

The Gonzaga Bulletin

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Greta Turnbull teaches philosophy and her excitement is what keeps students recommending her every semester.

LILY KANESHIGE IG: @aka.lily

Asking the big questions

Greta Turnbull teaches philosophy and knows the weight behind it

By ALLIE NOLAND

Around registration time, when everyone is trying to fit in their core requirement classes, two big questions are passed around: “Who did you have for Philosophy?” and “Who should I take?”

You’ve probably heard her name before when asking around for interesting philosophy teachers. Greta Turnbull, assistant professor of philosophy, has made a mark on students at Gonzaga in her short, almost two years of teaching here.

Philosophy is a requirement at GU. Students must take Logic and Reasoning, Philosophy of Human Nature and Ethics. Some students are interested in what is to come, some

are indifferent and some dread it. Turnbull knows this.

“She turned a class that almost everyone took solely because it was a core requirement, into my favorite class I’ve taken at Gonzaga thus far,” said junior Sophia Alvord, who had Turnbull as a professor for her Philosophy of Human Nature course.

Turnbull’s excitement for the content and deep love for her students is what makes her a standout professor. She implements intentional structure, deep conversation and offers open arms to students of all majors.

“In college, you’re asking so many of the big questions about who you are and what you are going to become, apart from your parents, and getting

to be part of those conversations with students is the hugest privilege I have in my life,” Turnbull said.

Turnbull graduated from Washington State University in 2014 with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy, and then went on to get her Ph.D. in philosophy at Boston College, where she graduated in 2019. After years of studying the beauty and breadth of philosophy and getting to student teach, Turnbull knew she wanted to continue down that path.

“I just walked in the second day [of student teaching] and was like, oh, this is what I want to do for the rest of my life,” Turnbull said.

After student teaching for three

SEE TURNBULL PAGE 2

Upcoming levy vote provides opportunity for student voters

By DAGNY ALBANO

Voters within the bounds of the Spokane Public Schools district (SPS) are receiving ballots by mail for the upcoming special election on Feb. 9. With the existing levy expiring, voters will decide whether to approve the district’s school levy replacement proposition that will begin in 2022 and last through 2024.

A levy is a short-term property tax on local voters that provides a school district with funding not allocated to it by the state.

“It fills the gap between state funding and the funding needed to fully run and educate a school district’s kids,” said Mark Anderson, associate superintendent at SPS. The district runs levies on a three-year cycle.

Levies fund essential school programs including special education services, athletics and arts education as well as critical staff, like behavior specialists, nurses and counselors. While the state provides partial funding for these programs, levies allow these services to become widespread throughout the district and provide lower student-to-faculty ratios for such services.

Some of the most significant factors impacting voters’ choices are related to COVID-19.

“These are tough times. And we have people on unemployment. We have businesses closing because of the pandemic,” Anderson said.

But approving the levy might give the district the best chance to provide students with normalcy in the coming years.

“If the levy doesn’t pass, kids will come back to school after the pandemic, and they won’t get [a normal environment],” Anderson said. “They won’t have sports. They won’t have music. They won’t have art. They won’t have librarians. So, it’s this unique time that when everybody wants normal, that it provides that starting next year.”

Levy tax rates for 2019-2021 have been \$1.50, \$1.60 and \$1.54 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, respectively, funding 13.6% of the district’s total budget. SPS’s proposition would increase those rates to \$2.40, \$2.45 and \$2.50 providing the district with an estimated \$65.7 million in 2022, \$73.8 million in 2023 and \$82.1 million in 2024.

Although higher than the previous three years, these values are still lower than in years prior. From 2016-2018, for example, those tax rates were \$4.01, \$3.96 and \$3.79 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, respectively.

The state of schools as students continue to systematically return to in-person instruction has also caused some taxpayers to believe that the current quality of instruction does not warrant a tax increase, especially given the financial impacts of the pandemic.

Others have seen teachers working harder and more creatively than ever before. Professor of Teacher Education Suzann Girtz, who oversees GU teacher candidates in the field, has seen cooperating teachers strive to maintain normalcy.

SEE LEVY PAGE 2

A senior's snapshot chosen for art show

By NATALIE RIETH

While studying for finals at one of his favorite study spots in Jundt, a flyer caught Michael Larson’s eye in the fall semester. One specific moment he had experienced at a Black Lives Matter (BLM) protest last summer came to mind.

This January, the senior was selected to include his photo “BLACK LIVES MATTER” as one of the 130 artworks showcased in the annual CVG Art Festival in Bremerton’s Collective Visions Gallery. The show had over 550 submissions and is considered one of the most prestigious statewide art shows in the Pacific Northwest.

“Every hour or so I would take a break and look around at the posters on the wall and the flyers on the bulletin board and I kept seeing CVG Art Festival,” Larson said. “One day I was bored and typed it into Google and found the webpage that said they were now accepting submissions. I just instantly thought of the Black Lives Matter photo.”

Larson said before taking a chance with his photo in the CVG Art Festival, participating in art competitions had never crossed his mind. In January, a few weeks after Larson’s submission, he was contacted by the festival with news that his photo had been accepted.

The photo Larson submitted, titled “BLACK LIVES MATTER,” was captured at a BLM protest held in downtown Seattle last summer. Larson participated in the protest with his friend and fellow Gonzaga student Liam Collins. He said he documented moments in other BLM protests, but was not expecting the touching moment he was able to photograph that day.

“We had gone not really knowing what to expect for ourselves being at the front,” Larson said. “We were just chanting and walking through the streets and then we saw this girl who was leading the front of the pack. It was really powerful.”

Larson said he was so moved by the young girl’s activism that he ran to the front of the protest to film and capture photos of the moment. As Larson worked his camera, Collins spotted behind as he made his backward stride, ensuring he didn’t trip while photographing.

“I just know that Michael’s heart was behind it all,” Collins said. “He really wanted to make sure to get photos to be able to show people what it was like, and, so he ran through the crowd and took some pretty awesome pictures.”

Within a 10-second period, Larson said he took about

SEE ART PAGE 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL LARSON

Larson was chosen from over 550 submissions statewide for his photo “BLACK LIVES MATTER.”

Incoming freshmen transition from virtual to campus

By MARISSA CONTER

A new semester means a new wave of students transitioning from online back to campus, and the group at the heart of that change are the incoming freshmen.

This semester, an unprecedented number of freshmen chose to move in at this later time due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, leading to altered programs to accommodate them.

“Spring orientation has primarily been for transfer, veteran, and returning adult students who were joining Gonzaga for the first time,” said Justin Gambone, program coordinator for First Year Experience programs. “We typically did not have many first-time ‘freshman’ students join GU in the spring, we had some, but the number was never large enough to have two separate programs.”

According to Gambone, about 150 first-year students arrived on campus this semester, with 60 of these students participating in spring orientation. Many of these students who stayed home during the first semester had attended fall orientation virtually, but the university still wanted to give the option to attend an in-person orientation.

“During the fall semester, myself and Matt Lamsma, the dean of student engagement, met with a couple of first-year students who were studying remotely to learn what they wanted to get out of spring orientation,” Gambone said. “During this discussion we learned that a lot of those students wanted more social interactions and just to be able to be in person with other students and make connections.”

The freshmen who attended spring orientation regarded the program as helpful in multiple ways.

“I did attend virtual orientation back in fall, but getting to attend an in-person orientation this spring especially helped. It was nice to get more acquainted with campus and the people here, it felt very welcoming,” said Kainoa Evans, one of the freshmen who studied remotely during the fall semester.

Her sentiment was shared by a lot of freshmen new to campus, many with the added pressure to make friends in different circumstances.

“I was worried that making friends could be difficult since everyone had already made friends, but getting to meet people in a similar situation as me really helped,” said Cella Allen, another freshman who initially stayed home. “The tour and information they gave us was also

SEE FRESHMEN PAGE 2

INDEX

News.....1-3
Opinion.....4
Arts & Entertainment.....5-6
Sports.....7-8

OPINION

The dark side of social media: How algorithms make it impossible to see an opposing viewpoint

PAGE 4

A&E

Wolffy’s closes doors after 30 years of hard work and bacon cheeseburgers

PAGE 5

SPORTS

The edge of greatness: Women’s volleyball season starts today

PAGE 7

FRESHMEN

Continued from Page 1

really helpful.”

These freshmen experiences seem to align with the goals of those who put together this spring's orientation. “During spring orientation, these students heard from university leadership, listened to a student panel of current Zags about being on campus during the pandemic, received a campus tour and had the opportunity to win prizes through Gonzaga trivia,” Gambone said.

