

The Aquilian

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Gonzaga College High School
Men For Others Since 1821

19 Eye St, NW
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Remembering & Celebrating Dominik Pettey '15

By: Jack Martino '20
Editor-in-Chief

In the early hours of November 1, 2014, the Gonzaga community suffered the tragic loss of Dominik Pettey, Class of 2015. In the five years following the accident that took his life, Gonzaga still feels his presence.

The hockey team remembers Dominik following every practice with a salute and before every game with a prayer. Honoring Dom bookends the season for the hockey team, kicking off the season with the Dominik Pettey '15 Memorial Purple White Game, an intersquad

scrimmage, and concluding the season with the awarding of the Dom Pettey Award, which recognizes the senior in the program who best embodies Dom's love of Gonzaga and love for his brothers.

On Eye Street, Dom's championship clinching goal in the 2014 Mid Atlantic Prep Hockey League Championship game that appears in the Gonzaga Open House video and the Dom Pettey wristbands worn everyday by some students are testaments to his enduring presence. Gonzaga also keeps Dom's memory alive through the Dominik Pettey

'15 Memorial Scholarship Fund, which allows a student to attend Gonzaga through others' generosity. The website dominikpettey.com was launched by the Pettey family last year to share what Dom stood for and what his amazing life continues to symbolize for those who knew him and those who have only heard his name.

I began wearing my Dom Pettey wristband during sophomore year. I knew who Dom was; I had seen *The Aquilian's* memorial issue at Open House and watched the TV news about him when I was in seventh grade. I at-

tended the first annual Purple White Game played in Dom's honor as an eighth grader. But I didn't have a direct connection with Dom until a dark patch in my sophomore year after missing hockey tryouts with an injury. I remember seeing Dom's smiling face in a dream. I realized that Dom was the reason I came to Gonzaga. I didn't come to Gonzaga to just play hockey or get a great education. I came for the brotherhood that Dom so deeply embodied. The next day, I wore the wristband for the first time. I haven't taken it off since. The Dom Pettey wristband is

a constant reminder for me to love my brothers everyday, no matter what I'm going through or what they're going through.

Despite the tragic loss of our brother five years ago, what we remember most is Dominik Pettey's life and what he stood for, and recognize it as solid proof that the Gonzaga brotherhood truly is forever and transcends even death. As seen in pages 4-5 of this special issue of *The Aquilian* dedicated to Dom, the personal reflections demonstrate that to remember Dom is to remember what Gonzaga is all about. AMDG. ✦



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Jesuit Classic

By: Editorial Staff
Aquilian 2019-20

On September 14th, the Gonzaga football team defeated Georgetown Prep for the third straight year, marking the last time the two teams would play for the Jesuit Cup. The Jesuit Classic has benefitted the Washington Jesuit Academy here in DC for the past 17 years.

Whatever the reasons the two schools will not continue the rivalry may be, the editorial staff at the *Aquilian* believes that we can still play the Jesuit Classic for WJA. St. Joseph's Prep in Philadel-

phia is a Jesuit school whose football team is frequency ranked in the top 25, and has beaten St. John's this year. The schools have a good relationship as well. For example, the hockey program plays three games, one at each level, up in Philadelphia every Thanksgiving.

This potential matchup would not only be a good challenge for our football team, currently number nine in the country on MaxPreps.com, it would also continue to benefit the WJA, the real reason why the Classic was started. ★



Be You

By: Kye Holmes '21
Contributor

Sleeping on Saturday
Is the worst
Saturday is a day
For adventure
Saturday is a day for companionship
Saturday is a day to find
Yourself

Without the government of a bell
Saturday is a day to let loose
Saturday is a day to find your passion
Saturday is a day to express
Yourself

On Saturdays you are instructed by a whistle
Every Saturday is a chance for something new
Saturday is a chance
To test your courage
Saturday is a day
To be you

With help from the Gonzaga Poets & Writers, The Aquilian plans to feature a work of poetry written by a Gonzaga Student in each issue.

Music for McKenna

By: Jesse Dolojan '21
Editor

On October 18, Gonzaga hosted a coffee house style concert for the Father McKenna Center. The event was a success, raising over \$1000 for the Center. The profits from the event support the McKenna Center's ongoing Small Miracles Campaign, which launched in February of this year. One of the facul-

ty moderators, Mrs. Hudson, said, "As important as raising funds for the McKenna Center is, we were also raising *friends*. We want students to be comfortable in the McKenna Center, whether it is serving the men lunch, helping clients shop in the food pantry, or listening to music at Music for McKenna."

