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Gonzaga senior forward Corey Kispert was named a preseason AP All-American and was put on the Julius Erving Award watchlist.

CHIARA MCINELLY IG: @picsbychiara

Corey Kispert: Future WCC Player of the Year

By VINCENT SAGLIMBENI

In a year of ambiguity and uncertainty, one thing that will be certain this Gonzaga basketball season is that senior forward Corey Kispert will be back for his final year at GU.

After having his season cut short last year after the NCAA announced the cancellation of the 2019-20 NCAA tournament, Kispert was left in a position of either coming back for his senior year or starting his journey as an NBA player. Kispert decided to go through the NBA draft evaluation process in April, along with teammates Joel Ayayi and Filip Petrushev.

Petrusev ultimately left GU to pursue his professional career in Serbia, followed by Ayayi's announcement to return to GU, leaving GU fans on edge waiting for Kispert's decision. Then, in early August, the city of Spokane took a collective sigh of relief after finding out Kispert will be returning for his senior season.

"We wanted to come back and lead this team," Kispert said. "With the decision Filip made, it was in both of our hands to come back. You look around and see the talent from the freshman to the guys with experience under their belt, it's really exciting to look at from the outside and

easy to want to be a part of it. It's going to be the best decision for both of us."

With this decision comes heightened expectations for a team that has already put high expectations on themselves. With the additions of grad transfer Aaron Cook, the highest freshmen recruitment class in GU basketball history consisting of Jalen Suggs, Dominick Harris and Julian Strawther and another year of development from Drew Timme, Anton Watson and Oumar Ballo, the Zags are in a prime position to make a run at its first national title in school history.

And at the forefront of the charge will be the sole four year senior on the roster, Corey Kispert.

Kispert was put on the Julius Erving Award watchlist last week for one of the best small forwards in the country, along with being a preseason AP All-American and a consensus projected front runner for WCC Player of the Year along with University of Pepperdine guard Colbey Ross. In typical Kispert fashion, he said it doesn't matter if he wins the individual awards or not. He just wants the national title at the end of the year.

"It's a really cool honor to be named to that list and especially to have that recognition, but it doesn't really matter

at the end of the day because it's just projections and polls," Kispert said. "It only matters where you are at the end of the year, so it is a cool honor but you have to put it in your rear view mirror and keep working towards the season. Colbey's a great player and he's given us a lot of problems over the years so I'm looking forward to battling that out with him come conference play."

Kispert's three point shooting, size and leadership will put him in a great position for the Zags to have back-to-back WCC Players of the Year following Petrushev winning it last season. Prior to the NCAA tournament being canceled, Kispert shot 47.4% from the field, 43.8% from behind the three point line and 81% from the free throw line. Averaging around 14 points a game in 33 minutes last season, Kispert is primed to go off and help lead this team to a promising position this season.

In four years under head coach Mark Few, Kispert has proven to be the leader of this team. With Kispert coming back, younger players like Timme, Watson, Harris, Strawther, Martynas Arlauskas and Pavel Zakharov can look to Kispert to continue the tradition of what it means to be the leader for the Zags.

If the Zags are to win another WCC

championship and be in the running for the coveted national championship, Kispert is going to have to be at the head of the pack leading the Bulldogs in The Kennel. With potentially no fans for the whole season, Kispert understands the challenge ahead and is ready to go at it with full steam.

"It's a huge change for us not having that home court advantage because we pack [McCarthy Athletic Center] out every night and it's a five to seven point advantage with the Kennel and the crowd behind us," Kispert said. "But we've seen it with the NBA and we're going to see it with college basketball too where the team with the advantage is going to have to motivate themselves and create their own energy, and I think we can be really good at that this year moving forward."

Kispert is ready for anything and everything this season, and along with the guarantee of his return, you can also guarantee he will be the WCC Player of the Year at the end of this season.

Vincent Saglimbeni is a sports editor. Follow him on Twitter: @vinnysaglimbeni.

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GONZAGA STUDENT MEDIA

Men's basketball runs the gantlet

By ASHER ALI

The onset of college basketball season is always a sweet affair for Gonzaga men's basketball. Particularly in a year when the certainty of play had been in limbo since last season's premature cancellation in March, the preseason No. 1 Zags await in eager anticipation now that a bulk of their 2020-21 schedule has been ascertained.

Starting with their nonconference string of matchups, the Zags will host eight home games throughout December against mostly regional opponents. Head coach Mark Few has also assorted a gantlet run of invitational games for the Zags to prove their worthiness as the nation's top dog, which if GU can settle on the particularities of a proposed game against No. 12 Tennessee, will include four matchups with preseason top 15 opponents.

The major difference the team will have to adjust to before facing off in these monumental contests is that they'll have to be prepared from the jump without any preseason tune up action.

"We normally start off strong with our nonconference schedules, but the difference this year compared to years past is that there's no tune-up games and you have to be ready to go from the first minute of the

first game and that's going to be against a really good team," Kispert said.

The aforementioned joy held by the team on opening day this season will almost certainly convert into tension the moment GU first tips off on Nov. 26 against No. 6 Kansas in the Rocket Mortgage Fort Myers Tip-Off.

The 28-3 Jayhawks ended last season on top of the AP rankings, and they return three starters from last year's lineup, including Naismith and ESPN defensive player of the year Marcus Garrett.

Garrett can guard any position on the floor, but he will look to be especially troublesome for guard Jalen Suggs as it will be his first collegiate game. The contest will most likely become a showcase in the Zags' perennial bread and butter of high level frontcourt play, with Watson and Timme trying to supply constant pressure in the key while Ayayi and Suggs look to create space.

To capitalize on a developing Auburn team in the second and final game of the series, the Zags may use the same strategy in order to optimize their size advantage.

The Zags third slated game of the year is their Dec. 5 showdown with preseason No. 2 Baylor in Indianapolis, a

game the Bears are sure to be looking at to exact revenge in after GU caused their exit in the second round of the 2019 NCAA tournament. The Bears host three players who have been placed onto preseason watchlists for season awards at their respective decisions, and in particular, their two guards in MaCio Teague and Jared Butler match up well with the Bulldogs' backcourt.

After their excursion to Indiana, GU will look towards a Dec. 19 meeting with No. 5 ranked Iowa in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The battle of the bigs will be on full display as Timme and Watson will be taking on last season Wooden award runner-up Luka Garza and preseason All-Big Ten forward Joe Wieskamp.

Then, it'll be time for GU to ascend on the two-month-long haul of West Coast Conference action. Sixteen games for the Zags spanning from Jan. 2 until Feb. 28 against conference opponents will decide their placing in the WCC tournament which begins March 4.

The only WCC team outside of GU recognized by AP voters in their initial poll was BYU, which received four votes, not enough to crack the top 25. Even with the Cougars newest addition in top flight power forward from Purdue Matt

Haarms, it may be Pepperdine's senior guard Colby Ross who poses the most imminent threat to the Zags' chances at repeating a title in Vegas.

"Colby is a great player and he's given us a lot of problems over the past couple of years," Kispert said. "I'm really looking forward to battling it out with him come conference play."

There's no doubt that the Zags will have to call upon more players than ever this season, but they have the comprehensive personnel to do so. Whether it's Joel Ayayi or true freshman Julien Strawther starting for GU down the stretch, the team's journey in pursuit of unclaimed NCAA glory will remain just as strong until the very end.

"Before any Xs and Os or any matchups go down, it's all about staying healthy so we're making sure that we're doing our best to do that all the way through conference as the goal," Kispert said.

Because as sweet as the Thanksgiving Day tipoff will be, the finest of basketball delicacies potentially awaits the Zags at the culmination of their 2020-21 journey in March.

Asher Ali is a sports editor. Follow him on Twitter: @asher_ali3.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

SCHEDULE

- Thursday, November 26, 10:30 A.M.**
- ➔ vs. Kansas on FOX
- Friday, November 27, 8 A.M.**
- ➔ vs. Auburn on FOX
- Saturday, December 5, 10. A.M.**
- ➔ vs. Baylor, CBS
- Tuesday, December 8**
- ➔ Tarleton State, time and network TBD
- Thursday, December 10**
- ➔ vs. Southern, time and network TBD
- Saturday, December 12**
- ➔ vs. Northern Arizona, time and network TBD
- Monday, December 14**
- ➔ vs. Idaho, time and network TBD
- Saturday, December 19, 9 A.M.**
- ➔ vs. Iowa, CBS
- Monday, December 21**
- ➔ vs. Northwestern, time and network TBD
- Tuesday, December 29**
- ➔ vs. Dixie State, time and network TBD

*Home games in bold

WOMEN'S

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

- Saturday, November 28, 3 P.M.**
- ➔ vs. Oklahoma, Livestream
- Sunday, November 29, 3 P.M.**
- ➔ vs. South Dakota, Livestream
- Monday, November 30**
- ➔ vs. South Carolina, Livestream
- Sunday, December 6**
- ➔ South Dakota State, time and network TBD
- Tuesday, December 8**
- ➔ vs. Wyoming, time and network TBD
- Sunday, December 13**
- ➔ vs. Montana, time and network TBD
- Sunday, December 20**
- ➔ vs. Eastern Michigan, time and network TBD
- Monday, December 21**
- ➔ vs. North Alabama, time and network TBD

*Home games in bold

Redemption quest of women's basketball

By TOMMY CONNOLLY

Inherent to winter in Spokane comes basketball season, and the Gonzaga women's basketball team has unfinished business to take care of this year.

Fresh off the best season in program history, the Zags return a majority of their key pieces from last year's team. The 21st ranked Zags are looking to build off of their premiere record and make it back to the NCAA tournament.

This year the Zags are led by two preseason All-West Coast Conference selections, reigning WCC Player of the Year Jill Townsend and First Team All-WCC selection, Jenn Wirth. Townsend returns after leading the Bulldogs in scoring last season with 12.2 points and ranked fifth in the conference with a field goal percentage of 49.1%.