Seeing as most of these first-year students had studied remotely the previous semester, they shared similar thoughts about finally coming to GU this semester.

“I decided to move in this semester because I finally wanted to meet everyone,” Evans said. “I had concerns around how colleges were able to manage their number of cases, however, GU seemed to be doing a good job of handling the pandemic and seemed very conscious of COVID-19.”

Coming to campus made him excited to finally meet his roommate and all the people he interacted with virtually during his classes last semester. He was, however, still nervous about the transition.

“I did not feel confident leaving home the first semester due to the outbreak, however, I felt I had spent too much time at home at this point, and I would regret not moving in at all during my first year of college. I felt I needed to take a leap of faith and push myself by moving in this semester,” Allen said. “When I made the decision to move in, I was worried that balancing my classes and my social life would be hard.”

However, it seems that despite these students' concerns, GU has effectively

“

I decided to move in this semester because I finally wanted to meet everyone

Kainoa Evans, GU freshman

welcomed these first year students.

“Moving in has exceeded my expectations,” Allen said. “I was nervous that it would be hard to acclimate to being a student on campus after being home, but it was a pretty smooth transition. Everyone has been really nice and helpful, and when I realized people were still willing to be friends with me despite arriving late, that was a relief.”

Evans said he had a good first week despite feeling like a new student. The support was one thing that made the transition smoother, and others agree.

“There are many different support resources and offices across campus to assist them in their transition,” Gambone said. “Coming in later can definitely impact the first year experience, but our students are resilient enough to be able to push through those challenges and obstacles and to make their time on campus at Gonzaga the best experience for them.”

Marissa Conter is a staff writer.

LEVY

Continued from Page 1

“I’m thinking about in particular, a science teacher at a local high school who is literally bagging up lab supplies and driving them to his students’ classes,” Girtz said.

Brynn Williams, a senior psychology major with teacher certification and an endorsement in biology, has seen her cooperating teacher completely adapt her skill set in a fully remote learning environment.

“She’s working so hard,” Williams said. “This isn’t easy at all. I don’t think teaching is ever easy, but she is working day and night and putting in so much effort and just wants to help these kids and teach to her best of abilities. There are just so many other obstacles. You don’t know what’s going on in a kid’s life, it’s hard to contact children, [there are] technology issues.”

Williams has also been personally challenged with the task of teaching remotely.

“I feel like I have a lot of lesson ideas and natural things I would do if I were teaching in-person,” Williams said. “But then how to make that accessible and really available online is really hard.”

Though it may seem like a K-12 replacement levy has minimal effects on higher education, there are practical considerations for GU students to consider.

The levy currently provides funding for 88% of school nurses, 67% of technology staff and 26% of school counselors, all jobs that GU students may seek post-graduation.

“Spokane Public Schools is one of the largest employers in Spokane County,” Girtz said. “Gonzaga’s a big employer too. So these are two institutions sitting in each other’s backyards that are feeding each other.”

By being involved in the levy vote, “we’re making a home of good jobs for our students when they come out of their Gonzaga experience,” Girtz said.

Girtz believes approving the levy aligns with Gonzaga’s mission.

“It’s the programs and the extracurriculars serving populations that might be more vulnerable and have more needs,” Girtz said. “And isn’t that part of our Gonzaga mission? To serve those in need? I’m not sure that there’s a line in our mission statement that this wouldn’t fit.”

With just under two weeks until Feb. 9 college-age students can still learn more about the upcoming special election. GU students who vote outside of Spokane can look into special elections in their home districts.

“Most school districts in the state are running replacement levies, bonds, capital levies,” Anderson said. “I would encourage [college voters] to know what’s going on back home. And make sure to vote.”

Girtz encourages GU students to vote in the special election because of the relationship between GU and its surrounding community.

“We’re just coming off of MLK day. And I find it resonates with me when he said, ‘We’re caught in a network of mutuality. Our collective fate is intertwined,’” Girtz said.

Dagny Albano is a staff writer.

ART

Continued from Page 1

15 pictures of the young girl. After observing and editing his photos, he found the picture of the girl, printed the image and hung it in his house.

“In the context of this year on Earth in 2020 and everything that happened and how the Black Lives Matter movement was not just in the U.S., but all over the world, I thought it would be a really special piece to submit,” Larson said.

Recently, Larson took a trip from Spokane to Bremerton to drop off a 20-by-30-inch print of his photo to the gallery. “BLACK LIVES MATTER” will be located at the gallery for viewing until Feb. 23 and on the CVG Art Festival’s website, where all accepted submissions are available to view virtually.

Larson’s passion for videography and photography began in high school when he took his first digital photography class. Inspired by how much content and creativity could be achieved by photography and videography, Larson utilized YouTube to learn and master more self-taught videography skills.

Although Larson chose a photo as his CVG Art Festival submission, he said that his photography has become more of a hobby, while videography is what developed into a huge passion of his.

“Documentary film making, raising awareness of issues that need to be talked about and starting conversation in that way, that’s where my artistic passions have come from,” Larson said.

Beyond his CVG Art Festival submission, Larson has worked on multiple documentary projects here at GU, covering topics such as toxic masculinity and stories of underrepresented GU students and faculty members. He said that this particular photo stands out in comparison to



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL LARSON

Larson’s photo, “BLACK LIVES MATTER” (above), will be featured in the CVG Art Festival and features a young girl leading a protest.

past projects he has worked on.

“It’s this girl leading this march of thousands of people protesting and raising awareness of police brutality and validating that Black lives do matter,” Larson said. “It was a powerful photo and honestly one of my favorite pictures I’ve ever taken.”

Kevin Smith, friend and roommate of Larson, said entering the CVG Show has opened Larson’s eyes to a reachable career path as a photographer and videographer.

“His talent is already there, all it takes is the courage to submit and share your creations just as he did last weekend,” Smith said.

Smith said he hopes Larson’s art submission will inspire other talented Zags to take a chance when opportunities arise, just as Larson did.

“There are plenty of talented Zags out there with beautiful works of art, and I hope this photo allows them to see that,” Smith said.

Collins said that for those within the GU community, taking a moment to view Larson’s photo and reflect on the context and message it portrays is valuable.

“Me, myself, when I look at it, it gives me chills,” Collins said. “Realizing what is going on and that there are little girls leading crowds for serious things that are going on in the world, it puts a lot of things into perspective.”

Larson said he would have never thought to submit his art to the CVG Art Festival if it wasn’t for the flyer he found while studying in Jundt.

“I just want to thank whoever put that flyer up,” Larson said. “I’m sure it was an art professor in the Jundt Museum, but I just want to send a personal thank you to them.”

To view Larson’s piece “BLACK LIVES MATTER” along with other CVG Art Festival submissions visit www.CVGShow.com.

Natalie Rieth is an A&E editor. Follow her on Twitter: @natalie_rieth.

TURNBULL

Continued from Page 1

years, and looking for job openings, GU caught Turnbull’s eye. She attended Boston College, which is a Jesuit university, just like GU. Jesuit education was an important factor for Turnbull to consider when exploring universities.

“It can be tempting when you really love a discipline like philosophy, being like ‘I just want to tell them about all of my favorite things,’” Turnbull said. “But if we are starting from ‘where is the student at?’ and ‘how can I serve the student?’, then that actually gets us to a different place teaching-wise.”

Turnbull is known for forming connections with her students and keeping in touch with her students, even after class completion.

“I always tell my students the first day of class, that my first priority is them,” Turnbull said. “It’s not whatever I do in research. It’s not the things I do on the committees I serve on. My first priority is always them. And that commitment will never change even after they’re done with my classes.”

Mya Gillingham, a junior at GU, said Turnbull sends checkup emails to her past students. She sent Gillingham, along

with her other past students, pictures of her dog, office hour times for chats and positive messages.

Alvord and Gillingham both said that Turnbull’s love for her students showed.

“You could tell that she was really interested in getting to know all of her students for who they were as individuals,” Alvord said.

“She also made sure to address every student as they walked through the door each day to make sure they know they are seen and heard,” Gillingham said.

Philosophy is a predominately white, male discipline. In her early years as a college student in philosophy, Turnbull didn’t get to see a lot of people who looked like her. She didn’t see many women. She said she felt like she didn’t belong.

“The change happened when people helped me see that I belonged in philosophy, that it was a dinner table conversation where everyone’s voice mattered,” Turnbull said. “My voice mattered just as much as Aristotle’s or Plato’s. I want my GU students to know that they belong in philosophy.”