Performers included the Gonzaga Chamber Choir,

Justin Fronza, Coleman Bunn, and resident rapper ASO AVA, who performed an unreleased song among many others. Organizers Ben Campion and Augie Sommers did an amazing job getting everything together for a fantastic evening. If you missed this one, don't worry - another Music for McKenna event is in the works for later this year. ★

Basketball Preview

By: James Owan '21
Contributor

The Gonzaga Eagles return as defending WCAC basketball champs. The Eagles beat St. Johns in a decisive championship game to capture their second championship in three years.

The championship team

returns mostly intact losing seniors John Marshall, Anwar Gil, and Josh Watts. The team now led by seniors Terrance Williams, a Georgetown commit, and Myles Stute, a Vanderbilt commit, have their season opener versus McNamara on November 29 at Gonzaga. Freshman and JV basketball also have their

seasons starting on November 29 in the Carmody Center. Tryouts for the Freshman team will be held on November 9 and tryouts for the JV team will be held on November 10 in the Carmody Center after school. ★

Ace Club

By: Reid Norton '21
Editor

Under the fearless leadership of Charlie Neill, Gabriel Brady, Luke Coughlan, and Jack Harrison, the Ace Club made its debut last spring at Gonzaga.

Undeniably gaining quick fame and admiration, Charlie has put his heart and soul into ensuring that this club became a success. Meeting every Thursday morning at 7:30, there is a new card game to learn each week. Whether it be the classic Texas Hold 'Em or a questionably unknown game of Mao, one thing is certain: you will not be disappointed. To show the behind-the-scenes dedication Mr. Neill puts into the art of card-playing, I have compiled an extensive interview breaking down his strategies in making this club a success. First and foremost, I would like to thank Mr. Neill for taking time out of his busy schedule, as he has been vigorously seeking a

fool-proof method for winning every single game of poker he plays.

Q: "So Charlie, what made you want to start the Ace Club in the first place?"

A: "Well, one day last year, I was sitting in the Carmody Lobby when someone accidentally dropped a pack of cards on my head from the Upper Kosik lounge, knocking me out. While I slept, a golden deck of cards told me to go on a quest to start the Ace Club."

Q: "On that note, when was the first time you held a deck of cards and thought 'yes, this is what I want to do for the rest of my life'?"

A: "As I looked at that beautiful deck of cards, I realized that there was only one way to bring joy to every man at Gonzaga."

Q: "Are you working on any Ace Club merch?"

A: "We are currently designing massive Ace Club belt buckles for the winner of the GonzagaFest poker tournament. We are also consid-

ering Ace Club sunglasses or T-shirts."

Q: "Since starting the Ace Club, has your life changed in any way, and how has the fame affected your day-to-day life?"

A: "It feels great to know that I have filled in the missing piece of Gonzaga. As for the fame, walking down the hallway is tough."

Q: "If you were to estimate, how much have you put into the club in terms of funds?"

A: "Not very many funds, just hard work and a \$25,000 custom poker table."

Q: "What do you want the next 20 years of the Ace Club to look like?"

A: "I have some plans in place to grow the Ace club over 5 year intervals. Poker, land, and bread is our motto."

As you can see, Charlie takes the Ace Club very seriously and you should too. If you are down for a challenge, there is always space in Dr. Rissetto's room on Thursday mornings. ★

The Aquilian

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The Man, the Myth, the Manager

By: Brendan Burns '20
Editor

Beep... Beep... Beep... He wakes up with a jolt and looks over at his alarm clock. The numbers '7:00 a.m.' glare back at him. Although it is Saturday, he drags himself out of bed, knowing he needs to get ready for the long day ahead of him.

Being a football manager is not always the easiest job, but for senior Collin Watson, it is muscle memory. He has been doing this for four years now, so these early mornings are routine.

"In freshman football, I got a concussion, so I started [managing] early freshman year, and I've done it ever since," said Collin.

As one of five managers on the team, each with different responsibilities, Collin specializes in the sideline duties, helping provide water, pads and tape for the players.

"The operation is dependent on everybody," said head football coach Randy Trivers. "[Managers] are a part of the family."

It's game day, so after eating a quick breakfast, Collin departs for Gonzaga, arriving at 8 a.m. to begin treatments. After taping up a few players, the team goes to pre-game meetings. Collin, on the other hand, begins to fill up the ice jugs and takes them to the field, making sure the players have easy access to cold water during the game when they desperately need it.

"[The manager] really helps hold the team together, [especially] in stressful gametime situations," stated senior Malcolm Terry, the team's starting running back.

Once the ice jugs are filled, Collin joins the players for a pregame meal. The team jokes around, everyone a part of the same football

fraternity. They all get excited for the day of football that lies ahead, hopefully ending in victory.

Following the meal, everyone makes their way to the field, where the players walk through their plays and Collin prepares the water and equipment. Collin is on-call for some last-minute tape, ensuring that every player is ready to take on the team's opponent.