Wirth returns to GU for her senior year fresh off posting career-high numbers in points and rebounds last season.

Alongside Wirth and Townsend, the Zags return a plethora of depth and scoring

from last year's team but lose two starters from last season in Katie Campbell and Jessie Loera. Replacing these two senior leaders will be a challenge, but the squad has more than enough talent and experience to hang with any team in the country.

The squad will lean on the experience of returners such as WCC All-Freshman Team guard Kayleigh Truong, as well as contributions from Kaylne Truong and Louise Forsyth. Guard Cierra Walker will also be eligible after sitting out last season due to the NCAA transfer policy.

Once again, the team will be led by head coach Lisa Fortier in her seventh season at the helm of the program. Fortier has managed to take GU's program to new heights in her six seasons in charge. Last season, GU reached its highest ranking in program history, when the team was ranked No. 11 in the Associated Press poll.

Before the cancellation of the NCAA Tournament due to COVID-19, the team was set to host the first two rounds of

the NCAA Tournament and possibly make the Sweet 16 for the first time since 2015. With a projection as a three seed, GU would have held the highest tournament ranking in school history. The abrupt end to the season left the squad and fans wanting for more. The Zags were second in the nation in 3-point field goal percentage and were third in scoring defense.

The Bulldogs will open up the season at the Bad Boy Mowers Crossover Classic November 28-30 at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Here GU will go up against preseason No. 1 South Carolina that finished last season ranked No.1 in the nation at a 32-1 record. South Dakota is also in the field after going 30-2 overall and winning both the regular season and conference titles in the Summit League. Oklahoma is the last team to finish out the four-team tournament after ending last season with a record of 12-18. This should be a very good test early in the season for the Zags and will be a great measuring stick for the squad

moving forward in the season.

The Bad Boy Mowers Crossover Classic is the official start to the nonconference season for GU and is one of a possible few tournaments the team will play in before the start of the conference season.

When looking at the conference schedule, GU opens its season at LMU on Dec. 28. The first home game is on Jan. 2 versus Saint Mary's. The marquee games versus BYU are on Jan. 23 at home and Feb. 18 in Provo, Utah. Senior Night will be on Feb. 27 against Loyola Marymount.

With the season approaching fast, the Zags look poised to make a deep run in the NCAA Tournament relying on the depth of their team and their senior leadership. Here is to a healthy, safe, and fun 2020-2021 season of college basketball.

Tommy Connolly is a contributor.

Former GU All-American basketball player, and owner of Barbers, supports the Men's and Women's Basketball Teams in their upcoming season.



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Black Student Union Zoom meeting bombed with racist and homophobic language

By MILA YOCH and DEVAN IYOMASA

Eight anonymous individuals used racist and homophobic slurs against BSU members and said they were Trump supporters who were planning to kill president-elect, Joe Biden during the Black Student Union's weekly Zoom meeting on Sunday.

The uninvited meeting attendees used pseudonyms while keeping their cameras off to hide their identities. When members of BSU addressed them, they responded with verbal attacks and also posted pornographic links, GIFs and lewd comments in the Zoom chat.

The meeting started out with a discussion of the members' feelings regarding the 2020 presidential election that was called for Biden.

"BSU is such a safe space for Black students at GU," senior BSU member Alaysia Lane said.

Thirty minutes into the discussion, eight anonymous people joined the meeting.

"Malcolm [Duncan] asked them to introduce themselves and after 30 seconds of silence, one of them started spewing out racist comments," Lane said. "They called Malcolm the n-word and then started calling all of us the n-word."

Lane took the opportunity to record the incident in hopes of it being used as evidence. The intruders continued to disrupt the meeting by screaming into their microphones.

Once the outburst subsided, the intruders left the meeting together.

Following the incident, Duncan took to Twitter to post a 19-second video of the incident, posting it with the caption, "I am sad today. The Gonzaga Black Student Union was attacked by about eight random people via Zoom, spewing racist and homophobic statements geared towards my fellow Black students. We do not tolerate

this hatred and are working diligently to find out who did this."

The video has 42,000 views and the tweet has 456 retweets, 171 quote tweets and 1,155 likes.

This incident comes two months after a sign dedicated to George Floyd as a part of the Unity Multicultural Education Center's (UMEC) #SayTheirName exhibit went missing.

The Gonzaga community swiftly responded, with clubs and organizations

SEE BSU PAGE 2



BEN LATHWELL IG: @ben.lath

Nursing students Cassie Woodworth (left) and Liz Nunes (right) commit to an uncertain health care future.

Nurses' annual flu shot clinic critical part of their training

By AUDREY MEASER

Every year the Gonzaga nursing program puts on its flu shot clinic and encourages all staff and students to get vaccinated to protect themselves and others. Junior and senior nursing students utilize training from their labs and clinicals and apply their knowledge in this hands-on situation.

With COVID-19 restrictions in place, the nursing department has had to make major adjustments to its clinicals for juniors and seniors. Clinicals are a critical part of the nursing program, as it allows students to get a feel for what they could encounter post-graduation in the "real world."

Junior Kenzie Richards says although COVID-19 has posed some new challenges for the program, students and staff alike have worked together to make this time as

educational and beneficial as possible.

"I think for all nursing students we entered this semester with a lot of uncertainty, not knowing exactly what opportunities would arise for us," Richards said via email. "However, the clinicals we have been able to do have still been informational."

To prepare for the flu shot clinic students utilized both their knowledge from lectures as well as multiple labs that prepared them to successfully administer the flu vaccines to staff and students.

"We had multiple labs to practice our injection technique, and then were tested on our skills by nursing faculty," Richards said. "It was hard to practice injection technique outside of lab, but thankfully we had open labs on



BEN LATHWELL IG: @ben.lath

In order to give flu shots to the GU community, nursing students must pass an injection exam that prepares them for the task.

SEE FLU SHOT PAGE 3



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

The retreat pictured above occurred before COVID-19 and current retreats have adapted to COVID-19 health guidelines and restrictions.

Adjusted Mission and Ministry retreats keep spirituality alive

By CAITLIN RELVAS

Mission and Ministry retreats are an essential part of spirituality for students at Gonzaga University, as they create a space for students away from the whirlwind of life to center themselves and their faith. This year, with restrictions on group gatherings and exposure to different environments, retreats look a little different.

Last semester once GU closed down and sent students home, Mission and Ministry transitioned to virtual retreats over Zoom. Now that students are online all day every day, most do not desire more time staring at a screen over the weekend.

"Retreats are really meant to be kind of disruptions to like the normal routine disruptions in your spiritual life, to jumpstart some new exploration or some new experience," said Ben Goodwin, Mission and Ministry coordinator and Search retreat organizer. "We've tried to

have a variety of different offerings, both in person and online. And that hopefully meets students and fill some of those needs and still offer some sort of faith experience or faith exploration."

Time Out Tuesdays are one retreat replacement and take place at 8:08 p.m. every Tuesday in Cataldo. Each one is based on a different theme, such as fear and God or anxiety, and provide an opportunity for human interaction.

"[Time Out Tuesdays] are a chance to take time out from the normal rhythm of life and get the chance to connect with one another and pray," Goodwin said. "We hear a message and listen to some worship music and just breathe. And that's our retreat style for this semester, just trying to find any way that we can to fill students

SEE RETREATS PAGE 2

Students with COVID-19 reflect on their realities from day one

A look into student isolation off-campus and their takeaways for the GU community moving forward

By MELINA BENJAMIN

No two COVID-19 experiences are the same and Gonzaga students who test positive are finding their own ways to get through the period of isolation and figure out where they may have been exposed to the virus.

Junior Rachel Folkestad went in to be randomly tested on Oct. 28 and the next day, she was about to walk right into Target when a contact tracer called her informing her she tested positive and had to immediately go into isolation.

"I was in shock when I got that call. I wasn't that sad about it but my emotions were all out of whack and I burst into tears right after the phone call," Folkestad said.

The Washington Post reported on Nov. 4 that the United States surpassed 100,000 new COVID-19 cases in a day for the first time. Eight months after the U.S. declared a national emergency, cases continue to rise and the reality that this pandemic is far from over still hasn't set in for some.

As of Tuesday, there has been a cumulative number of 111 positive COVID-19 cases among off- and on-campus students at GU recorded through the COVID-19 testing dashboard.

Senior Elissa Rankin is living with her best friend and her friend's family in Spokane Valley. On Oct. 17 her friend and her friend's family attended a wedding in North Idaho and everyone who attended the wedding tested positive.

"On Thursday [after the wedding], I

was showing symptoms," Rankin said. "Unfortunately, I had been around another person in my bubble, another friend and had transmitted the virus to that friend. Before my roommate and her family showed any symptoms, it traveled that quickly and it is that contagious."

Fortunately, the friend she had transmitted it to was able to isolate before spreading it to anyone else, Rankin said.

That Thursday, Oct. 22, Rankin and her roommate tested positive, she began her isolation period and was free to be in public on Nov. 2.

Since her whole household had COVID-19 together, Rankin said quarantining wasn't a big deal.

As someone who has had an up close and personal look into the effects of this virus on Spokane community members and who has also tested positive herself, Rankin emphasizes the importance of keeping your circles small.

"Public health and wellness has been one of my main focuses at Gonzaga and it's nice to finally be able to participate in it because so much of the nursing program is geared toward more traditional nursing," Rankin said.

Rankin has been working alongside Spokane Regional Health District's (SRHD) COVID-19 unit this semester as part of her nursing major practicum.

"I was paired with a nurse on SRHD's COVID-19 team who was in charge of

SEE COVID-19 PAGE 3

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BSU

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Sweatshops (USAS) addressing the incident on their public Instagram account.