In order to emphasize the strength of all student voices and their place in philosophical conversation, Turnbull implements fun and collectivity into her class structure.

Socratic lecture is the key, always asking questions. Turnbull is constantly

asking for student input and thought when discussing a topic. It allows students to feel a part of the conversation.

For each reading, there is a question assigned, and during class, Turnbull and her students pursue the answer together.

“I am consistently impressed by my students,” Turnbull said. “They are seeing things in the texts that I’ve never seen before.”

Another key to Turnbull’s class structure is the use of games.

Everyone in the class begins with zero points, and they get to decide how many points they earn during the course. Though there are some mandatory assignments, most of the assignments are not required.

Students log their progress in a special software that tracks their participation. The grade is in the hands of the student. They ultimately get to decide how many points they earn.

“The students are organized into teams. And every other week, at the end of that week, I will look at what team has the highest average score,” Turnbull said. “All of the students’ points pool together, and I give that team an extra 10 points.”

On top of this innovative, unique grading system, Turnbull also likes to play Jeopardy to build community and review.

“We played a lot of Jeopardy to study for exams which was a fun way to review and also laugh a lot and create inside jokes

with her and our class,” Gillingham said.

Her research focus is social epistemology, the study of the social dimensions of belief and knowledge. This area of focus started only 15 years ago, and Turnbull is excited to be a part of it, to learn about the world and wisdom.

Turnbull isn’t only a professor. She is an avid reader. She is a Nintendo Switch fanatic, specifically “The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild.” And like many students at GU, she loves reality competition shows.

“I watch ‘The Bachelor’ and ‘Survivor’ and spend many hours in the COG discussing those shows with my students,” Turnbull said. “We have a no-spoilers-until-Friday rule for all of my classes.”

Turnbull is a dog mom to her Aussie doodle named Beowulf, who makes his appearance on campus every once in a while. Together, they go on lots of hikes and long walks. She also loves to travel but has had to put that passion on hold during the pandemic.

She also said that she hates summer... but for good reason.

“I love my students to pieces, and I hate the summer. What am I supposed to do? Who am I going to learn all the latest music from? How am I supposed to make it through the next couple months?”

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



Zags Basketball is back! Come get some Hawaiian food at Aloha before cheering on the Men's and Women's Basketball teams!



Gonzaga Student Body Association Presents



Spring 2021 Virtual

Friday!

CLUB FAIR

Virtual through Zagtivities 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Meet the spring editor-in-chief

By HANNAH HISLOP

Spring semester of 2021 has brought many challenges, but for The Gonzaga Bulletin editor-in-chief, Spencer Brown, it is an opportunity to lead the paper into the next chapter.

His journey to being editor-in-chief started in the biology department his freshman year and he quickly transitioned into his home of journalism, where he continues his learning.

The Gonzaga Bulletin (GB): Why did you choose journalism?

Spencer Brown (SB): Originally I came in as a biology major which a lot of people don't know. I watched a lot of "Grey's Anatomy" and thought, 'this would be so amazing to do.' I quickly realized within the first week, that I could not do that. We had a quiz the first week in our chemistry class and I had already missed four assignments, did not study for that quiz and then [the professor] said 'we are going to take a quiz.' I left the class and went to my advisor and said I was going to have to drop the class.

My mom was a journalist. She worked for magazines and newspapers in Arizona. I grew up listening to all these cool stories of her and she would go to weird places and interview people and it was just really inspiring. I know I always liked writing and I wanted to do something with that.

GB: Why did you join the Bulletin and why did you want to be editor-in-chief?

SB: I joined the Bulletin fall freshman year and wanted to get experience. This is a great way to do that and the community of the Bulletin is really close so I really wanted to be a part of that.

I didn't know I wanted to be editor-in-chief for a really long time because I loved writing. I was like, 'I'll never be a section editor' and then I loved being the arts & entertainment (A&E) editor. There was a lot of me resisting the next thing. I think it was watching Riley Utley, Morgan Scheerer, Arcelia Martin and all the other editors. They are all really great and inspiring in their own way and I want to do that for other people.

GB: What are your goals for the semester?

SB: I think one goal in itself is to keep it the way it has been last semester because Riley did such a good job and it was such a big task to make it all online and change the way we do everything. We had been resisting to go online and now I want to take it a step further and get even more online content.

I would love to get more podcasts, and add unique student voices. One thing I really want to add into the training is how writers can harness their own voices



CHIANA MCINNELLY IG: picsoychiana

Spencer Brown, who will serve as the spring editor-in-chief of the Gonzaga Bulletin, holds the first issue of the semester.

because it is easy to just talk about facts, but in A&E or opinion I'd love to see more individuality and for writers to have fun with it.

GB: What is the biggest challenge you've faced on the job?

SB: I think the biggest thing is trying to get everyone together and really make sure we are on the same page. I really want to make writers feel welcome and ready to take a story and feel energized to do it. That can be hard when we are all on Zoom.

GB: Most rewarding experience?

SB: There are two parts to this. It's really a unique job to sit down with someone for 15 minutes and talk to them about something random and you get to learn about a lot of different things which is really cool. It's never boring and you get to be the cool person in the friend group who's like, 'oh, actually we should go here for dinner because I interviewed the owner yesterday.'

Then it is kind of the vain thing when people come up to me like, 'oh, I read this really cool article you wrote. I love what you had to say, it really stuck with me.' It's really awesome to know people care what you think sometimes.

GB: What is your favorite story and

section to write for?

SB: My favorite section is A&E or opinion. I have a hard time writing news because I have a lot to say about things and that's not easy. My favorite story I think was about the night market in Kendall Yards. It was wild to just stand in the sun 6 feet away from people talking about their business. It is interesting to learn about how people innovate. I love local business stuff, so I am completely here for it.

GB: What is your dream job/goals after graduation?

SB: I am kind of a person who doesn't like to think ahead which is not great, but you know, I think that I did this in college and I am doing it now because it is a habit at this point. I try not to focus on 'What will I do? Who will I be?' because I think it is more fun to not to know and see where you end up. I would love to continue writing as a journalist. I would love to be an entertainment writer, just writing about shows and reviews. I'd like to go into publishing, a wild career space in general, but I'd love to help and pitch stories for people to write and help them write a novel.

GB: Where would you like to live?

SB: I would love to go to New

York, it just seems like a fun place to live, especially in your 20s. I am really down for whoever wants me wherever. I could go to Seattle or San Francisco. I would love to live in a big city again.

GB: Can you give me a rundown of the process in which you write articles?

SB: First of all I need an aesthetic space. Gotta light a candle and play some music. I need a clean desk — no random notes or anything. The only thing I have is a giant document of quotes and I usually get a coffee and then I just copy and paste quotes in the order I want the story to flow. Then I fill in the gaps with whatever I have to say.

GB: Go-to music and song for writing?

SB: Changes all the time because I am always listening to new music, but I would say it's always something fast paced for when I am trying to make a deadline. A lot of pop or electronic music. If I have more time then it is slow indie rock.

GB: What are some of your hobbies outside of the Bulletin?

SB: I love thrift shopping. I love buying clothes or furniture and then making stuff out of it. I also love a good record store or anything that is cool and artsy. Anything creative really. I write a lot in my off time. I write short stories and scripts for random movie ideas I have. I am so into them and my mind just works in dialogues which is why I think I do the quote thing when I write an article.

GB: What is your favorite movie?

SB: I love Rom-Coms. I think my favorite movie is anything by Nora Ephron, like "You've Got Mail" or "When Harry Met Sally," just because they are so well written and it is fun to just listen to the dialogue. Rom-Coms always just boost a mood.

GB: What advice do you have for future Bulletin staff?