As the team walks out onto the field, Collin can hear the roars of the student section. While the team goes through warm-ups, he completes his final check of the water and equipment. Suddenly, the coach calls the team to a huddle, offers his last pregame words of encouragement and lines them up for the National Anthem. *Oh, say can you see...*

Collin thinks back to the week leading up to the game.

He and the team invested so much time to prepare for the game, working for two hours each day during the week. Day after day, Collin was on the field prior to practice, setting up each drill and water jugs. During practice, he made sure each player was hydrated, providing ice cold water for the team during their cherished water breaks.

"There's a lot of things [the manager] does unnoticed. [His work] goes under appreciated a lot," said senior Olu Fashanu, left tackle.

Even when Trivers ends the practice, Collin's duties continue; he has to break down the drills and bring in the equipment and water jugs. It's a time-demanding job, Collin thinks, but it's all worth it.

... and the home of the brave! The crowd's cheers bring Collin back to the present, where he must always be ready for the team. He needs to take care of his guys, especially when they run off the field after a tiring play. Besides his on-call water duties, Collin must be prepared for any obstacles, such as a broken piece of gear. Because he is a managerial veteran, Collin is able to quickly deliver water and repair equipment with ease.

"[The manager] is like a [Nascar] pit crew. Those guys have to be quick, they have to know what they're doing, and [they have] to get that car back out there," Trivers said about the speed at which Collin must work.

As the game progresses, Collin can't lose focus; he needs to be on his toes non-stop, but when he gets the chance to watch the game, he takes it all in.

"My favorite part [of the job] is helping the boys, but at the same time watching the game [and] making memories on the field," Collin said.

When the game nears its end, Gonzaga is winning, per usual. With the Eagles on top, Collin has the time to break down the equipment during the fourth quarter so he doesn't miss the post-game celebration with the team.

The strong team performance reminds Collin of last year's championship. He remembers standing on the sideline when the legendary Hail Mary pass from current junior Caleb Williams was caught by John Marshall, class of 2019, and the next thing Collin knew, he was running around crazily with the student body; he recalls losing his phone in the celebratory chaos.

As the final whistle blows, with last year's success on his mind, Collin cannot help but hope for another championship. One week at a time, he thinks, as he runs to join the boys in the locker room for their traditional victory dance. ★

This article can also be seen on Gonzaga's online paper "The Aquilian Daily" at gonzaga-journalism.edublogs.org



Fantasy Football

By: Patrick Donnelly '21
Contributor

The 2019 Fantasy Football Season has been good for some, but unpleasant for many. Finding the right lineup and sleepers takes a few weeks, but by week eight there are no more secrets.

At quarterback, the best players to have include Chief's Patrick Mahomes, Seahawks' Russel Wilson, Ravens' Lamar Jackson, and Texans' Deshaun Watson. But the real bulk of the points have come from the running backs. In fact, two of the top three highest total point scorers are running backs. Dalvin Cook of the Vikings and Christian McCaffrey of the

Panthers are each approaching 200 total points and lead the NFL in total fantasy points.

At wide receiver, there have been some major injuries, including Davante Adams and Adam Thielen. The best WR through week eight has been Michael Thomas of the Saints, averaging just over 22 points per game. Other excellent receivers so far include Cooper Kupp of the Rams, Julio Jones of the Falcons, and Amari Cooper of the Cowboys. There are only two tight ends who have surpassed the 100-point threshold: Austin Hooper of the Falcons and Darren Waller of the Raiders. There are few options at tight end

and finding one who is consistent is nearly impossible.

The best defense by a landslide has been the New England Patriots, who have outscored every defense by at least 58 points. Other great teams to have are the San Francisco 49ers and Minnesota Vikings.

The best kickers include Greg Zuerlein of the Rams, Justin Tucker of the Ravens, and Josh Lambo of the Jaguars.

Don't be discouraged if your team hasn't performed to its potential up to this point in the year, as the season is just halfway over and time remains for a late playoff push. ★

Indoor Track

By: Sean Carley '21
Contributor

With the return of cold weather comes the return of the Gonzaga Indoor Track season. Last year's team saw a very successful run, netting the highly coveted DC State Championship and breaking numerous meet records in the process. Gavin McElhennon ('20) led the charge shattering previous meet records, including the 1600 meter run.

The new season also means familiar faces no longer on the team, and the Eagles will look to stay competitive with a younger team than they are used to. With Coach Alvin Maddox at the helm, Indoor Track looks to keep up their dominance in

distance events and improve their speed in short distance sprint events.

The team seems to be in consensus about what they want to achieve this season. "The overarching goal of the team is to repeat as DC State champions" Patrick Donnelly ('21) said "Our sprinters and distance runners have been working hard the past 9 months to achieve this goal."