USAS posted an eight-slide Instagram post stating that the incident perpetuated against BSU was only a reflection of Gonzaga's refusal to take serious action to address the reoccurring problem of racism and bigotry at the school.

USAS stated that hate against minorities is a chronic problem on the GU campus, citing an incident that happened in 1995 where four Black students at the GU School of Law were targets of a racial harassment campaign.

"These hateful acts were met by a statement from Associate Dean William Clarke claiming 'we will not tolerate any form of harassment,' however, no serious action was taken," USAS said in the post.

On Monday, USAS started a change.org petition demanding that GU take immediate legal action against hate speech on campus.

"The acts committed against Gonzaga Black Student Union violates basic human rights which the school claims to protect. Enough is enough, it is time that Gonzaga University begins to uphold these alleged 'community standards' they claim to value," said a representative for USAS. "We will not allow empty platitudes."

As of Wednesday, the petition had over 5,000 signatures.

This is not the only petition going around, as Gonzaga Students Empowering Women (Gonzaga SEW) released a petition the same day calling GU to diversify the core curriculum.

"This is a chance for our faculty to educate themselves as they educate their students. It's an opportunity for our curriculum to reflect our values as a university and uplift scholarly work [work written by minorities and women] that is normally excluded in the mainstream," said Melina Monlux, president of Gonzaga SEW. "It's a small step that Gonzaga can take to say to its marginalized students that you matter."

BSU made an official statement on its Instagram that same day calling for GU administration to track down the IP addresses of the individuals responsible, hold them accountable and set clear goals for moving forward to protect Black students and students of color on GU's campus.

"We will not accept any statements of solidarity, or any promises made, unless they are followed by tangible action," BSU said in the post.

Six hours after the Zoom incident, an email was sent to undergraduate students from the Office of the President condemning the incident and announcing an investigation was launched Sunday afternoon.

"We can only imagine the devastating mental and emotional impact this incident has had on the members of the Black Student Union, many of whom feel victimized and vulnerable, and are subjected to incidents of racism on a regular basis," the email said.

After the email was sent, President Thayne McCulloh and the official GU account took to Twitter to tweet a three-part tweet addressing the situation.

"This behavior is not reflective of the [Gonzaga University] I believe in, the community I am a part of and labor on behalf of every day," McCulloh said in a tweet.

GU students on Twitter responded by asking how to financially support BSU, spreading GU's club donation link.

BSU's and USAS' posts were shared on Instagram by GU students as well as numerous clubs and organizations including, but not limited to, GU La Raza Latina, Gonzaga Kennel Board, Creative Collectives Club, Housing and Residence Life, GU admissions, GU Ambassadors, Social Justice Peer Educators, Gonzaga Women in Business, the communication studies department, Gonzaga Environmental Organization, the department of women's and gender studies, the Big Bing Theory, Setons of Gonzaga, Gonzaga Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and the Human Physiology Club.

"We are called by our tradition to move past simply posting on Instagram or sending up a prayer," Mission and Ministry said in a post. "Our Catholic tradition recognizes that reconciliation cannot be

“

We will not accept any statements of solidarity, or any promises made, unless they are followed by tangible actions.

Black Student Union



LOGO COURTESY OF BLACK STUDENT UNION

reached without striving for justice in the wake of injustice."

GU's Office of Health Promotion cited in an Instagram post that "racism is a public health issue."

GU also took to Instagram, posting a photo that called for "unity in diversity."

"Zags for Zags' is not just a saying. Right now, the Gonzaga community is harnessing its collective power to stand with and for our Black Student Union members and other who have been made to feel unsafe by the outburst of racists," GU said, in an Instagram post.

Departments also took to sending emails regarding the situation to their students.

"As a department, we denounce racism in all its forms and dedicate ourselves to the pursuit of just and equitable communities on campus, in Spokane, and in the wider world," said chair of the English department, Ann Ciasullo, on behalf of the English department faculty.

News of the incident moved outside of the GU community as the University of Washington's BSU made an official post of solidarity with GU's BSU club.

"We support their decision to urge Gonzaga into taking legal action," UW BSU said, in an Instagram post.

Since news broke of the occurrence, Raymond Reyes, associate provost and chief diversity officer, has been fielding calls from concerned parents wondering what the university is doing to protect their children.

Reyes has been working to fulfill what he calls the university's moral and ethical obligation by reassuring parents and students that their highest priority is the community's safety, and the university is working to not only identify the perpetrators, but also hold them accountable to "robust and severe" consequences.

"Gonzaga has been a caring community, sometimes too caring," Reyes said. "I think we need to make sure we're very clear about our healthy boundaries and our abilities to enforce those boundaries."

Virtual events housed by Zagtivities are outwardly open to external users, leaving Reyes wondering how and why this incident occurred in the first place.

According to Kent Porterfield, vice provost of student affairs, GU's Information Technology Services (ITS) has been working in collaboration with Campus Security and Public Safety to trace the electronic signatures of the Zoom bombers to pinpoint their origins and ultimately identify the perpetrators.

ITS does not yet know if the perpetrators were internal or external users and have since been working to restrict external users from accessing GU Zoom meetings.

After working at GU for 33 years, Reyes said he is tired of seeing racially motivated assaults such as the attack on BSU go unpunished.

"No tolerance means one and done, if you do something like that and you're a student here, you do not belong here," Reyes said. "You are not a part of this community."

Reyes met with GU's attorney Monday morning to discuss the university's options in terms of taking legal action against the perpetrators. The attorney is evaluating the footage and chat logs to determine whether the actions constitute cyberstalking and/or hate crimes.

Kiantha Duncan, vice president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Spokane branch, reached out to Reyes to offer her support to BSU students.

Duncan and Reyes met Monday to discuss NAACP serving as a community resource to address the needs and concerns of students.

Duncan also hosted a Healing Circle in collaboration with UMEC on Tuesday to provide a safe space for students to voice their feelings on the incident and be in community with one another.

The racist attack on BSU happened three days after Gonzaga Student Body Association (GSBA) released their collaboration with BSU, GU Deans, over 20 campus departments and organizations to sell \$2 Zags for Black Lives Matter T-shirts where all the profits are set to be donated to local Black-run nonprofits. In addition, with the purchase of a shirt you will have the option to financially support the Dr. Robert L. "Bob" Bartlett Appreciation Endowed Scholarship which supports first-generation African American students at GU.

The posts regarding the shirts garnered a lot of attention on social media, GSBA's Instagram post received 292 likes and was shared 134 times.

In an email sent from GSBA to the student body, GSBA called for students to not forget, do not ignore and to take the anti-racist pledge in association with the "Zags for Black Lives Matter" T-shirt campaign and hold yourself accountable.

"The 'Zags for Black Lives Matter' campaign was already in the works and planned prior to the attack on our Black community this past Sunday, however the importance to stand in solidarity with our Black community is more important now than ever," the email said.

The email was signed by Haley Wilson, GSBA director of diversity and inclusion, Jackie Lee, BSU vice president, Faith Ngae, president of BSU, Fese Elango, GSBA president and Taylor Sipila, GSBA vice president.

On Tuesday, BSU posted a list of five updated demands to GU, reiterating that it will not accept any statements of solidarity or promises made by [GU] unless they are followed by tangible action.

On Wednesday, the Office of the President sent an update on the administration response to the hate incident to the community, responding to one of the demands of BSU and commenting on the steps being taken to address the situation.

"In response to a specific request, we will shortly be creating and separately communicating the opportunity for a virtual 'Town Hall' to which members of the Gonzaga Community will be invited, and at which these matters and other, related issues can be discussed," the email stated.

To address the situation, GU's Information Technology Services (ITS) Department captured data and conducted an initial forensic analysis of the attack and Campus Security and Public Safety reached out to law enforcement.

Two detectives with the Spokane Police Department's Criminal Investigation Unit and the Federal Bureau of Investigation is facilitating a preliminary review and investigation.

"Initial analysis shows that the IP addresses of the attackers are both domestic and international," said the email. "We are aware that other universities and organizations around the nation have been targeted with similar attacks in recent months."

Numerous other multicultural clubs have come together to support BSU and also fear a potential racist incident will be perpetrated against their clubs as well.

Gonzaga Hawaii/Pacific Islander Club (HPIC) will no longer make its meetings public and will be locking its meetings with a password and implementing a waiting room that only the executive board can monitor.

"We're doing all of this in effort to prevent our club members' safe space from being compromised by potential agitators," said Josiah Saifoloi, public relations officer for HPIC.

On the other hand, GU's Asian American Union (AAU) is hesitant to create password secure meetings in fear of complicating the inclusion of new members. Instead, it is focusing its efforts to bring more inclusion discussion in the club.

"We are excited to promote more inclusivity and equality in our club meetings, as well as host more discussions pertaining to racial injustices," said Terrance Yim, public relations officer for AAU.

Despite the incident, multicultural clubs, including BSU, are not going to let it discourage them from meeting.

"If we get zoom bombed again, we will record it and find our justice. That's what Black people are all about, finding justice," Lane said.

Mila Yoch is the digital editor and Devan Iyomasa is a staff writer. Follow them on Twitter: @milagrosoyoch and @devaniyomasa.

RETREATS

Continued from Page 1

for spiritual growth and exploration."

Participation has been growing each Tuesday, and frequently students want to stay beyond the ending time.

"The main goal for us as a retreat team is to provide spiritual disturbances in our students' everyday lives," said senior Maryael Ramos, who would normally be involved with the Search retreats. "In a regular school year, those disturbances would be a weekend where you go off campus go on a retreat. We realized we can do this spiritual disturbance on campus for students right now, because students aren't interacting a whole lot."

There are also two opportunities for retreats this weekend. The first is a virtual retreat on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius during Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, with the ability for students to adapt as needed in their situations. It is planned by Erik Mertens, Mission and Ministry coordinator.