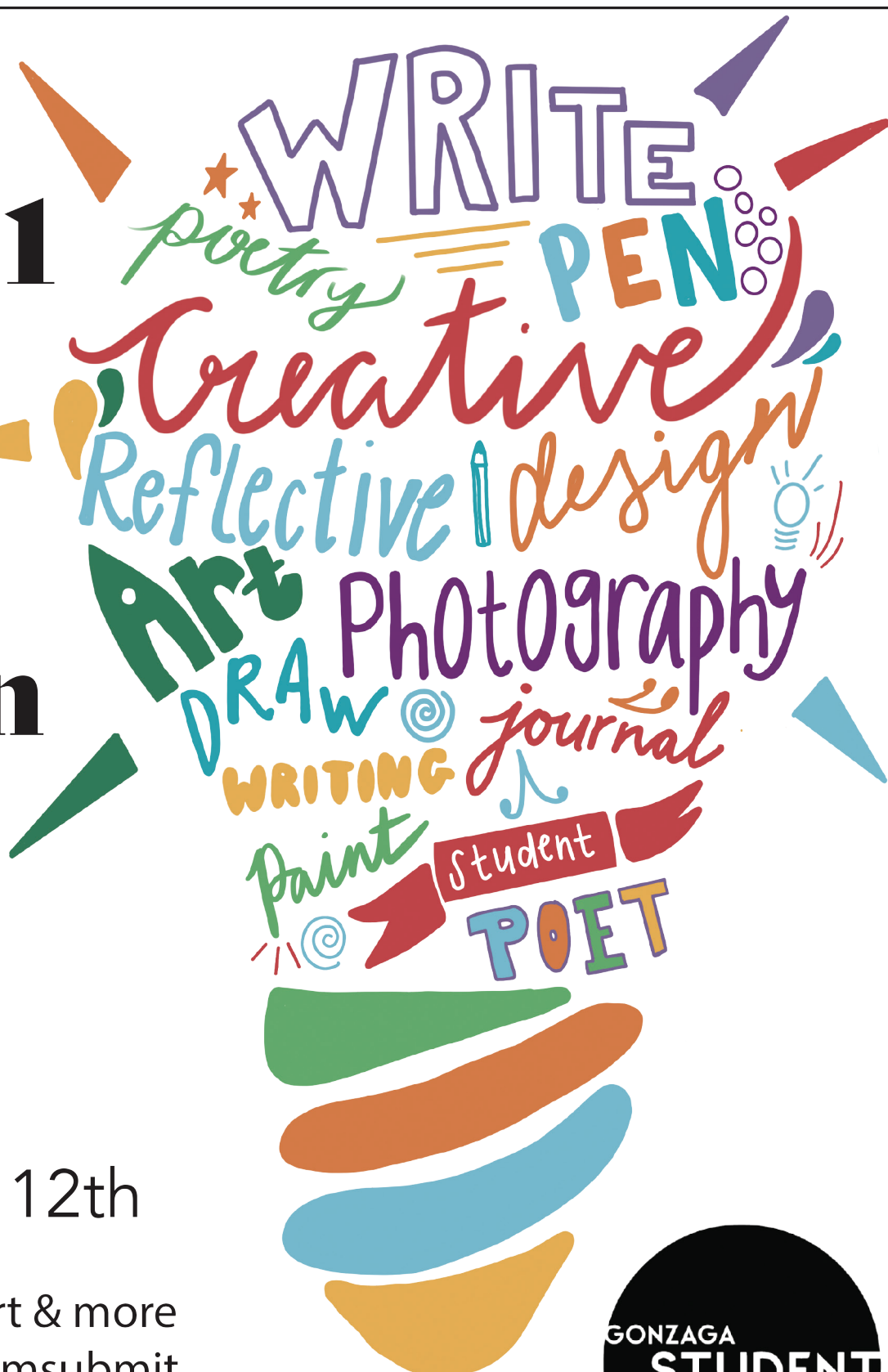
SB: Don't be afraid of it. When you are a freshman going into writing or interviewing don't be afraid to talk to people. People love to talk about themselves. Don't be afraid to take a story that you are not comfortable with — see where it takes you. The things you don't think you will like, you are going to love. Weird stories that I was forced to take, they are now my favorite stories. Be open to learning because that is what journalism is: learning forever.

Hannah Hislop is a news editor. Follow her on Twitter @hannahwhislop.

Spring 2021 Student Journal Submission

Deadline February 12th

Submit your poetry, essays, art & more today at www.gonzaga.edu/smsubmit



GONZAGA
STUDENT
MEDIA



The dark side of social media

We do live in the same reality as the Capitol Hill rioters.

Considering most of the people present at the Capitol earlier this month are now labeled as domestic terrorists, I would hope we don't live in the same sphere of existence. But maybe you don't quite understand what I'm saying.

The information they ingest, the narratives they believe in, the conversations they have with family and friends, the rules that govern the very nature of their perceived reality is not the same as the one we live.

The first question that comes to mind is how have we allowed political polarization to reach a point in which domestic terrorism seems justified to some groups of Americans? The most common and misleading answer to that question would be the degradation of the reliability of the media. However, after the events at the Capitol, social media has to claim the lion's share of the blame for the historic boiling point that was Jan. 6.

As we all know, social media can create echo chambers that reinforce peoples' beliefs about a wide variety of political and social issues. In this way, our favorite apps can be used as pipelines by groups with political agendas to gain followers and support for their cause, whatever it may be.

A 2020 study conducted by various Cornell University researchers concluded that both Facebook and Twitter actively moderate the user experience based on their interaction with certain content.

"Our method quantifies the existence of echo chambers along two main dimensions: homophily in the interaction networks and bias in the information diffusion toward likely-minded peers," writes researcher Alessandro Galeazzi.

In theory, it is virtually impossible for a Facebook or



By LUKE MODUGNO

Twitter user to see an opposing viewpoint on a current issue, as the algorithm simply will not allow it to appear to the user.

Obviously, this creates clear-cut echo chambers centered around shared narratives of a particular group.

What we saw at the Capitol a few weeks ago was a definite example of how social media has warped the minds of people who frequent the platforms to discuss political issues.

Part of the protesters were believers in the infamous deep-state theory known as QAnon. The theory was birthed on forum site 4Chan, a discussion board social media platform comparable to Reddit.

The theory reasons that hundreds of members of the federal government are currently a part of an elaborate child sex trafficking ring. A mysterious user on 4Chan simply named "Q" has been posting encrypted messages on the site that suggest the existence of such a thing.

QAnon believers think that this user could be former President Donald Trump, warning the American people of the alleged nefarious acts of politicians and planning to uproot the whole operation during his second term.

In the minds of at least some rioters, they were storming the Capitol in an attempt to stop the confirmation of a "phony" election whose result was going to pause the unearthing of a child sex trafficking ring embedded in our government.

I will say it again, we clearly do not live in the same reality as these misinformed domestic terrorists.

To blame this situation on anything other than the echo-chamber of social media these people are quite clearly trapped in would be missing the point. Sites like 4Chan allow for the existence of ideological pipelines, leading oblivious people down a rabbit hole of echo chambers that slowly radicalizes them.

The breaching of the Capitol by the American people is an unprecedented event because Americans of the past did not have the clear danger that is modern social media.

This is not a partisan issue. Both sides of the political aisle have said pipelines. As illustrated by documentaries like "The Social Dilemma," and happenings like Mark Zuckerberg's senate hearings from 2018, social media giants are not interested in the preservation of our information systems.

Next time you log onto your favorite social media app, challenge yourself to seek out opposing viewpoints to your own, as it can help us grow, as well as keep us away from that same echo chamber that the Capitol Hill rioters are still stuck in to this day.

Luke Modugno is an arts & entertainment editor. Follow him on Twitter at @lmodugno5.

Your major isn't as major as you think it is

Before coming to Gonzaga, I remember dreading those two questions it seemed everyone in my life wanted to know the answer to: "What are you majoring in?" and "What do you want to do after college?"

Even though I am set in my major, I still don't really have an answer for what exactly I want to do for a career after I graduate, and that's OK.

Coming into college, I didn't know if I would stay with communication studies, the major I went in with, but I ended up loving it and it turned out to be the right choice for me. Not everyone will have this experience though — sometimes you have to try out a few different majors or minors until you find the right fit, which is also completely fine.

However, even though what you major in is a big decision, your major or minor isn't the end-all be-all in terms of what you do after college.

It doesn't seem logical to have your entire life planned out when you graduate. People change over the course of their education, lives and career paths. Our lives rarely follow a straight line. Majors are more of a guideline of what your general career field might be, and even then, things can change.

Placing a heavy emphasis on knowing exactly what you want to study and what you want to do after college does more harm than good. Pressuring people to know what career they want to have when they haven't necessarily fully experienced the world yet just creates more stress and anxiety about the future. Students already have enough to worry about between class work, jobs, clubs, having a social life and everything else.

Pressuring students to know what they want to do after college also could cause some people to follow a career path that doesn't actually line up with



By LILLIAN PIEL

their interests.

Someone might just end up taking the first opportunity that arises because they feel like they have to know what they want right away. Even pressuring students to pick a major or minor right away is harmful. It's better to be sure of what you're studying, since college is the time to learn about what really interests you.

If you're feeling stress creep

in about knowing what you want to do after graduation, rest assured that so many people have found themselves on completely different paths than they had expected.

