plan for Vegas. "The question mark is how well are we going to defend? I think as we prepare for Vegas, we're going to have to double down on that."

The Women's WCC Tournament will begin on Thursday, when San Diego takes on Pepperdine. GU will begin tournament play on Monday, with its semifinal matchup being televised on ESPN+.

Caroline Slack is a staff writer. Follow her on X: @carolineslack13.



CHEERING ON YOUR FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

For over 80 years, we've been helping members improve their finances. Join the home team that goes all in for you, offering free checking and savings and free financial tools to help you achieve your goals.

Stop by and learn more today:

Spokane Division Neighborhood Financial Center
 916 N Division St., Spokane, WA 99202
 becu.org | 800-233-2328

Go Zags!

Insured by NCUA. Membership required. Restrictions apply. All Pacific NW residents are eligible to join.

MINI ZAGS

DOWNLOAD AND PRINT ALL OF THE MINI ZAGS AT GONZAGABULLETIN.COM/MINIZAGS



@gonzagabulletin



@thegonzagabulletin