"If people want to go on a walk or lay down or sit in a chair or whatever in their home, but they want to listen to a talk, we're giving them a podcast for doing that," Mertens said. "And then [they'll] check in with a spiritual director on FaceTime, and then have a prayer service on Zoom, trying to use all these different [resources]."

The second option is a four-hour in-person retreat on campus this Friday, led by Daniel Dangca, senior coordinator for liturgical life. It operates as a shorter

version of a weekend retreat, while the longer one is a retreat but with virtual and self-guided moments. Students can register on Zagtivities for both retreats.

"Since this is online, we're able to invite alumni who live all over the country and staff and faculty," Mertens said. "Some retreats wouldn't work because they're just for students. But the retreat I'm doing, we can invite people from all over the country or even all over the world."

Mission and Ministry has begun to discuss what retreats could look like next semester, if gatherings and traveling off campus become safer, but nothing is concrete without more information from the university.

"Gonzaga would not be who we are called to be as a Jesuit school without retreats," said Mertens. "Ministry has been a vital part of Gonzaga, its mission and experience from the very beginning. When Gonzaga was formed, almost all of the professors were Jesuit priests. And so, they had Mass daily, and ways for the young students to grow in their faith. It's not something that was added on later. It's a vital part of who we are [at] Gonzaga."

Goodwin described the difficulties in trying to connect with students during the pandemic and without the usual six retreats he runs a year. He makes sure to be on campus as much as possible and to be available to any students who want to meet, while personally trying to discover God in new situations and challenges.

"[We try to] offer an opportunity for continued reflection and continued acknowledgement of the grace that is present and that we get to carry forward with us," Goodwin said. "And the grace that God gives us is never

going to run dry. As we continue on, hopefully, there's moments of grace that we're able to experience now and draw back on at later times that are challenging and that God can shine through in these challenges, and we can be able to acknowledge that and find that."

Ramos also reflects on the struggles of losing weekend retreats and other in-person interactions.

"A lot of what I do here on campus is work with students," Ramos said. "A lot of connections that I have made with students throughout my time here has been through retreats. And so not having that opportunity to meet new students and interact with them has been challenging, but it's allowed a lot of time for self-reflection, self-growth, which I feel like I needed, because I'm not someone who likes to sit with myself."

Mission and Ministry has also increased its online presence for students to engage with the department more easily.

"We put a lot more emphasis on our Instagram, all of our events on Zagtivities, and we have multiple [events] a week," said Mertens. "We have recorded things, we have ways to reach out to us one on one, we have podcasts, we have retreats we have online and in person. Not only have we not gone anywhere, but we've even doubled down on our resources. And we know life sucks right now, we know things are tough, but we are here and we are excited and happy to be available."

Caitlin Relvas is a staff writer.

COVID-19

Continued from Page 1

congregating settings which means everything from homeless shelters to other group gatherings," Rankin said. "I got to be a part of watching her administer COVID-19 tests."

Rankin said there are two main options for isolation facilities in Spokane for people who can't quarantine safely elsewhere due to the chance they could expose other vulnerable people.

One of them is the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center which is well-known as one of the places GU students go for Mission and Ministry retreats. Catholic Charities transitioned the space to an isolation facility since the pandemic started.

Rankin said at each isolation facility, each person has a private room, a private bathroom, Wi-Fi, TV and the hotel even provides iPads for people.

Rankin did triage at homeless shelters in Spokane, taking everyone's temperature, asking if they have symptoms and if anyone met the criteria test of symptoms, they would be asked to isolate and be tested.

"That means the health district provides transportation to one of the isolation facilities and in the morning, I would go with my nurse to test them," Rankin said.

Rankin said it was really amazing to her how many members of the community are dedicated to taking care of our most vulnerable populations in this.

The nursing program had outlined prior to the start of the year that nursing students had to take the risk of conducting clinicals in person to stay on track with their major, Rankin said.

However, her professors have been supportive and have provided some extensions to deadlines as the fatigue and brain fog have been the hardest to handle for Rankin.

"I'm not coughing, my throat doesn't hurt and I don't have these horrendous headaches or body aches

anymore but why am I not able to focus? Why am I not able to get these things done?" Rankin said.

Rankin said GU's COVID-19 Response Task Force helped make sure she got the medications she needed and she had food available. Her contact tracer was particularly supportive in liaising with her professors.

As for Folkestad, she said she has been kind of losing her grip on reality being stuck during her isolation but feels lucky she has been asymptomatic this entire time.

She was in quarantine for 10 days and was out on Monday while her housemates, who all tested negative, also had to quarantine, but for 13 days because they were close contacts.

Folkestad said they were allowed to use the kitchen and go to the bathroom while wearing a mask whereas she could only use her bathroom, just two steps from her bedroom door, while wearing a mask.

"Our blinds have been closed this past week," Folkestad said while she was in quarantine. "Our house is very quiet. It's never this quiet. I live with seven other girls so there is eight of us total and usually it's pretty loud and now you could drop a pin and you would hear it, that's how quiet our house has been."

The hardest thing about this experience for Folkestad was not being able to see her housemates. Since she was diagnosed the Thursday before Halloween, Folkestad said she and her housemates had plans to dress up together and hang out but she wasn't able to celebrate.

For election night, Folkestad and her housemates all zoomed each other and watched the results come in.

"We were joking that we were going to have a little party and sit in our living room and watch it together and deal with the stress and we sort of did over

Zoom but we weren't able to be around each other," Folkestad said.

Folkestad has gotten through isolation thanks to a lot of Hulu, Netflix, sleep and TikTok.

"I've been trying to teach myself some TikTok dances to get some exercise because I'm not taking very many steps in a day," Folkestad said.

Folkestad said GU has also been really helpful in her and her housemate's cases, providing resources and individual support through the contact tracers.

"Especially compared to larger schools, I think GU is handling it really well," Folkestad said. "I don't know how many people are going to come for second semester but I know students who weren't here first semester might come next semester and [I wonder] how bringing everyone back from winter break, what that is going to look like if the numbers of COVID-19 cases increase."

Folkestad only interacted with her housemates and their boyfriends the entire semester and said she thought she was doing everything she needed to.

Folkestad had no job on campus, wasn't going to classes in person and only left the house, with a mask, for an occasional Starbucks run or to buy groceries.

"If you think you're being safe I would add a couple more precautions to your life," Folkestad said. "I had no clue where I got it but everyone I came in contact with has had negative results."

Rankin said students should realize how stressful it is to worry about whether you've passed it onto someone else.

"Don't underestimate how guilty you will feel and the moral weight of your responsibility in this time to protect yourself and protect your loved ones and random people you pass on the street," Rankin said. "I so get the quarantine fatigue but it is not worth it."

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BEN LATHWELL IG: @ben.lath

Liz Nunes (left) and Cassie Woodworth (right) are two nursing students who administered flu shots to students.

FLU SHOT

Continued from Page 1

Saturdays where we could come and practice our skills before testing. In order to give flu shots at the flu shot clinic, we had to pass our injection exam."

Junior Liz Nunes agrees with Richards in that although COVID-19 has placed a lot of new restrictions on the way the nursing program operates its clinicals, she feels as though she is still learning the necessary information that will prepare her for life in the field.

The day of the flu shot clinic for nursing students can range from a two-hour shift up to a whole day. Once the students get to the clinic site, they're given further instruction on how to check for proper paperwork completion, and other administrative information.

"When we get to the clinic site, we are given information about how to prepare the flu shots, where all the extra supplies are, how we call out people's names and what to ask them before administering the flu shot," Nunes said via email.

On top of that, someone from the nursing faculty will observe the students administer their first few flu vaccines, to ensure that proper technique is utilized before handing it all off to the students to run.

For many nursing students, the pandemic has opened their eyes into the world they will enter after graduating from GU. From the stresses that come with the day-to-day responsibility of the job, to the added pressure of being on the frontline of a pandemic, nursing students selflessly put aside their own fears so that they may help others.

"I would say that the biggest thing that the pandemic has opened my eyes to in regard to the nursing profession is

that we probably don't get the luxury of waiting to see if a vaccine for COVID-19 has any really bad adverse side effects," Nunes said. "We will be on the front lines and need to be protected, so that we can in turn protect others."

Richards also reflected on how this pandemic has impacted her views on the nursing profession. She agreed with Nunes in that there is a lot more general uncertainty about what they will be walking into once they leave GU, but for Richards the uncertainty just fuels her more.

"One of the biggest reasons that I chose to pursue nursing was because of my desire to help others," Richards said. "When you come into contact with your patients, they are probably having one of the worst days of their lives. Being able to support them and help get them back on their feet is the coolest feeling, and I am so excited to be a part of that community."

To be the calm for someone in the middle of their storm is what makes nurses and health care professionals so special. Nursing requires a level of care and precision unlike any other profession, and students must find the balance between learning all the practical skills required, while also recognizing their commitment to care for others.

"In order to step into the nursing profession, I believe that you have to be patient, compassionate and confident in yourself," Richards said. "There are many situations in nursing that may seem daunting but believing that you know your skills and purely wanting to help others will take you a long way."

Audrey Measer is the opinion editor. Follow her on Twitter: @audrey_measer.



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In response to the attack on BSU: We must do more



By RED KWENDA

The Gonzaga community is reeling this week after a group of what were presumably students Zoom-bombed and verbally attacked members of the GU Black Student Union (BSU). They also declared that they were Trump supporters who planned on killing President-elect Biden, all while flooding the members' screens with graphic images of pornography and people being shot.

According to those at the meeting, the attackers numbered from six to eight and remained anonymous by turning off their cameras and by muting their microphones.

GU leadership responded to the hate crime in an email signed by GU President Thayne McCulloh, Provost and Senior Vice President Deena González, Vice Provost of Student Affairs Kent Porterfield and Associate Provost and Chief Diversity Officer Raymond Reyes.