In my experience as a journalist and communications student, many of the people I've spoken with about their careers have described how they never expected to be where they are now, or how what they studied in college isn't directly linked to their current career, but they are happy with where they ended up anyways.

Unlike generations before us, Gen Z is more likely to change careers frequently. With so many new career opportunities opening up due to technological advancements and increased consciousness for social issues and societal needs, it's better to be flexible and keep an open mind when it comes to career possibilities.

If you know generally what

interests you but not what career you want to have, majoring in something that is broad enough that it will give you access to a wide range of job opportunities is also a good way to go. That way, you'll be able to learn about a broad range of topics, and further pursue specialized interests through internships, clubs and other activities.

When you do find the right course of study for you, learning becomes more enjoyable and exciting, which is how it should be. But keep your mind and your options open even after you graduate, because learning doesn't (and shouldn't) stop after college, and you might just stumble upon something enticing that isn't in the same field as what you majored in.

Lillian Piel is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @lillianpiel.

A reflection on our COVID-19 response

With over 410,000 deaths related to COVID-19, the United States tops the charts as having been hit the hardest by the disease. Noticing this, it is difficult to hold onto the notion that America is the best equipped to handle modern challenges. But, in all manners of fairness, can we pin it solely on the failure of government, or the attitudes of the masses?

No, we cannot. This virus was a perfect storm, a combination of all the aforementioned reasons, wrapped up to make a global nightmare.

The Trump administration was tasked with fielding a problem so immense that it threatened to topple all confidence in leadership. Although this trend toward distrust was aided by the government's complete failure to grasp the gravity of the situation.

Toward the beginning of the pandemic, a full year ago, the public was continually placated. With sentiments of small disruptions to a small population, and then the hopes of warmer weather killing off this virus the president admitted to downplaying the importance of the pandemic.

This dismissive attitude carried over from, not only a general overview of the virus, but of the science itself. The administration routinely overshadowed the epidemiologists' warnings and spurred others to do the same.

The science at the beginning was, sadly, lacking; we just didn't know what to think yet. Many took that lack of initial data to signal that the doctors were just making it up as they went along and assumed that disregarding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



By DAWSON NEELY

(CDC) advice was as effective as following it.

Perhaps one individual who took this mentality and ran with it more than anyone, was former President Donald Trump, who at every turn knee-capped health officials to prevent them from discussing the gravity of the pandemic.

Even when listening to his advisors, Trump failed to roll out massive programs on the health side, often failing to wear a mask himself. When he contracted the virus, many thought that it would be a signal to change the tune, but if it was, it fell on deaf ears. Though when assigning blame, it is important to acknowledge that this global catastrophe could've happened on any president's watch; but this administration failed unequivocally.

While the pandemic was clearly not handled to a maximum level of success, blaming it all on the government would be ignorant of the other factors that have kept the illness in the news. The American mindset has, for almost two and a half centuries, been solely focused on individual freedom.

The liberties we enjoy as citizens of the United States are part of what make this country great, acknowledging inherent

flaws and inequalities; but when we allow those freedoms to spoil into the notion that we can do whatever we want, they become dangerous.

Liberty is the freedom to act and think as we choose, as long as we don't infringe on the safety and liberty of others.

Sadly, some believe that their personal freedoms outstrip the needs and safety of others, and they refuse to wear masks. Whether or not one believes in the science behind masks or other COVID-19 regulations, is it too much to ask for cooperation and human kindness?

Question and challenge government to the maximum; it ensures that the voices of all are heard and considered. But if by a personal bias an objection is raised then it does nothing more but halt the progress of the country.

Thinking that social health guidelines are a form of oppression displays a massive disrespect and blindness toward actual oppression. While having a healthy understanding of your Constitutional rights is not a bad thing, inflicting harm on others in the name of the various freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution is selfish, dangerous and downright wrong. In short, the overblown version of the American attitude has hindered relief and remedy to COVID-19 by sheer stubborn and petty grudges.

This attitude has also spread to the states, for whom autonomy is paramount. The lack of a single, national plan for vaccination and regulations also created the environment in which COVID-19 has thrived.

So, wherever you decide to place blame, remind yourself that there's enough to go around.

Dawson Neely is a staff writer.

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A good life, a lasting legacy

Earlier in the month, the GU staple Wolffy's Hamburgers announced its closing its Hamilton Street location. Its family-friendly environment and mouth-watering food left an indelible mark on Zags everywhere.

By THEA SKOKAN

Wolffy's Hamburgers, a 1950s style restaurant and a legacy in the Gonzaga community, permanently closed its doors on Jan. 16.

Owned by the Davis family, Wolffy's got its start in 1988 when Bob Davis Jr. decided to open a diner on the corner of Monroe Street and Francis Avenue. Davis went all in with remote jukeboxes lining the walls and carhops who served sizzling burgers right to the customer's window.

Over the years, the family moved from the original location to the corner of Sharp Avenue and Hamilton Street. Its close proximity to the school, nostalgic theme and affordable prices made it a quick favorite among GU students, and while it no longer offered carhop service, the quality kept people coming for over 30 years.

"To be honest with you, there really isn't any secret, there's just doing everything right," Davis said.

Being close to the school created a different atmosphere in the restaurant, Davis said. With only 17 barstools, Friday and Saturday nights at Wolffy's meant standing room only. Davis said it became the hot spot for postgame fuel, late-night snacks and, back when they served breakfast, deep fried French toast. Davis specifically remembers watching the GU basketball team duck through the door every season for some burgers.

"It kind of felt like one of those little Gonzaga traditions," sophomore Rod Gonzalez said. "It could be tenting, it could be going to a basketball game, but in this case, it's just having a burger and a really good milkshake."

For Gonzalez, the diner was a piece of home. Being a Southern California native meant not only was he far from home in Spokane, but also far from the nearest In-N-Out Burger. When Gonzalez came to tour GU, a family friend brought him straight to Wolffy's.

"My friend said, 'OK, In-N-Out is good, but Wolffy's, Wolffy's is on another level.'" Gonzalez said. "And I will personally attest it meets that claim. I will 180% say that."

Another thing that attracted people to Wolffy's was the sense of family. Not only was it family-run, but the size of



SOPHIE CROSBY IG: sophie__crosby

Wolffy's Hamburgers was first opened in 1988 with its first location on the corner of Monroe and Francis, before moving to its iconic Hamilton location years later.

the actual space meant only three to five employees could work at a time.

Dominic MacIsaac, a sophomore at GU, worked as a server at Wolffy's and said the atmosphere was fast paced but personal.

"My co-workers and I were such a tight knit group," MacIsaac said. "You really got to see the personalities of the few people you worked with."

He said it really differed from a normal serving job because there wasn't anywhere to hide. With the grill open and sitting about 5 feet away from the customer, MacIsaac was always right in the center of action. For Davis, however, that fostered a unique sense of

connection.

"With 17 barstools and an open grill, you get to know everyone," he said.

Davis said he believes it's one of the things that added to the quality. It minimized wait time for food and meant the customer could see exactly what they were getting. All the cooks had to do was turn around and hot food was set down right in front of customers.

This closure is not the end of Wolffy's, to the delight of many in the GU community. Davis' son and daughter-in-law continue to run Wolffy's Breakfast Burgers and Brew in Airway Heights, but the red stools, checkered floors and neon will be sorely



SOPHIE CROSBY IG: sophie__crosby

While its most popular location on Hamilton announced its closure in early January, Wolffy's still has a location in Airway Heights.

missed. As for Davis, 54 years in the business has taken its toll.

"I'm supposed to be retiring," Davis said, but laughed because he also said there's really no retiring in the restaurant world. "I'm probably going to lay low for a while, I think I need to rest up a bit. You never want to give up your dreams, but sometimes you have to adjust your dreams to fit your age."

From the bacon cheeseburger revelers to the chili cheese fry lovers, Davis thanks everyone for loving Wolffy's enough to give it 33 years.

"It's been a good life, a hard life," Davis said. "Any type of business where you put your heart and soul into it and work seven days a week is a lot of work. But it's been good to us over the years. We raised a couple of really nice kids and it's been a really good life."

Thea Skokan is a news editor.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 31, 2021

ACROSS

1 Plank targets

4 Like 28-Down: Abbr.

8 Lead-in to "Didn't see you there!"

12 Unfaithful sort

13 Actress Tyler of "Archer"

14 French cathedral city

16 Fury

17 "Masked crimefighter of comics, with "The"

19 Expert pilot

20 Find

21 Annual celebration, briefly

22 Cookie Monster's friend

24 "Make small changes to

26 Take wing

29 Nor. neighbor

30 Was transported on

31 Visibility reducer

32 eye

38 Author Marie Cox

39 "Baseball bat goop

41 Low-quality paper

42 Latin dance

44 Equipment

45 Chopper

46 Bed-lns for Peace singer

48 Inner coat parts

50 "Game with many bad calls?"