Tough opponents such as St. Johns and Carroll pose obstacles on the road to the championship, but given previous championship experience and strong leadership, the Eagles look to destroy the competition this upcoming season. ★

Dominik Pettey '15 (8/5/97-11/1/14)

I coached Dom since his age of six. He always had a smile on his face when he was playing hockey. When he came to Gonzaga, Dom loved Gonzaga, and he really loved Gonzaga hockey - it was when he was happiest. That was evident every practice as he was always early on the ice and always supportive of any level of player. Never negative towards anyone, he was the purest example of a "man for others." My greatest memory was watching him and my son Ridge jump into each others arms after they scored the game winning goal in the MAPHL Championship game. -Mr. Bill Slater, Gonzaga Hockey Director

Dom always had a smile on his face. Sometimes it was a joyful smile from scoring a goal on the ice. Sometimes it was a smile accompanied howling laughter from a joke that he made in the locker room. Sometimes it was a mischievous smile from God knows what. But he always had a smile, and that is what I will remember about Dom. As much as we all miss #11 and as difficult as these past 5 years have been for the Gonzaga community and the Pettey family, Dom has brought us all closer together and reminded us to always have a smile on your face - that is the legacy of Dominik Pettey. -Bobby Hally, '14

I hung out with Dom majority of my Junior and Senior year leading up to the accident. He was a stand out character and I still remember the times in Joe Viola's Human Geography class, late night shenanigans, and his backwards hat and Caps Jersey look. Dom was a great soul and is continually missed by myself and my closest friends. I remember him in everyday conversations with friends, the Dom wristband I still have, and the beat St. John's shirt with "Pettey" "11" still on the back. 11inHeaven -Daniel Callahan '15

Dom's passing was one of the most moving experiences of my life. When I think back to that week, I can't help but think of how close it brought our community, friends, and hockey team together. As a member and senior leader on the team, it was especially difficult to comprehend what was going on. In spite of all that, I always smile thinking about the last time Dom and I played pond hockey together. I must have spent 12 hours with him that day. We all crammed into the back of one of the seniors cars, rode down to MacArthur Blvd, and put a beating on some kids on the London team. It was the most carefree I had ever seen Dom, or any of the other guys on our team for that matter. And Dom definitely brought that energy, that day and every day. -Chris Meloni '15

In the time that Dom and I were together, he completely changed my views on love, friendship, my relationship with God, and life in general. He always had a way to make anything into a positive and could put a smile on my face no matter what was going on. He cared about my family and my happiness and always put others first. When I had a bad day, he would show up to my house with chipotle and a flower and just sit with me so I wasn't alone. I will forever be grateful for the moments I got to share with Dominik.

Dom brought so much light and laughter into my life. He was a true example of how to be kind and live life to the fullest. I strive to be as compassionate and loving and to live up to his wonderful example. The world is a better place because we knew him. -Meggie Daly, AHC '15

The first time I met Dom was my freshman year in a carpool ride home from hockey practice. He and Dennis DeVol were best friends, and had offered to drive me home because I lived near them. I distinctly remember feeling like I had known Dom forever, like he had been one of my best friends for years because of the way he treated me. Any sense of class hierarchy or seniority was irrelevant to him. Dom treated everybody the same. From that point on I considered Dom one of my friends, and someone I'd say hi to any time we crossed paths. The next year when hockey tryouts started, Dom went out of his way to grab me and offer me a ride. A few days later he died. His death came at just about the worst moment in my relationship with him because I felt like I was just starting to get to know the guy that everyone loved and spoke so highly of. The way Dom treated me is a way I have tried to treat others in my life, especially my younger siblings and classmates. He taught me the value of making someone feel a part of a community and being accepted in an often intimidating atmosphere of school and sports. Dom made a positive impact on my life in a such a short span of time, and I am so thankful for the time we shared. 11 in Heaven. -TJ Gleiter '17

The energy that Dom brought to a room was incredible. No matter what he had a smile on his face that brought smiles to everyone around him. While I personally didn't know Dom very well, his passing effected so many around me and his legacy will never be forgotten. #dom11 #brotherhoodisforever -Jack Taylor '20

My senior year I was asked to go to Gonzaga's homecoming dance by a good friend. I had met Dom for the first time that night at the before party for the dance. After that night, Dom and I had exchanged numbers and we began to get to know one another (for about a month and some before he passed away) I reflect now on how special it was to meet such a warm soul for such a brief time. My time knowing Dom has made me appreciate the quote "Sometimes the people whom we've known for only a short amount of time have a greater impact on us than those we've known forever." Rest easy always, Dom -Kerrina Fitzpatrick, AHC '15