"We are sickened and angered by this act of hatred against our students and consider this act to be a violation of both our community standards and an inappropriate attack on our university community," the email read. "An investigation of this incident began on Sunday afternoon, and we will exhaust every available option to identify those responsible for this heinous act. If those responsible are identified as members of our GU community, the consequences will be severe."

While on-point from a public relations and legal standpoint, the president's email has been interpreted as a performative apology that offers no clear plan of action.

"We will not accept any statements of solidarity, or any promises made, unless they are followed by tangible action," said the BSU Instagram account, @gonzagabsu, in a reaction to the email.

The steadfast reaction of the BSU is completely valid. Time and time again, GU leadership promises justice and solidarity for the victims of these hate crimes, though nothing is ever done.

Earlier in September, GU promised justice for the destruction of the #SayTheirNames memorial, but the person who stole several signs was allowed to walk free.

Additionally, GU consistently gives off the impression that it doesn't want to listen to the suffering students for ideas on how to best move forward. The official @gonzagau Instagram account reposted the first half of a BSU post praising "everyone who has shared their support for Gonzaga's BSU," however it refused to acknowledge the BSU's demands of justice on the second half of the post.

GU has also continued to fail in one key aspect: calling out the true reason this hate crime occurred. These attackers were Trump supporters and were therefore committing this hate crime out of solidarity for the president and anger at his recent defeat.

This is not the time for political correctness. In the same way that GU refused to build a Chick-fil-A on its campus because of the company's homophobic Christian beliefs, GU must also condemn Trump — not from a political standpoint, but one which recognizes that hate crimes against all minorities have been drastically rising under Donald Trump.

This has nothing to do with one's political standpoint, nor does this argument have a color. But in the same way that Confederate flags and white robes with pointed hoods are publicly condemned as tools of hatred, any of us who

claims to reject bigotry in any form must condemn the person who uses it in all forms. Failing to do so would be tantamount to saying there's "very fine people on both sides."

As someone who is queer, I know what it's like for someone to get away with legitimizing their hatred because of their personal beliefs. I'd like to think GU isn't that kind of place; the kind of place that gives the right of personal belief and expression to those who would use it to take away others' rights. It wasn't that kind of place when it came to Chick-fil-A.

But GU's silence in the continued face of Trump-inspired bigotry — first with the signs of the movement Trump condemned and now this most recent attack — is sincerely frightening. It means that GU is more afraid of stepping on someone's toes than seeking justice for those kicked to the ground.

As of now, I am choosing to no longer be politically correct when it comes to Trump. The man is a symbol of hatred for so many around the world that even Paris rang its church bells when it was announced that Joe Biden had defeated him. This is neither a red nor blue statement but a human statement, as we know the burden humanity has had to bear under his presidency.

Now is not the time for silence and political correctness. Share in the experience and suffering of the BSU and fight for true justice for them. Call out bigotry every time you encounter it, as it will only get worse with silence.

And above all, be safe Zags. This is a time where these election "reprisals" will try to rear their hateful heads. Let's help each other and take action to prevent these hate crimes from ever happening again.

Red Kwenda is a staff writer. Follow him on Twitter at @RedKwendaWriter.

Editor's Note: For more information about this topic refer to "Black Student Union Zoom meeting bombed with racist and homophobic language" on page one.

Letter to the editor: GU must be held accountable to diversity commitment

I was in awe of the beautiful view of the mountains, the blue sky and the warm breeze flowing through my shirt. I was riding a bike in Montana when it happened.

One week before I came to Gonzaga University in August 2017, I went on GU's Montana Pre-Orientation Trip. Since I was a kid, I've always loved camping, mountain biking and anything to do with the outdoors.

The second day of our four-day trip, my pod of 25 campers went biking. Halfway down the trail there was an elderly white couple who began to pass in the opposite direction. My partner and I were the last pair of campers riding our bikes at the back of the pack with a leader following close behind.

The woman sped past and as the elderly man started to pass me at the back of the pack, he



By MICHAEL LARSON

veered toward me, outstretched his arm and shoved me hard in the shoulder. I swerved to the right and almost fell, then looked back to see my leader yelling at the man as he continued to ride in the opposite direction.

I was confused at what had just happened. The frustration,

“

GU seems to profess how much it cares about diversity, equity and inclusion, but when it comes to a deeper commitment, GU lacks resolve.

Michael Larson, senior studying sociology

anger and sadness all hit at once. I was the only person of color and the only Black student in my pod of 25 campers. He saw nothing but the color of my skin. This is how I came into GU as a freshman.

My first year at GU I attended an event that would foreshadow much of my experience as a Black student on campus. In "Stories Behind The Stats," senior students of color would tell stories of their experiences of microaggressions and ways that they were treated differently because of the color of their skin at GU.

I remember my freshman self, wondering if some of these things would happen to me. News flash, they have.

Freshman year: A girl I had never met ran up to me in the John J. Hemmington Center asking if she could touch my hair. I had a flattop at the time. She didn't ask for my name or even ask who I was. She had the same excitement you have when running up to a dog to pet it.

Sophomore year: It was the middle of the day as I was putting clothes away in my dorm. Across the hall there were a couple guys hanging out like they usually did. In the room across from mine I heard a couple muffled words, then the word "N---r" come out of someone's mouth. Two seconds later, I looked across the hall to see the door being slammed shut. All of the guys were white. I was

the only Black student on my floor.

There's not enough room in this article to include everything that happened to me junior and senior year. This isn't unique. Most students of color at GU will have a list like this by the time they graduate.

The experience that still leaves me feeling the most annoyed, frustrated and dehumanized is the way I have become a token Black student on this campus. While GU has highlighted me for some of my accomplishments throughout my time here, which I appreciate, they have also used me extensively to recruit Black and brown students to campus.

My face has been featured twice on GU's home page, two times on GU's Instagram and four separate times in GU brochures. This has left me feeling used, bitter and frustrated. Recruiting a more diverse student body shouldn't rely only on the faces of a handful of students of color.

Instead, it has been demonstrated elsewhere that one of the most promising recruitment tools would be the creation of a more diverse faculty. Underrepresented students should have the opportunity to learn from professors who look like them and can relate to their experiences.

Diverse faculty also give us a wider scope of the world and the many perspectives in it. In my

years of schooling, this is the first semester I have ever had a Black professor or teacher. Why?

GU seems to profess how much it cares about diversity, equity and inclusion, but when it comes to a deeper commitment, GU lacks resolve. At this university we had a postdoc program that brought in diverse faculty from the University of Washington with the goal to eventually diversify our own faculty.

Out of the eight postdoc fellows that have come to GU, only one has been retained. Currently on the postdoc website, there are three current fellows listed and pictured, but only one of them is here and that person is fulfilling his contract while the program itself has been suspended.

That the program is currently on hiatus is not made clear by the website, and the reason for the suspension has not been communicated to students. Pictures of the diverse postdocs' faces are being used in the same way my face has been used in pictures — to make this university look more diverse than it really is.

It is beginning to make me think that GU created this program to boost its diversity marketability rather than a true commitment to diversifying our own faculty in the long-term. It's up to you to put pressure on the administration to let them know that students want and need more diverse faculty.

Watch the video online, read the article and sign the petition. These are steps you can take right now to hold GU accountable. Now more than ever, we need more tenure-track diverse faculty.

Link: <http://chn.g.it/MP6FPfpg>.

Michael Larson is a senior studying sociology.

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A letter from the editors:

A journalists role in polarizing times

By THE GONZAGA BULLETIN EDITING STAFF

The job and role of a journalist is not to share their opinions about what is going on in the world. The job of a journalist is to report about what is going on in the world.

In polarizing times like the one we are living in now, it's more important than ever for us as a student newspaper to remain objective and fair in our reporting.

As student journalists we promise to highlight newsworthy events through an unbiased lens and publish

them for the Gonzaga community to read. We are here to provide a platform for community voices.

We want to report news in a factual and objective manner so our readers can develop their own informed opinions about what is going on in the world.

While we cannot disclose our own opinions, we can publish yours. We encourage you to write us letters to the editor about how you feel regarding issues around campus.

As the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) Code of Ethics

says, we strive to "be vigilant and courageous about holding those with power accountable. Give voice to the voiceless."

It's not our job to tell people what we think about current events. We have to be the ones to objectively report the facts.

"Ethical journalism treats sources, subjects, colleagues and members of the public as human beings deserving of respect," says the SPJ Code of Ethics.

Please know that we are here to serve you and inform you about what is going on.

GEO Thrift Store launches online

By ALLIE NOLAND

For only \$1 an item, Gonzaga Environmental Organization's (GEO) Thrift Store has been a success ever since it opened up as a pop-up shop in the John J. Hemmingson Center. Thrifting is a sustainable, trendy and fun activity that GU students are more than excited to jump into.

GEO's thrift shop committee has been put to the test with COVID-19. GEO's Online Thrift Store, run through Instagram @gonzageothriftshop was just released this month.

Before this year, the in-person thrift shop was a pop-up station in the Hemmingson Center. Racks of clothes were set up once a month and were out for up to three to four hours. Students could look through the pieces, grab it off of the hanger, pay GEO \$1 and continue their day. It was made to be an easy and sustainable event.

"When we were set up in Hemmingson, we would only reach people that felt like stopping by," Anna Sanford, GEO's secretary, said in an email. "Now, we get to choose and highlight the items that we want people to see and that we think will sell."

Sanford is in charge of the thrift shop this year with Alexandra Frawley. This

committee, designated to running the thrift store, put together an innovative plan to keep the store alive during COVID-19 restrictions.

"It is a lot more work for our small team, and we have all put in so much effort," Frawley said in an email. "Due to COVID, we must wash clothes, quarantine them and find safe ways for people to donate."