55 Source of the word "khaki"

56 Bronte heroine

57 Shake

60 Mall feature

62 "Earnings you keep ... or, read differently, what happens in the starred answers?"

64 Long

65 "Boring!"

66 Nail polish brand

67 Came together

68 Soon, to Shakespeare

69 Good name for a college administrator?

70 Biblical beast

DOWN

1 Diva's audition piece

2 Largest city in Catalonia

3 Band with the multi-platinum album "Aja"

4 Painter Joan born in 2-Down

5 "Hold on ...!"

6 Bundle of wheat

7 "C'mon, please?"

8 Guatemala gold

9 Soothing brew

10 Like most Nepalis

11 Start of a clarification

13 Shining

15 Ophthalmologist's concern

18 They brood

23 West of Hollywood?

25 Vessel with a spout

26 ___ row

27 Tuna used in poke

28 Yin's counterpart

32 End of a quiz?

33 List

34 curtainer

35 "The Addams Family"

36 fortune-teller

36 55-Across and others

37 ___ Florentine

39 Corn cake

40 Melber of MSNBC

43 Given up one's amateur status

45 Christmas tree

47 "The Simpsons" bus driver

49 Checkup figure

50 Farm enclosures

51 Striped or spotted carnivore

52 "Entertaining Mr. Sloane"

53 playwright

53 Went up and down, in a way

54 Long-necked birds

58 It has a flat top

59 Thor's father

61 Dutch ovens, e.g.

63 Cartoon chihuahua

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

L	O	C	U	S	J	A	R	T	S	A	V	A		
A	B	A	I	S	E	A	W	A	K	E	D	I	M	
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W	R	O	T	E	E	X	A	M	S	O	A	K		
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1/31

STUL By Jacob Stulberg

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COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

BEYOND THE SHIRTS

Thursday January 28th
6-7:30 pm on Zoom

This event will will involve a panel of students, staff, and faculty speaking to their experiences with restorative justice, active allyship, and the current GU campus culture.

Sign up on Zagactivities!

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UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

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

Black-owned Spokane businesses for Zags to support

By ALLIE NOLAND

Supporting local businesses right now is more important than ever. In a time of isolation, unrest and instability, we have a duty to support our community. It is easier said than done. Knowing where to go is the first step in creating a change.

Beauchamp and Chase, 2030 N. Hamilton Ave.

Beauchamp and Chase, a local Black-owned soap company, offers Spokane deluxe, quality products for a fair price. These gift-ready wrapped soaps are handcrafted and made of ingredients that leave the skin feeling soft and healthy.

Genesis Veronon launched this company in 2019. After discovering his passion for soap creation, blending base oils and essential oils, he knew that he needed to pursue it.

Veronon's first soap, the Classic Clean Bar, featured sandalwood and grapefruit. Before Beauchamp and Chase, he owned a music store, Insyder Music. During the holiday season, he wanted to sell more than music, and that's when the soap came into play.

The Classic Clean Bar flew out of the music store, and Veronon took this as a sign to expand his soap business. He branded the soap, creating a website and quickly started to sell the soaps at stores around Spokane.

Beauchamp and Chase soaps can be found at Kingsley and Scout, From Here and BeYOUtiful: Bath Bombs and More.

"When you get your hands on this product and you use it, you'll understand," Veronon said. "Once you use it, you feel



SOPHIE CROSBY IG: sophie_crosby

Beauchamp and Chase creates gender-neutral soaps that have their own creative and innovative name.

great. It cleans and conditions your skin. Your skin pretty much turns into butter."

Sugar Bare is one of the bestsellers for Beauchamp and Chase. It features honey, blackberry and Japanese hinoki wood, ingredients associated with bears. This is a theme at Beauchamp and Chase. All of the soap names are creative and innovative.

"Every soap should have a name, like every person," Veronon said.

Not only do they have a variety of soap options, they have two bath bombs as well, mirroring two of their most popular recipes. The Classic Clean and the La Ville are well-liked items on the website.

Beauchamp and Chase is a gender-neutral company.

"The world is changing," Veronon said. "Things are more spicy. Things are more unified in so many different ways. As much there is a divide, there's a lot of

things that we unify in. Gender neutrality is paramount."

Veronon's products aren't focused on the gender binary but are about balancing local support and luxury.

"We want to be part of the growth, part of the change in our city," Veronon said. "We want to come out of this pandemic bigger and better than ever. We want to skyrocket."

Veronon said that people could be doing a better job with supporting local businesses. It requires conscious work and change.

"We aren't educated on supporting each other," Veronon said. "We are always talking about the divide. And we need to change that."

Beauchamp and Chase is planning for the future. Soon to be sold in Madison Home and soon to drop its clothing line, things are looking forward.

So next time you run out of your body soap or need a self-care day with a pleasant bath bomb, look no further than Beauchamp and Chase.

For more information visit beauchampandchase.wixsite.com/website.

Decorum Gifts, 126 N. Washington St.

Want to support local? Need to shop for gifts? Decorum Gifts, a local Black-owned Spokane business, has what you need.

Antonio Holder owns Decorum Gifts, located downtown at 126 N. Washington St.

"We have a variety of everything," Holder said. "We like to say it's a gift store that suits everybody."

After taking over the store in March

of 2020, Holder has been trying to create a local vibe. The business' goal is to be a place for local vendors to come to and sell.

"There are a lot of vendors and people with brands in the area that don't have the opportunity to get a storefront," Holder said. "We are trying to open that opportunity up to people around the community, so they can sell their inventory as well."

From mugs to beauty products to health and fitness to kitchenware, Decorum has it all. It even sells Gonzaga merchandise. Decorum gives off a modern vintage vibe while creating a warm environment.

Decorum is expanding. Holder said he has have opened up seven salon rooms in the back of the building for local lash techs and hairstylists. They are giving a space and opportunity to Spokane's local services.

"The city and community have done a good job with pushing Black-owned business," Holder said. "I know for me personally it means a lot and the other Black-owned business owners I know, it means a lot too."

Holder is offering GU students and alumni 10% off all purchases. Enter the code 'GU' for the online discount or show your student ID when visiting the store.

"The big thing is giving people a place to shop and to support local businesses within," Holder said.

For more information visit www.decorumgifts.com.

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

Happy meditating, Zags, with new Netflix series

Commentary by CAITLIN RELVAS

Ever feel as if you can't shut your mind down, or are never able to slow down and appreciate the present moment? Do you worry often, struggle with stress or pain or find practicing gratitude difficult? Fear not, as you are not alone.

Enter "Headspace Guide to Meditation," a new Netflix series for meditation beginners, experts and everyone in between. Headspace is an online healthcare company that works to make meditation available to everyone through their website, apps, books and now an eight-part series.

Each episode of the series is about 20 minutes and is narrated by Headspace founder Andy Puddicombe, whose calming voice conveys stories from his journey as a Buddhist monk, the science and history behind mediation and various guided techniques.

The episodes cover topics ranging from "How to Let Go," "How to Fall in Love with Life" and "How to Deal with Anger." Puddicombe meets you where you are in your journey, allowing you the space to comfortably reflect, forgive yourself and grow, keeping in mind that meditation is a skill to be practiced and strengthens the muscle of the mind.

After learning a little on each topic, the viewer gets the opportunity to practice the technique as Puddicombe

gently guides the mind into a more open perspective, keeping in mind that the desired result may not be achieved in a single session.

Sometimes there is a certain object or topic to focus on, other times simple observation, but always the mind will naturally wander to something seemingly more pressing, which Puddicombe stresses is normal and not to be judgmental or alarmed.

Along with the invaluable information cascades the animations of the show, easily transitioning from one image to another in bright, calming colors. These pleasing animations alone are a high motivator for de-stressing and becoming more present.

The scientific benefits to meditation are also compelling reasons to watch the series. The episodes each discuss the results of various studies on meditation, with both the short- and long-term rewards to human health.

Aside from the first episode, "How to Get Started," each one can be watched in a different order and all can be returned to whenever needed. Some topics in particular may speak better at certain times in life, such as "How to Deal with Pain," but by no means are they ever inaccessible or impossible.