It's hard to believe it's been five years since Dom passed. I love to rekindle old memories and think about all the good times we had together. As time has gone on, I've learned a valuable lesson and that is to cherish each day you have. Although that was something I learned shortly after he died, it's taken on a new meaning five years later. If you want to make the most out of today, go out of your way to make it memorable; do something today you wouldn't do any other day. In other words, step out of your comfort zone. To me, that's what it means to be a Man for Others and to live like Dom. - Matthew Cabrera '15

It still feels like yesterday, as if time hasn't passed. Everyday, I think about giving up when life isn't fair. Yesterday, I ran into a guy named Erich, a complete stranger, at the gym where we hugged and embraced your presence through us. It was as if I was in the right place at the right time to find a moment to connect with you. I miss you so much, words cannot define it. -Ann Gilmore, AHC'15

I will remember the day the Senior class assembled in the parking lot on K Street to observe and celebrate the loss of their beloved classmate. My classroom sits with a street-eye-view of K street and I witnessed the moving images of Gonzaga brothers grilling food, sharing memories of Dom as they grieved their fallen brother. The memorial Mass for Dominik at the National Shrine was standing room only-- a testament to the impact his loss had on the Gonzaga community and beyond. God Bless #11 in Heaven! -Dr. Chris Schaefer

I can't believe it has already been 5 years since we lost Dom. Dom had an impact on so many people, family, friends, and even strangers and I am reminded by him to live life to the fullest and to never take those you love for granted. Dom lit up every room and there was never a dull moment with him around. He had the ability to lift anyone's spirits and put a smile on their face, and that's a quality I will always admire. Throughout the past 5 years, I constantly see the number 11 in random spots. Parking spaces, table numbers, etc. When I see signs like this, I take a step back and know Dom is looking over all of us. I am blessed to have had a friendship with Dom and am grateful for the memories and times we shared. He's unlike any other and continues to live on in our hearts. #11inheaven #squa -Megan Brown, Holy Cross '15

It's hard to believe it's already been 5 years since the passing of our beloved friend, Dom. As much as I would like to share a memory that would completely encompass who he was as a person, I believe that it was his every day actions that made him so special and so loved by his friends and family. Every day, Dom would come into school with a huge smile on his face, and always greeted his peers with a pat on the back and a lighthearted joke. His presence lit up a room to such a degree that even teachers seemed to be enamored by his positivity. That sort of energy and desire to make everyone around him feel special, I believe, characterizes who Dom was as a person better than any story could ever convey. He helped so many people in their every day lives by simply being himself- a quality that most people can only hope to have. I like to think that Dom's energy and positivity still lives on in everything he touched; the school, the hockey rink, the franklin parking lot, his friends, his family, and so much more. Through the life of Dominik Liam Pettey, we all caught a glimpse of what it means to truly live life to the fullest, and to appreciate the moments we have with those we love. Rest In Peace Dominik, we love you and always will. -Michael J. Murray '15



Dominik taught me what it meant to live life to the fullest -Sam Heavner, AHC '15

Dom passed away the fall of my senior year at Visitation. While I did not have the pleasure of knowing him personally, I remember the way countless friends at Visitation and Gonzaga were shaken by his passing. My class signed a banner and insisted on taking our senior group picture with it as an attempt to offer some kind of gesture to Veronika and the rest of Dom's family during such a difficult time. I remember standing on the stage of the Nolan Center over at Visitation, altar serving during a Mass offered for the Pettey family shortly after Dom's passing and being struck by the number of people who opted to come to Mass during their lunch period to support the Pettey family. It was incredibly powerful to see the way the entire DC Catholic community responded to the tragedy and I think that is entirely a testament to Dom and to his family. I spoke with some classmates of mine before responding to this survey, and everyone agreed that even if you did not know Dom personally, we all felt like we knew him from all of the beautiful stories we heard about him in the last 5 years. My knowledge of Dom is significantly less than those who were friends with him or those who taught him, but Dominik Pettey shaped the lives of everyone at Visitation that year in some way. -Ms. Madeline Davin

I didn't know I had met Dom Pettey until he had passed away. I was at Ledo's in Bethesda with my parents talking about where I was thinking about going to high school when he overheard us and told me that Gonzaga was the only possible choice for me. He loved Gonzaga and it showed. He was my first example of a Gonzaga man, a man for others. -Tripp Harris '20

I taught Dominik in my 2nd period Applied Stats class. There was not a student who loved Gonzaga more or who was loved by the student body more. He was the epitome of Bleeding Purple. He had such school spirit and pride and such a joy about him that was infectious for the whole class. That was such a tremendous loss for his family and for our school. - Mr. Paul Buckley