Currently operating off of clothing donations that were received before the pandemic, GEO washes donations, creates outfits and then takes pictures of GEO members wearing the pieces. After this, pictures are posted to Instagram with directions on how to claim the piece of clothing for just \$1.

Followers are asked to direct message @gonzageothriftshop with contact info and the piece of clothing they want to claim. The first student to DM the account is sent a CASHNet link to connect them to purchasing options including Bulldog Bucks and credit card.

Once the sale has been finalized, GEO members drop the item off in the mailroom with the student's name and MSC number, mail it to their off-campus residence or meet in-person. Meeting in person cuts down on their

carbon footprint, so it is the preferred method.

During GEO Thrift Shop's first week of operation, they posted nine items of clothing and six of the nine items have been sold already. GEO is planning on posting more and more as the semester continues and as we go into spring semester.

GEO's purpose with this shop is to recycle clothing, reduce demand and save resources.

"I think our online store has provided students with another connection to campus," Sanford said. "We just had a student that's studying from home in Hawaii reach out and claim an item. I also think that we're reaching more people via our Instagram store."

Their Instagram hours run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Check out their Instagram highlights on "How 2 Shop" if you want to review the process.

"All in all, the shift has been challenging but nothing we can't handle," Frawley said.

Allie Noland is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @allie_noland.

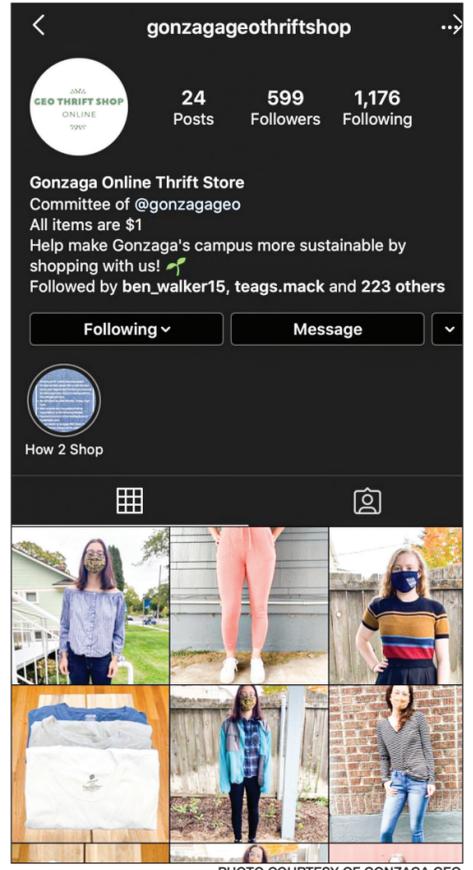


PHOTO COURTESY OF GONZAGA GEO
The GEO Thrift Store team has had to get creative to keep the store running despite COVID-19.

End of the year TV releases to keep you streaming

Commentary by TESS PICKAR

Can't decide on what to watch while stuck at home or in your dorm room? The holidays are coming soon, and we will have more time on our hands than we will know what to do with. Here is a rundown of TV shows coming out at the end of this year that will surely keep you entertained this winter break.

"The Mandalorian"

Season two was released on Disney+ in late October.

Temuera Morrison, who plays Jango Fett in the Star Wars prequel and has voiced Boba Fett in the past, has been cast to play Boba Fett in season two. This is not only big news, but it brings a sense of nostalgia for Star Wars fans of all ages. Some characters from the "Clone Wars" are also rumored to make an appearance in this second season.

Hopefully, all the questions created by the ending of season one will be answered in season two.

"WandaVision"

"WandaVision" will be released on Disney+ in December its trailer was released last month.

The plot is a combination of classic television and the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Wanda Maximoff and Vision are placed in a suburban life that isn't all it's cracked up to be.

There are questions surrounding how Vision is alive following the events of "Avengers: Infinity War" or if he's even alive at all, but that's an answer we will all just have to wait for.

"Helstrom"

"Helstrom" was released on Hulu in early October and is ten episodes long.

It is another Marvel universe centered show, but unlike "WandaVision" it is a stand-alone story. Daimon and Satana Helstrom are the son and daughter of a powerful serial killer. The siblings set off to track down the wickedest of humanity.

The trailer for this show was also released last month and it possesses a

dark, horror-oriented theme.

"Unsolved Mysteries"

Volume two of this unsettling series was released on Netflix in early October. Like Volume one there are six episodes, thus six more stories that are still yet to be answered.

Netflix released the first volume of "Unsolved Mysteries" in July.

"American Horror Story"

For those who missed season nine when it aired in 2019, it is set to be released on Nov. 13 on Netflix.

Season nine is titled "1984" and is heavily influenced by slasher horror films from the 1980s such as "Friday the 13th" and "Halloween." It takes place at Camp Redwood, California in 1984, but it focuses on the killing at that summer camp back in 1970.

"The Crown"

Season four of this Netflix show will be released on Nov. 15.

This season is set in the 1980s and is focused on the conflict between Queen Elizabeth and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.

"The Queen's Gambit"

This mini-series was released in October on Netflix and is based on the novel "The Queen's Gambit" by Walter Tevis.

This show concentrates on the life of an orphan chess prodigy Beth Harmon from age eight to 22, as she strives to become a grandmaster in chess while grappling with addiction.

Whether you are a Star Wars fan, a Marvel fan or just looking for a show to stave away boredom, this variety of shows should surely keep you entertained.

Tess Pickar is a staff writer.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg November 15, 2020

ACROSS

- 1 Typical trick-or-treater
- 6 Place with pigeons and statues, maybe
- 11 Contacts privately on Twitter, for short
- 14 Partner of video
- 15 Wanders about
- 16 "Alley-___"
- 17 Released Ginger from a contract?
- 19 Negative conjunction
- 20 Martians, e.g., briefly
- 21 Cooking fuel
- 22 Restricted access sign
- 24 Annette of "Being Julia"
- 26 Stick up
- 27 Country close to Bahrain
- 30 Discussions on the driving range?
- 34 Turmoil
- 36 "Anywhere" singer Rita
- 37 Back from work
- 38 Toothpaste-endorsing org.
- 39 ___ & Young
- 41 Candle material
- 42 Alternative to Spot
- 44 Pigeon's call
- 45 Have high hopes

DOWN

- 1 Bookstore adjunct
- 2 Feeling insulted
- 3 ___ of March
- 4 Make stuff up
- 5 Giants' rivals
- 6 "Skoal!": Danish :: ___ : German
- 7 Lumberyard piece
- 8 Iron Man and Captain America
- 9 Olive oil's carb count
- 10 State positively

11 "Remember, this is your only chance!"

12 Secure, as a yacht

13 Like many National Senior Games competitors

18 Went jogging

23 Man with two dogs?

24 Sweetheart

25 "Inherent Vice" genre

27 Potent potable

28 Actress MacDowell

29 Have a sparring session

31 Phone plan component

32 Twice-bankrupt discount chain

33 Battle of the ___

35 Geek Squad pro

40 Exam that you turn in?

43 Dumpster output

46 Stand behind

47 Faux (social ___ blunder)

49 Arm-twist

50 Hard feelings

54 Sorrento automaker

55 Pi Day celebrant, perhaps

56 Lake by Buffalo

57 Sources of shells

59 Orange rind

60 List-shortening abbr.

61 Poses the question

64 Run out of juice

65 TSA ___ Check

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

N	U	B	S	G	E	T	S	F	A	I	T	H		
S	H	O	P	O	G	R	E	A	S	T	R	O		
F	U	L	L	O	F	G	O	O	D	C	C	H		
W	H	O	A	M	I	Y	U	R	T	M	E	N		
T	A	G	S	L	O	O	P							
M	A	E	R	U	N	T	P	R	O	B	E	S		
A	U	L	D	R	O	O	T	I	N	E	R	T		
G	R	E	A	T	E	R	T	H	A	N	Z	E	R	
M	A	N	I	A	T	E	E	M	I	N	O	N		
A	L	A	S	K	A	S	T	E	M	E	R	E		
Y	E	L	P	S	A	T	O	M						
I	T	S	H	O	U	R	H	O	R	A	H			
W	I	T	H	O	U	T	A	N	Y	D	O	U	B	T
I	D	I	O	M	O	R	B	S	C	N	E	T		
N	E	R	V	E	N	E	A	T	H	E	L	L	P	

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Ease In by Zhouqin Burnikel

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20					21					22				
					24					26				
27	28	29			30					31		32	33	
34					35					37				
38					39					41				
42					43					45		46	47	
48					49					51				
					52					54				
55	56				57					58		59	60	61
62					63					64			65	
66					67					68				
69					70					71				

Wash Up. Mask up. Back up.

Stick it to Covid before it sticks to you!

This message is brought to you by

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UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Today's puzzle solution

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

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By TOMMY CONMY

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"Honestly, my intention was never to have a big social media following or post TikToks," Thiede said. "I posted a video and I thought five friends and my mom would see it and a lot of people ended up seeing it."

The video in question shows Thiede and his friends pushing their little brother around a basement on a swing. According to Thiede, the video had 7.4 million views on TikTok before it was taken down. In total, the video has been viewed more than 20 million times after being reposted by various popular Instagram accounts.

Thiede isn't the only Zag with a claim to TikTok fame.

Junior Women's Soccer player Payton Stiles has nearly 2,000 followers and close to 50,000 likes on her @payton_stiles TikTok account. Stiles' first viral video featured a day in the life of her and her teammates unboxing their new Nike soccer gear that received over 70,000 views. Another day in the life video received over 116,000 views.

"I was all over volleyball TikTok and kept seeing volleyball players doing day in the life videos," Stiles said. "It was kind of cool to see behind the scenes stuff



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Stiles tries to extend empathy to the soccer recruits that are going through the confusion that is college recruiting.