What is most appealing about the series is its universality. Everyone throughout time and geographic location struggles with stress and pain, especially now,



PHOTO COURTESY OF 'HEADSPACE GUIDE TO MEDITATION' FACEBOOK

Headspace aims to make meditation techniques and practices available to everyone.

during a pandemic. The show's gentleness and easy, encouraging nature allows it to be accessible to everyone, regardless of age, gender and race.

One note before you watch — approach the series with a willingness to be open. As with anything new, being completely closed off might mean protection, but it also cuts off growth. Headspace will meet you where you are, but you must open the door first.

For any Zag who ever feels overwhelmed or stressed or lost, "Headspace Guide to Meditation" is a must watch. Happy meditating, and best wishes on your meditation journey.

Caitlin Relvas is a staff writer.

Bulletin Book Club week 5: 'Citizen' review

Commentary by RED KWENDA

In a time of division and bitterness, Claudia Rankine's 2014 poetry collection "Citizen" is relevant now more than ever.

A novel-length poem, "Citizen" takes readers into the depths of the Black experience, aiming to instill a sense of empathy within its readers with the daily pain of being a Black citizen in a whitewashed world.

"I do not always feel colored," Rankine wrote, quoting Zora Neale Hurston. "I feel most colored when I am thrown against a sharp white background."

"Citizen" has the feeling of a diary accidentally left behind on a train, cataloging words, actions and events that are often too painful to be said aloud. Each page feels like a knife in your chest inching closer and closer to your heart — it's not enough to kill you, but enough to hurt in the worst of ways.

A central theme of the novel is

addressing the pain and the injustices that caused it. Rankine examines famous individuals who struggled to express their outrage in ways that would be acceptable by white audiences.

One of the people Rankine examines in this respect is tennis star Serena Williams, who has often generated controversy due to her reactions to questionable umpire decisions made against her. Rankine uses Williams' career and on-court persona as a symbol of "a victorious or defeated Black woman's body in a historically white spaces".

"[Serena and Venus Williams] win sometimes, they lose sometimes... through it all and evident to all were those people who are enraged they are there at all — graphite against a sharp white background," Rankine said.

Rankine also recounts the story of the dramatic FIFA World Cup Final in 2006 between France and Italy, where Italian defender Marco Materazzi

allegedly racially abused French attacking midfielder Zinedine Zidane's mother. In response, Zidane head-butted Materazzi two minutes before the end of the match.

"And there is no Black [person] who has not wanted to smash any white face he might encounter in a day out of motives of the cruelest vengeance," Rankine wrote, reacting to Zidane's head-butt. "[There is] no Black [person] who has had to make his own precarious adjustment... yet the adjustment must be made — rather it must be attempted."

This idea of "self-control" in the face of white racism is echoed throughout the novel. As "Citizen" progresses, it becomes clearer that Rankine believes that the shock white people express at Black outrage comes from their ignorance of their own privilege. Many of the short scenarios portrayed by the novel center around this idea.

"Standing outside the conference room, unseen by the two men waiting for

the others to arrive," begins one scenario, "you hear one say to the other that being around Black people is like watching a foreign film without translation."

Rankine seems to express throughout the novel that the problem lies not in the fact that Black people belong to some alien tribe, but that white people can't be bothered to turn on the subtitles. It is that identification of some people's unwillingness to listen and to try to understand, which makes "Citizen" as painful as it is powerful.

Claudia Rankine's "Citizen" is a lesson in the power of empathy — and the hurt caused by withholding it. Originally published in 2014, "Citizen" is just as relevant now as it was then.

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

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Bump, set and spike for success

Gonzaga women's volleyball looks to block adversity and dig for a promising season

By TOMMY CONMY

For the Gonzaga women's volleyball team, the season postponement in the fall was a minor setback for a major comeback. The senior-laden squad looks to build upon its seventh place finish in the West Coast Conference in 2019 after being picked to finish eighth in the conference in the WCC preseason poll.

Head Coach Diane Nelson guided her team through the teeth of the pandemic and believes they've emerged better than before.

"[The players] were very bummed at first," Nelson said. "We have worked on controlling the controllables and this postponement was out of our control. We focused on what we get to do and are grateful for what we have together."

Focusing on what the Zags can control is the theme for Nelson and her team as it prepares to take on defending WCC Champion and No. 23 ranked San Diego in its first match, which has since been postponed due to a positive COVID-19 test at San Diego.

"We do not get consumed over who is on the other side of the net, we care how we show up, how we support each other, and how we make each other better every play," Nelson said.

For the Zags to make each other better, every play they will rely on senior outside hitter Sarah Penner to be their comfort blanket. The 6-foot Penner was named to the preseason All-WCC team after leading the Bulldogs in kills, assists and points each of the last three seasons. Joining Penner is Katelyn Oppio, the 6-foot-1-inch redshirt senior middle blocker. Oppio saw action in 105 out of 110 sets and was an WCC All-Academic team honorable mention last year.

Nelson believes that for the Zags to have a successful campaign the seniors must step up.

"We have six seniors that have grown tremendously on this journey. They are mature, they are driven and they are committed to leaving a legacy," Nelson said.

Nonetheless, Oppio knows that in order for the squad to achieve their lofty preseason goals, it needs to rely on more than just the seniors.

"From freshmen to seniors, everyone on the team is capable of competing at a high level to make our team and program successful," Oppio said.

Helping those seniors leave a legacy will be the group of underclassmen that includes five sophomores and three freshmen. Outside hitter Zoe Thiros will be a factor for the Zags on the offensive side of the net after the 5-foot-11-inch sophomore saw



LILY KANESHIGE IG: @aka.lillyy

Senior Katelyn Oppio (10) and sophomore Tia Andaya (19) attempt to block a kill in a match last season.

action in 25 matches as a true freshman.

"The WCC is a conference of giants, and even though we may not have that much size on our team, we play like giants," Thiros said. "We play to our strengths which are being gritty, scrappy and full of energy."

Nelson believes that one positive outcome of the season being postponed is the quality time the underclassmen spent with one another as they had no competition or travel.

"The beauty is, they enjoy each other," Nelson said. "They love each other and accept unique strengths."

Nelson stated that she was "heartbroken" for the student athletes upon hearing of the season postponement on Sept. 13. Instead of sitting idly, Nelson and the team used their additional practice time to focus on skills they otherwise wouldn't have had time to hone.

"We have spent more time than ever on how we can prepare mentally, how we respond when things get tough and, most importantly, invested in being a stronger team unit than ever," Nelson said.

Thiros noted that one of the surprise benefits of the pandemic was the drive and

cohesion created by months of waiting for their season.

"The pandemic has provided all of us with a chance to reevaluate our drive and motivation for why we do what we do," Thiros said. "It has brought us all closer in the fact that we have become more resilient and adaptable than ever, and this waiting game has only fueled our desire to compete for a WCC title."

Nelson noted that the team read a leadership book and invited outside speakers to help further sharpen her players' minds this offseason.

"We are focused on what we do, not just what we say in order to help others around us be their best," Nelson said.

As the Zags look to improve upon last season's seventh-place finish, Nelson believes the key to their offensive success lies in serving and passing ability. Like the overall theme of controlling what they can control, serving is the one aspect of a volleyball set that the Zags can control. Everything else is reactionary.

"The time we put in to locating our serve, increasing the velocity and developing our confidence behind the line will help us

this season," Nelson said. "Our athletes are bought into these. They see why we do what we do, now it's time to get on the court."

The buy-in referred to by Nelson was echoed by Thiros. Thiros said the team prides itself in being one of the best serving teams in the conference and catching teams off guard.

As the Bulldogs look to play spoiler and outperform their preseason eighth-place ranking, they'll have to do so against conference giants San Diego and BYU.

"Our key as a team to perform well in the conference is to play loose and lean on each other's strengths when we need it, and to simply enjoy the opportunity to be with each other all on the same side of the net again," Thiros said. "We are playing like we have nothing to lose."

After the cancellation of their season-opener against the University of Montana, the Zags will open the season with a matchup against the University of Pacific, Stockton on Feb. 5.

Tommy Conmy is a staff writer.

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BULLETIN FILE PHOTO BEN LATHWELL IG: ben.lath
Haruna Tsuruta (left) has been a steady doubles player for GU so far this year, and Theo McDonald (right) has won both of his singles matches on the 2021 season.

GU women's tennis avenges fallen season

By NOAH WONG

The Gonzaga women's tennis team looks to produce a strong season after its previous season was unexpectedly cut short. During preparation for a match during their annual spring break trip last year, the team received news that the season would be canceled due to COVID-19.