My first years of hockey, Dom and I played on the same team. My dad always called him Noodle because he was flopping and falling all over the place and could not stand up straight. Another fond memory from those hockey trips was when I showed him Star Wars--he had no idea what it was that Saturday but came practice Tuesday he had seen every movie and was obsessed with the series. What a character. -Ridge Slater '15

Dominik and I became friends junior year of high school when we took music appreciation with Mr. Young. Through this class we became closer everyday. Senior year we were lucky to have four classes together strengthening our friendship even more. The one thing I wish I could tell Dom, was how much of an impact he had on my life and many others although he probably would not have assumed that. He had a way, unlike any other person I have ever met, to brighten my day when I was having a terrible day and didn't want anyone to bother me. Dom had way of getting through to me and getting a smile or laugh out of me and making my day a little better. I will forever be grateful for his presence and that we became close friends. -Connor Lazas '15

On the five year anniversary of the passing of our beloved son Dominik, we reflect on the incredible love and support from the Gonzaga community, Fr. Planning and his brother priests, the teachers, the students, his classmates and the parents. What warms our hearts most is the many friends of Dominik who still contact us, visit us, think of us and pray for us. We would like to thank all those who made possible and continue to contribute to the Dominik Pettey Scholarship Fund. We have immense gratitude in our hearts to God that we were able to share in the 17 years of Dominik's life. The indelible memories of all our laughter, his warm genuine smile, his love for us and others, his antics, his humility remain so profoundly impressed upon our hearts. We continue to be moved by the mystery of his destiny. We would encourage current students to go to Dominik's website, dominikpettey.com, read Msgr. John Brady's testimony, The Holy Spirit takes over a teenager's funeral, download the Holy Spirit prayer and rely on it for spiritual guidance in your own lives. — Patrick and Magdalena Pettey

Celebrating Five Years of Dom's Legacy

Five years on, I think it is difficult for any of us in the class of 2015 to reflect on that hallowed morning. I remember the deadpan voice on the phone in the early aughts of November 1. I remember the disillusionment, the typical commute turned awful as we headed toward Eye St. hoping to hear anything but the truth. I remember seeing my classmates enter St. Al's and embracing as if we suddenly remembered how much we all meant to each other. Dealing with such grief at 17-18 years old is inexplicable. I know I've personally changed in many ways on account of dealing with that pain. You find yourself on the cusp of the rest of your life, but you can't keep looking back in fear that you might forget what once was. I can still see his face if I try, but his voice has started to fade from my memory. How is anyone meant to navigate this? If anything, I know now that we were meant to navigate it together. The pain has ceded on account of discussions held late at night when only the stars, and Dominik, could hear us. It ceded with constant reminders of Dominik's character and joy in this life. It ceded with visits to Mr. and Mrs. Pettey. It ceded because the community we find ourselves in is capable of approaching such pain with an earnest heart and a ready ear. I'm doing better these days on account of that reality, and I hope you are as well. For those of you who may not have known Dominik, know that you still have the chance to tell your brothers what they mean to you. Never be afraid to bridge that divide. We are men, but we are not the men we ought to be until we are there for one another. Gate of Heaven Cemetery is on my commute home from work. It's a place where I and many others used to weep. But five years on, it's a place for a chat and a long silence. A place for rumination, knowing deep and well that Dominik is up there helping all along the way. Dom is still there, and in the many hearts he chose to reach in his time here on earth. In that, he was a man for others in the most literal sense. To my brothers, whether current or alumni, I hope you live this life striving for the same. Be well. AMDG. -Patrick Newkumet '15

One thing that still upsets me five years after Dominik's death is that I did not know where he wanted to go to college, or what he wanted to do after that. A strange point to be stuck on after all this time, maybe, but after attending kindergarten through 12th grade with Dominik, I still feel ashamed that I did not think to ask him before his accident. It hurts more because I can picture him thriving in so many different situations: an SEC school, a small liberal arts school, a Jesuit school, wherever he would have gone his charm and ability to connect with people so easily would have allowed him to succeed. This train of thought used to end in anger, anger that Dom would not be allowed my luxuries: to live and make mistakes, to create memories with friends, and to leave an impact in the hope that our legacy may be a positive one. With time comes perspective, however, and perspective allows me to see that while Dom's time on Earth may have been short, the memories and impact he left with others is immeasurable. I think back to November 8th, 2014, when the largest church in North America was standing-room only, filled by people personally impacted by Dominik's life and actions. I think back to every late-night conversation between friends that has drifted to sharing stories of Dominik, and how I can still learn something new about him after all this time. You can see his impact on his community through the Dominik Pettey Purple & White hockey game, the Dominik Pettey Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund, through websites like dominikpettey.com, and you can see it by bringing him up to any family member or friend, and watch their eyes light up as they share their own personal memories of Dom. Even after almost five years I still have trouble completely accepting that God's plan for Dominik involved taking him from this earth at such a young age. It is impossible for us to completely understand God's divine wisdom with events such as this, and I do not think I will ever fully accept that it happened this way until God takes me from this earth as well. There is a quote of disputed origin that states you die twice; when you take your last breath, and when someone mentions your name for the last time. By this definition, Dominik is still very much alive, and will continue to be as long as his name is used to provide an education for deserving students, demonstrate the spirit of Gonzaga, and to reminisce on memories of an old friend. While I wish he was still here with us, I am proud to have grown up with him, and even prouder to be able to share his legacy with new friends and family in the future, a sentiment shared by all of those he was close with. If that is not a successful legacy to leave behind, then I don't know what is. -Sam Keith '15