"I wish I found someone who would talk about those things as a player," said Stiles. "It's a lot different talking to players than coaches. Coaches have a routine response but players can go more into detail about certain things."

From her journey as a high school recruit to Division I athlete, Stiles knows the difficulties of the recruiting process and uses her videos as a resource for others. "I'm not super wrapped in views or followers. The main thing is helping other people figure out where they want to go to



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Stiles has seen teammates struggle with this exact situation and wanted to use her platform to address the stigma surrounding female athletes and nutrition.

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sides and TikTok is no different. Thiede and Stiles have seen both the good and bad the platform can offer.

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In one of his viral videos, Thiede's friend jumps through a stack of toilet paper in a store. He made sure to note in the description that they cleaned up their mess and no harm was done.

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"Those comments have gone away a little bit because people are starting to recognize female sports as a respectable thing especially with Kobe dying and how his daughter was going to be so good at basketball," said Stiles.

Despite the mixed results each creator has faced, both intend to continue using the app.

"For right now it's a fun thing to do. If I have interesting things beyond, then sure," said Stiles when asked about her future on the app.

"Social media is such a powerful tool," Thiede said. "It's a powerful media tool not only for fun but for career opportunities."

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Battle of the streaming giants: Spotify v. Apple Music

Commentary By MICHAELA FRIEDRICH

It is no debate as to why Spotify is the superior music streaming app. There's a reason that they have 138 million premium subscribers and Apple Music only has 72 million.

What's not to like about Spotify? They have absolutely everything that Apple Music has but they do it bigger and better.

With Spotify, their users are getting constant exposure to new and upcoming artists who match the vibe of the music they're already listening to, artists that might be considered "underground" and entirely new sounds that maybe they've no one has ever heard of before.

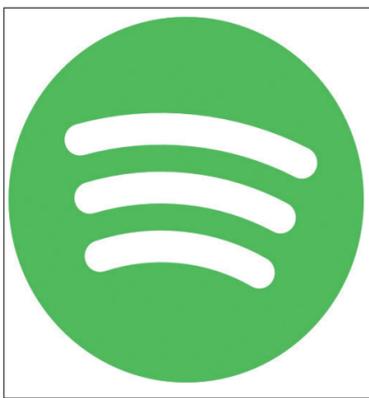
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Another facet of Spotify that is very much appreciated by its users is the insane amounts of pre-made playlists that they have that are created specifically for you.

"The best part of Spotify is easily the pre-made playlists. The daily mixes, the 'More Like' playlists. Amazing," said Lucas Miranda, a Gonzaga sophomore and Spotify subscriber.

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With all of that said, if you're deciding between one or the other to give your ten bucks a month to, go for Spotify if you want to get more than what you're paying for.

Michaela Friedrich is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @friedrich_kayla.

Commentary By DAWSON NEELY

Louis Armstrong said, "Music is life itself," and nowadays we have countless ways to stream music of all genres. Two of these rise above all others, Apple Music and Spotify, each with a wide variety of ways to listen to and download music, without the hassle of YouTube ceasing your tunes when your phone shuts off. Yet for all the hype of Spotify, Apple Music wins out in the end.

With identical pricing at \$9.99 per month, one must gage where to spend that money, to get the most for their dollar. Looking at the amenities of both providers it will become clear that Apple Music's features will not be matched.

While Spotify might take the medal in the recommendation department, Apple cannot be beat in content. With over 60 million songs it towers above competition. Not only is the music choice supreme, but it allows exclusive access to on-demand radio shows, making up for the solely par recommendation service.

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Overall, for whatever Apple Music lacks, it makes up for in sheer usefulness. With its content size and delightfully easy-to-use search and find system, Apple Music towers over Spotify as the best music streaming service.

Dawson Neely is a staff writer. Follow him on Twitter: @DawsonNeely.

Bulletin Book Club: 'Left to Tell' review

The autobiography written by Immaculée Ilibagiza brings to life the horrors of the Rwandan holocaust

Commentary By RED KWENDA

In April of 1994, one of the most horrific events in the history of humanity occurred in the nation of Rwanda as nearly 600,000 Tutsi, Twa and moderate Hutu were murdered at the hands of soldiers, gangs and their own neighbors. This massacre led to the continuation of the Rwandan Civil War, a conflict that involved the surrounding nations of Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Uganda.

Nearly 600,000 people were executed in three months. In her autobiography "Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust", author Immaculée Ilibagiza illustrates the horrors of the war and her survival — as a Tutsi herself — through the genocide.

By hiding in a bathroom with an area of barely 12 feet, Ilibagiza was able to survive the genocide with seven other women. They hid there for 91 days.

During this time, her entire family (except for her brother Aimable, who was studying in Senegal) was murdered by the Hutu extremists and government soldiers. Perhaps the most difficult part of the autobiography to read is her descriptions of how each family member died, making the reader feel like it is their brother being slain by a machete, their friends and family members being gunned down in churches with no escape.

Even with the atrocities committed against her and her family, Ilibagiza has found the strength to forgive her family's

murderers.

"I knew that my heart and mind would always be tempted to feel anger — to find blame and hate," Ilibagiza writes. "But I resolved that when the negative feelings came upon me, I wouldn't wait for them to grow or fester. I would always turn immediately to the Source of all true power: I would turn to God and let His love and forgiveness protect and save me."

I once had the opportunity to hear Ilibagiza tell her story live. I saw a scale replica of the bathroom she hid in. It shocked me to think that the someone who had been subjected to so much pain and suffering could forgive so easily.

But upon reading her autobiography, I realized that none of what she experienced was easy, least of all her offering of forgiveness.

It was in her hour of need that she found the power of forgiveness, not for the sake of others, but for her own personal healing. She knew that if she did not forgive the genocidaires — those who committed the horrific atrocities during the genocide — she would become just like them: twisted by hatred.

The relevancy of her experience is powerful twenty-six years later. The United States stands on the edge of a knife, waiting to see if Donald Trump — a man who has sworn not to accept the results of a "rigged" election — will peacefully hand over power to the victorious Joe Biden, or if he will call on his supporters to "save true democracy" by fighting to protect him after he "won" the recent election.

Already, rumors of reprisal attacks against minorities and presumed Biden supporters have gripped the nation.

The parallels between today and Rwanda of 1994 are frightening. The Rwandan Civil War was recommenced by the murder of the current president a Hutu which drove Hutu extremists to target their Tutsi countrymen. Identifying Tutsi was more political than racial, as people of different tribes were mostly physically indistinguishable and therefore mandated to carry identity cards that signaled their tribal affiliations.

What we must take away from "Left to Tell" is not a single one of us, can say that atrocities like those of the Rwandan Genocide "will never happen to us" and that "that'll never happen here, not in this town." When we think like that, we dismiss the dirty looks our neighbors give us, the dehumanizing propaganda coming from governmental leaders and the sight of people stockpiling weapons, only realizing the danger too late when the weapons are pointed right in our faces.

Let us instead find common ground in this time, taking Ilibagiza's lead by forgiving the ill we have all experienced up until this very moment. For in her words in Left to Tell, "[The] battle to survive... would have to be fought inside of [us]."

Immaculée Ilibagiza now resides in the U.S.

Red Kwenda is a staff writer. Follow him on Twitter: @redkwendawriter.

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By TOMMY CONMY

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I once had the opportunity to hear Ilibagiza tell her story live. I saw a scale replica of the bathroom she hid in. It shocked me to think that the someone who had been subjected to so much pain and suffering could forgive so easily.

But upon reading her autobiography, I realized that none of what she experienced was easy, least of all her offering of forgiveness.

It was in her hour of need that she found the power of forgiveness, not for the sake of others, but for her own personal healing. She knew that if she did not forgive the genocidaires — those who committed the horrific atrocities during the genocide — she would become just like them: twisted by hatred.

The relevancy of her experience is powerful twenty-six years later. The United States stands on the edge of a knife, waiting to see if Donald Trump — a man who has sworn not to accept the results of a "rigged" election — will peacefully hand over power to the victorious Joe Biden, or if he will call on his supporters to "save true democracy" by fighting to protect him after he "won" the recent election.

Already, rumors of reprisal attacks against minorities and presumed Biden supporters have gripped the nation.

The parallels between today and Rwanda of 1994 are frightening. The Rwandan Civil War was recommenced by the murder of the current president a Hutu which drove Hutu extremists to target their Tutsi countrymen. Identifying Tutsi was more political than racial, as people of different tribes were mostly physically indistinguishable and therefore mandated to carry identity cards that signaled their tribal affiliations.

What we must take away from "Left to Tell" is not a single one of us, can say that atrocities like those of the Rwandan Genocide "will never happen to us" and that "that'll never happen here, not in this town." When we think like that, we dismiss the dirty looks our neighbors give us, the dehumanizing propaganda coming from governmental leaders and the sight of people stockpiling weapons, only realizing the danger too late when the weapons are pointed right in our faces.

Let us instead find common ground in this time, taking Ilibagiza's lead by forgiving the ill we have all experienced up until this very moment. For in her words in Left to Tell, "[The] battle to survive... would have to be fought inside of [us]."

Immaculée Ilibagiza now resides in the U.S.

Red Kwenda is a staff writer. Follow him on Twitter: @redkwendawriter.

GU's student athlete COVID-19 testing protocol

All Gonzaga teams practicing are required to receive testing at rates dependent on their sport's level of risk, despite there being no guarantee for some teams that they will get to compete in the spring.

By COLE FORSMAN

With help from the NCAA and the Spokane Regional Health District, Gonzaga University has implemented COVID-19 testing protocols for all Division I athletic programs on campus. These procedures have been uniquely created for each sport based on a number of factors that differentiate each sport from one another.

Due to the varying style of competition, the NCAA designed three levels of risk to determine testing protocols: low, medium and high. Categorizing each sport was determined by the degree of physical contact and proximity between athletes during practice and games.