"It was definitely heartbreaking," said Kate Ketels, a graduate player. "Just because that was my senior year and I definitely wanted to go out with a bang."

Despite the abrupt end, the team was able to stay connected with each other during the summer, longer than they had in previous years, thanks to Zoom videos.

Because of COVID-19, the team has been social distancing, wearing masks, being tested and playing without fans in the stands, and the nature of tennis allows for no contact and plenty of distance between opponents.

The precedent set by the basketball teams and the behind-the-scenes work put in by the training and administrative staff have allowed for this season to take place.

The team must remain flexible and take every game as it comes, as positive tests before matches may lead to postponements, like with University of Montana earlier in the season.

"My whole thing is, I'm not supposed to be here anyway," Ketels said. "So, every day I get to practice or every day I get to compete is one day that I wouldn't have gotten to do that. Taking every day like you don't know when your last day is going to be and appreciating it and being OK with whatever is going to happen."

COVID-19 has not changed the expectations for the season as the team sets out to win a conference championship



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO
This year's team returns Kate Ketels as a graduate student after last season's abrupt end.

and progressively improve.

In spite of the many restrictions, the team has scheduled more home matches than ever before. The match against Pepperdine University, a national powerhouse, will be the ultimate test as GU has never defeated the Waves.

Besides WCC opponents, the team will play a number of Pac-12 schools including University of Arizona, Washington State University and University of Oregon, and are looking to schedule University of Washington.

The return of two graduate players, Ketels and Haruna Tsuruta, along with graduate transfer Hannah Jones has bolstered the roster.

"My goal is to make NCAAs and play the tournament because we've never made it before," said Haruna Tsuruta. "I just want to play and have fun, because it's my last season."

Senior Taylor Gruber also looks to add on to her illustrious career, having ended the season last year with a win over Florida Gulf Coast. Cate Broerman and Jenna Sloan, both sophomores, also play a critical role in the team's successes after Broerman finished last season 12-8 and Sloan won her first five consecutive single matches last season.

"They're such powerful kids and they've done such an amazing job over their career," said head coach D.J. Gurule of the graduate players. "And so it's just really amazing to have back. And with all our additions, we were a little nervous on how everybody fit together, but this team is extremely tight and extremely cohesive and really cares about each other a lot, which goes to show in everything they do."

Another key to the program's achievements is attributed to assistant coach Natalie Pluskota-Hamberg. A

GU SPORTS CALENDAR

- Thursday, Jan. 28**
➡ Men's basketball at University of San Diego, San Diego 6 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 30**
➡ Women's tennis vs. University of Oregon, 12 p.m.
➡ Women's Basketball at Saint Mary's, Moraga 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 2**
➡ Women's basketball vs. BYU, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 3**
➡ Men's soccer at Seattle U, Seattle 4 p.m.
➡ Women's soccer at Dixie State, St. George 6 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 5**
➡ Volleyball at University of Pacific, Stockton 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 6**
➡ Volleyball at University of Pacific, Stockton 12 p.m.

All home games in bold

former collegiate and professional player, Gurule and players alike cited her compassion and attentiveness for the players and the genuine support she provides both technically and emotionally.

"She's by far and away one of the best, not just assistant coaches, but coaches I've been around," Gurule said. "What sets her apart is how she cares for the kids. She deserves a lot of credit."

The team is coming off a record-high collective GPA of 3.72, recognizing that one of the things they have control over is academics.

"We want to not only excel on the tennis court, but we want to excel in the classroom, and we want to get out into the community and do all of the community service that we normally do," Ketels said. "Being a student athlete is a lot more than just being good at your sport. We're here to be students first. And it's kind of like icing on the cake to be able to play a sport and go to a great school."

Noah Wong is a staff writer.

Maintaining momentum for Gonzaga men's tennis

By COLE FORSMAN

After an extended offseason due to COVID-19, the Gonzaga University men's tennis season is officially underway as this year's squad looks to build off their success from last spring.

"We just have a new appreciation of being able to play tennis and being together on the court," senior Matthew Perkins said. "That's kind of been our focus, just taking each day as something to be thankful for."

The Zags were off to a historic start prior to the cancellation of the 2020 season. A program-best 10-4 record through 14 games earned GU No. 62 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) rankings, also a school record. GU also finished its campaign with an undefeated record at the Stevens Center, going 5-0 at home.

Luckily for the Bulldogs, many key contributors to one of the program's best seasons ever have returned for 2021, including sophomore Matthew Hollingworth. He'll look to improve upon his stellar freshman campaigns that powered such a strong start for the Zags the year before.

Hollingworth burst onto the scene and immediately made his presence felt on the singles and doubles courts. The Great Britain native proved himself as a formidable player in the fall when he advanced to the Round of 32 at the ITA Northwest Regional in Tulsa, Oklahoma. At the GU invite, he advanced to the finals following three singles victories.

"I think a key thing for me is just being clinical," Hollingworth said. "And making sure that when I'm ahead, I stay ahead."

The early success would only continue for Hollingworth as he set new school records for singles and doubles play. His 76.9% winning percentage was the highest by an individual while also setting a new benchmark with former Zag Sam Feit. The duo achieved a No. 33 ranking in the nation and notched a 14-10 record.

However, with the loss of Feit, GU will have to look elsewhere for the consistency

and leadership the senior brought to the team. Feit finished second on the team in total singles wins with 16 while being the only Zag to earn an individual ranking at 118th in March. His 24 wins as a junior led the team that year, a true mark of consistency over the previous two seasons.

Perhaps the new wave of incoming freshmen can collectively fill the void Feit left behind. GU welcomes newcomers Zach Fuchs, Pablo Gomez Galvan and Sasha Trkulja to the squad this season.

Fuchs, a Los Altos, California, native, was known as a multisport athlete in high school. He was ranked in the top-20 players under 18 years old in Northern California and claimed an ITA doubles championship. Fuchs also excelled as a first baseman and outfielder for Los Altos High School, as he was selected to the All-Santa Clara Valley League and contributed to his team winning the Central Coast Section Championship.

With an 18-11 record in high school, Fuchs has earned a Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) of 11 out of 16. This measurement accounts for a player's performance against each level of competition as well as their overall record.

GU also landed an experienced player for his age in Gomez Galvan. Growing up in France, he first learned how to play tennis when he was 8 years old and progressed four levels in the French Tennis Rating by the time he was in middle school. His UTR is currently 13.2 with several victories over higher-ranked players.

Along with the freshmen standouts, sophomore transfer Leon Roider has also joined the team from South Carolina Upstate. Roider became one of the Spartans top players in his freshman season, as he compiled a 5-3 record in singles and a UTR of 12.58.

"All of the new guys are going to be a huge part of our success," Perkins said. "They've really done a great job of coming in and buying into the program."

Fresh faces mixed with returners like Perkins, Eric Hadigan and Hunter Egger should bring high expectations going



BEN LATHWELL IG: ben.lath
The senior duo in Egger and Perkins scored a 6-1 victory against EWU in last week's sweep.

forward.

Hadigan, a California native, is looking to replicate his impressive first season in 2021. In his collegiate debut, he tallied consecutive victories at the EWU Fall Classic, including a dominant 6-1, 6-0 win over Idaho's Esteban Santibanez. Six consecutive victories concluded Hadigan's fall season before finishing with an overall 14-6 record.

Perkins and Egger combined for 13 individual wins as juniors and have now stepped into leadership roles for their final season as Bulldogs.

"This is the first year where it's Hunter and I leading the team as the older guys," Perkins said. "I've always put an emphasis on the importance of leadership and it's something I care a lot about."

GU's schedule features a handful of local foes including some familiar opponents from 2020. Along with EWU, the Zags will take on Seattle University, University of Idaho, University of Montana and Boise State once again in 2021. GU went a combined 3-0 against those programs the year prior.

The rest of the nonconference schedule features Utah State, Portland State, Idaho State, University of Washington, Cal Poly,

Grand Canyon University and University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Then, starting in late March, West Coast Conference play will commence for the Bulldogs. GU will have to take down the likes of San Diego and Pepperdine most likely if they are to win the conference. The Toreros finished atop the WCC last season with a 3-0 record in conference play and 8-3 overall.

Pepperdine cracked into the top-25 ranking to start this season following an 11-0 record the year prior and 2-0 in conference play.

"We have worked really hard to put together what we think is a really good schedule," Head Coach Jonas Piibor said. "We are excited about the opportunities in front of us."

An uncertain spring schedule could possibly be the only factor that prevents the Zags from continuing the momentum they gained before the gut-wrenching end to last season's historic run.

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