Dom represented who a Gonzaga man should be. He was one of the most kind, funny, charismatic, easy going, caring, and well-rounded guys I had ever met. He made everyone around him feel better and treated you like a friend and an equal no matter who you were. I was blessed to know him and be able to become friends and teammates with him in the short time we knew each other. If I and everyone else can truly take one lesson from Dom's all too short life, it's that no matter how small or unimportant an action or conversation may seem, when you truly treat and talk to people with love and respect, you can make an impact that lasts forever. Dom changed my life forever by simply saying hi to me everyday and being a good friend no matter what. Life is too short not to make others happy and feel good about themselves and Dom lived a full life by the way he treated people. Love you Domo #1inHeaven" - Ian Kilcullen '18

I did not know Dom, but I feel as though I did based off his presence still around Gonzaga today. I have friends who were close to him and his family, and his legacy lives on. One thing particularly which showed this was "Dom Day" last year in K Lot. The tailgate and celebration of his life after school was something I will never forget. -RJ Kenna '20

"Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself."



Dom taught me to not sweat the small stuff and live the life I wanted to lead. He taught me how to have fun and how to never let a moment slip by. I will always be thankful for his friendship and joy he brought my life -Joseph Artabane '15

Dom Pettey made a tremendous impact on my life. We both had a passion for hockey and I'm forever grateful to him and all of the great guys I met while playing hockey at Gonzaga. Dom and I had a close relationship that began freshman year. One of my favorite memories of Dom is when I was at Jiffy Lube Live for the Avicii concert. That night I got separated from my friends only to find Dom, also lost, making friends with the people around him. I will always remember that night because of how comfortable he was in a group of strangers. Dominik still continues to impact my life in ways I never thought imaginable. His passing proved to me that the Kingdom of God is real and that there is no such thing as a coincidence. I really do believe everything happens for a reason and still feel his impact on earth daily. After my senior year I tried out for I think a few junior hockey teams and was always given Dom's number, 11. This reminder, although simple, gave me such peace of mind and moved me deeply. I believe Dom watches over me to this day. I know he is in heaven and I can't wait to one day skate with him again. Live the fourth! 11inheaven! Godispurple! - Patrick Fergus '15

Religion was a subject that interested Dominik, and from his seat (door-side, fourth row, second desk) he would regularly ask the kind of questions that made his classmates and his teacher take notice. After sophomore year ended Dom made it a point to stop by periodically. He normally had good news, a funny story, or an interesting thought to share. But for all of our interactions the image that stays with me to this day is Dom on Halloween in 2014. He came to school in a full ghillie suit. I remember thinking to myself as I watched a Dom-sized hedge walk down the hallway, "Good kid, always giving it 100%." Rest easy young brother, and keep praying for us. - Dr. Harry Rissetto '89

Dom and I were good friends in the early going at Gonzaga, having met during the summer sessions before freshman year. My memories during that time were great with him. I loved his laugh, and his energy was unmatched. We did grow apart a bit during junior year. It was during his final days on Earth that he left me with a wonderful parting memory. I was sitting in the computer lab stressing about something, and Dom happened to be in the room as well. He left before me, but came back over to grasp my shoulders tightly and loudly exclaim "what's up Tom?!" It was the last time I saw him, and it was a gift that I was able to have this be my last interaction with him. Though it was a short interaction, it reminded me of the memories we made in the early years at Gonzaga. Dom was one of those people that easily could make an impact on anyone he met. God works in mysterious ways, and I'm fortunate he let me have one more impactful moment with Dom. - Tommy Pitts '15