Those that are considered high-risk, such as basketball, rowing and soccer, require athletes to undergo the most testing of any other sport. During the offseason the NCAA recommends polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing on 25-50% of athletes every one to two weeks if face coverings and other precautions are not practiced. Testing frequency increases to three times a week once a season begins.

With all GU fall sports being pushed to spring, the men's and women's basketball teams are currently the only high-risk sports on campus that have upcoming competition.

"Right now, basketball [players] are being tested three times per week," Shannon Strahl, senior associate director of athletics, said. "Since they're the ones that have imminent competition, we're obviously testing them more frequently."

Both GU soccer teams are also holding restricted practices despite having to wait until spring before their season starts. With the involvement of the Pandemic Response Task Force team over the summer, a set of guidelines was established to ensure safety of players during drills and scrimmages. This includes limiting groups to five players and maintaining social distancing rules.

"They are definitely quite limited," Strahl said. "All of our sports with the exception of basketball right now have limitations because there is no competition pending."

Once an athlete has been notified that they have been selected for a COVID-19 test, they report to the temporary clinic that's been established in the Herak Club Room. Located on the south side of the McCarthy Athletic Center, athletes enter a sectioned area separated by curtains. Following the test, they leave through a different exit to avoid any unnecessary contact with other athletes entering the clinic.

In the event that a GU athlete tests positive for COVID-19, the process of containing the spread takes effect. Contact tracers begin identifying anyone that is considered at risk of contamination based on close proximity to the athlete, as athletic trainers and the SRHD are also notified of the news. Athletes and others considered at high-risk are to quarantine themselves for 14 days without participating in practice or other



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

In anticipation for GU men's and women's basketball starting on Nov. 26, both teams are being tested three times per week.

team activities.

Because the living arrangements for an athlete vary, maintaining player's safety outside of their sport has presented a challenge according to Strahl.

"I think that's always been a concern for colleges and universities across the country," Strahl said. "It is so case specific and that's why the contact tracers are so good at their job."

Strahl also stated that there have been GU athletes who have contracted COVID-19, however contact tracers have not found evidence that it was due to participating in sports.

"We've had positive cases within our student-athlete population," she said. "We have not experienced transmission within-sport."

While certain sports pose health risks by nature, there are others that are considered non-contact yet are still labeled as high-risk due to the proximity of athletes.

Rowing, for example, consists of rowers facing each other's back in an outdoor environment,

however the intensity involved requires an extreme amount of oxygen intake.

"It's an aerobic sport, so they're breathing really hard," Strahl said.

She explained that because of this, rowing is considered a high-risk sport.

Baseball, on the other hand, consists of stretches where players are spread out in the field but close together in the dugout. The discrepancy in proximity of athletes places the sport in the medium-risk tier.

"For the most part they're distant but sometimes there's some risk situations within the sport," Strahl said.

As for the other lower-risk athletic programs, they currently follow similar procedures that the university has outlined for the general student body. This includes surveillance PCR tests conducted by the same laboratory GU has partnered with as well as the SRHD. And like students, athletes can expect test results back within 24-48 hours.

However, with the impending arrival of antigen testing, students

will only have to wait minutes for their results.

"As soon as we, Gonzaga University, receive the equipment and training, we will be moving to the antigen testing," Athletic Director Mike Roth said. "We'll be able to get results back in 15 minutes."

Once approved, athletic trainers themselves will be trained to conduct the tests on athletes both on campus as well as during traveling periods. This will ensure that all NCAA and SRHD testing regulations are followed accordingly while a team is outside of Spokane.

The target date to implement the new tests is before the men's and women's basketball teams begin their seasons in late November.

"Our student athletes go through the exact same process, just on a more regular basis," Strahl said.

This will be especially true once more sports are able to compete in the springtime. In accordance with the NCAA and SRHD, these programs will follow stricter guidelines once

their respective seasons and travels begin.

Until then, Roth and Strahl both expressed pride in the overall testing process the university and SRHD has designed for athletes and students.

"I feel really good about what we as a university are doing with our testing protocols for all of our students," Roth said. "We're making sure our student-athletes are being treated the same as our general student population."

Strahl understood that while the constant tests might be tedious for athletes, the feeling of relief from negative results is reassuring for everyone.

"It's definitely there to keep themselves and others safe while they're trying to get ready to compete," she said. "When we see negative after negative, it's reassuring to them that they're doing a good job."

Cole Forsman is a staff writer. Follow him on Twitter: @CGForsman.

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Controlling the game

Despite a pandemic, Gonzaga women's basketball director of basketball operations Alexandria Young begins to juggle different responsibilities in her new position.

By VINCENT SAGLIMBENI

It is no secret that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought many challenges upon the world. From losing jobs to losing loved ones, the pandemic has taught people how to endure adversity and expect the unexpected, being prepared for what is to come in the future and looking to take advantage of the new opportunities that come in everyday life.

While some people weren't ready to face the adversity and challenges that came with COVID-19, director of basketball operations for the Gonzaga women's basketball team Alexandria Young has been prepared to conquer it wherever she goes.

The San Diego resident was recently hired to the position in October and has familiarity with the West Coast Conference (WCC). Young was a player for the University of San Diego from 2013-2018, tearing her ACL three times in five years at the program. Riddled by three knee surgeries in five years, Young started to get into basketball from behind the scenes, picking up the logistics of basketball and gaining a better understanding of the sport she loved.

While in San Diego, Young was working a part-time job in downtown San Diego as a social media person at a senior living corporation called Pacifica, monitoring the social media platforms throughout each of the forms of housing throughout the cities associated with Pacifica. Although it was a job post-college, Young said she wanted to do something more exciting after transitioning from her days being a student-athlete.

USD head coach Sidney Fisher picked up on Young's increased understanding of basketball, and with that, she informed Young of a position opened as a graduate assistant for the Fresno State women's basketball team, resulting in Young taking the position. According to the Gonzaga women's basketball website, while at Fresno State, Young served as an assistant to the recruiting coordinator, while also having to organize team travel, outreach programs, equipment exchange and video. Young also created graphics and videos for social media posts and recruiting.

Two years later, Young was hired at GU, and she said she wouldn't be in the position she is in today without what she did previously.

"When my coach mentioned the

graduate assistant position at Fresno State, I hopped on the opportunity," Young said. "I'm very blessed obviously because it led me here."

As a director of basketball operations, Young's main task is to act as a communicator between different departments at GU and make sure everything is being run smoothly. From working with SIDs to sorting out travel scenarios to social media to food arrangements, Young is managing these different aspects in new ways due to COVID-19.

Young is also working to make sure compliance rules set by the NCAA are met, submitting a lot of forms to ARMS, a software that college athletes use to make sure all compliance rules and regulations are being met.

On top of all the tasks she is doing off the court, Young also serves to help on the court. Young helps draw plays on Fast Draw and teaches newcomers of the team the plays and the system, as well as posting post practice videos and post game videos for both the Zags and the away team. Head coach of GU women's basketball Lisa Fortier even has Young participate in practice as a member of the team, and Young said the dynamic of working with Fortier is something she has never experienced before and made her even more excited to join the GU women's basketball family.

"It's interesting to see how each coach has their own little personal twist on certain things or certain particular areas that they're concerned about," Young said. "Being here with Lisa, I was in the very first practice, and I realized how personal [and] how into the drills [she was]. She's out there rebounding while also coaching for the girls [which] is something that I hadn't really seen."

Fortier first found out about Young through head coach of Fresno State Jaime White. Fortier was an assistant on White's staff when she was coaching at Colorado State. White gave Young a very high recommendation, and with Fortier having familiarity with Young through WCC play when GU would play USD, Fortier said Young was a perfect fit. Fortier said she liked that since Young was also from a military family, caring a lot about her work and a good background in doing things well.

"[Young] is just a good, easy fit for



COURTESY OF GONZAGA ATHLETICS

Alexandria Young was hired in October to be the new director of basketball operations for the Gonzaga women's basketball team.

us" Fortier said. "Once we get to know the people who are interviewing, the fit becomes more important than some of those skill things."

As the new director of basketball operations, Young's main goal is to make sure the team solely focuses on playing basketball. With everything that comes with a collegiate basketball program with compliance, travel equipment and social media, Young said she wants to do everything she can to help the Zags have a successful season in that the team's attention can just go toward what happens on the court.

Young said the main obstacle and challenge she sees in her new position is managing what is going to happen with the pandemic. Since there was no precedent to look upon for guidance, Young said this is a season and year other than any season before, and managing the unknowns that come with COVID-19 will be Young's biggest challenge.

"Since this is the first time it's ever happened, in terms of global scale, that's the biggest challenge, at least for me and a lot for different universities as well," Young said.

Detailed oriented, easygoing, knowledgeable and fun. All of these words that have no relation to what is going on right now with COVID-19 in the United States. However, those were the words Fortier used to describe Young, and with the promising prospect of what Young will do in the future for GU women's basketball,

Fortier's description of Young can serve as a way to relate to how COVID-19 can begin to dwindle away.

Growing up, some of the biggest influences in Young's life have been female leaders. As a woman, Young said she feels as if women second guess themselves more than men and doubt themselves in positions they are completely qualified for. She originally felt bad for having the position at such a young age, but soon realized she didn't feel bad at all after seeing what she has done in the past and how it led her to this position today.

"There's a man out there probably with half of my experiences, half my capabilities and skill level that's probably a head coach somewhere," Young said. "So, why am I feeling bad when I feel like I have the experience and capabilities to do this position?"

Young is only 24 years old and has been in the position for not even a month. However, if history continues to repeat itself, Young will continue to do what she has been doing her whole life: facing adversity head on and overcoming it through new opportunities, putting the GU women's basketball organization in a great position going forward.

Vincent Saglimbeni is a sports editor. Follow him on Twitter: @vinnysaglimbeni.

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