Five years. I remember the day I heard the news. It was a Saturday, and time was nearing the latter portion of morning. For a while, I did not, and could not, believe the story flashing across my phone and television screen. I had a class with Dominik, stats. He sat to my right, one seat over from me. I did not know him well, at least up until we got to know each other a bit when senior year came. He was just one of those guys you gravitated towards. His smile could emit a sense of calm in a tense room. His personality stood out not because he forced it to, but because it was organic and genuine. And that hair... Every day in class, I could always count on looking over to see Dom staring up at the ceiling, leaning back and running his hands through his hair. It was a staple. It was him. That entire week was a mood I had never experienced before. Quiet, tranquil and loving are the three words that immediately pop into my head when describing the atmosphere at Gonzaga in the days following his death. Quiet because I think each individual was in a state of personal reflection, walking from class to class with in their own moments of silence. Tranquil because the situation, as devastating as it was, was conquered and blanketed by faith and strength and courage. Loving, because the brotherhood we had could not be broken. We knew it. We felt it. That week, I led the editorial staff at *The Aquilian* as we devised a plan to honor Dom. Much thought and hard work went into planning that issue of the paper, one we wanted to not only dedicate to Dom and his family, but one we wanted the community to put together. Their stories, poems, recollections and memories made November's testimony to Dom's life powerful. The response was overwhelming. Schools in the area brought flowers, made banners, reached out with constant support and represented Dom as if he were their own. To this day, having the pleasure of reading each story of Dom and having the pleasure of working with an incredible staff remains my proudest and most memorable accomplishment as a journalist. As each day passes, I am constantly reminded of Dom's life and the presence he left with those he encountered. On my right wrist, I wear three bracelets. One is a white, purple-inscribed "Dominik L. Pettey, Eleven in Heaven," band that was distributed in the days following his passing. The second is a "Life is Precious" reminder of just how blessed and sacred our lives are, from the moment of conception leading to the end of our time on earth. The last is smaller, one whose words are slowly beginning to fade, but its message remains clear. "Our Lady of Lourdes," it says, "Protect us." In the summer of 2018, I went on a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, the place where the Blessed Mother appeared and spoke to St. Bernadette. During my time there, I served the poor and sick, found my calling, set out to view the world through a lens that was unfamiliar to me and kept many intentions at heart, including one for Dom and his family. A few months after my return, I contacted Mrs. Magdalena Pettey, Dom's mother, with an update from my trip. On Christmas Day of last year, she emailed me back, saying that the last family vacation they took before Dom's death was to Lourdes. Faith, it never fails. God works in mysterious ways. AMDG, Derrell J. Bouknight '15

The Pettey family's commitment to their faith before and after Dom's passing is steadfast and inspiring. Their faith has continued throughout their grieving process and it is remarkable how they have not moved on from Dom's passing but rather, moved forward in his memory. - Ms. Albrittain

It's Always 10:10 at Jerusalem Farm in KC

By: Ryan Luetjen '20
Senior Contributor

Soon after arriving at Jerusalem Farm in Kansas City, we could tell the week was going to be a different experience from what we were used to. Barefoot men and women with long shaggy hair came out to greet us each with a hug. Once we got settled, the "tour-troduction" began. It was a combination between a tour of the property and an introduction to what standard operating procedure was on the farm, such as their open-door policy, limited showers, composting, and 18-in-1 soap, which could be used for everything from shampoo to toothpaste. Another idiosyncrasy we had to adapt to was how to know the time, or rather not know. To keep us less distracted, we were never supposed to know the actual time and instead relied on a system of bells. We were told it was always 10:10 while we were there because it looked like someone praising God with their arms up when the clock hands read

that time.

We began to get to know the long-term community members and other Jesuit school groups (from places like Chicago and San Francisco) that evening through some typical icebreakers. What wasn't typical was when we found out that three people had the same birthday, including our very own Ms. Kimiciek, which was met with dancing and drum beating. It turned out that the community also remembered the Gonzaga group from last year and were curious about how they were doing. We ended with a discussion of Jerusalem Farm's cornerstones of simplicity, community, prayer, and service and went to bed to prepare for the service early the next morning, something that became fairly regular in the coming days.

Mornings on the farm were a different experience than we were used to. Woken by blaring music played at some unknown time, we and the other school groups

were expected to be promptly downstairs for morning chores, or "labors of love" as the community called them. These ranged from weeding the community garden to chopping firewood to making breakfast or any other task that needed to get done to keep things running smoothly. One common misconception about the farm is that it is vegan, but this isn't strictly true; they often served eggs or yogurt meaning that it is merely vegetarian. Our breakfast was often granola, yogurt, fresh fruit, and the like: simple yet filling enough for the day of manual labor.

Assignments shifted day-to-day based on the randomly assigned work crews we were given at the beginning of the week. My group started with compost duty on the first day. We got to ride bikes around the neighborhood collecting compost out of the buckets that had been left out. This is all part of an attempt by Jerusalem Farm to improve the lives and sus-

tainability of the surrounding area. The rest of that work time was spent turning over the massive compost piles to maintain them and get them ready to be used to grow food for the farm. On other days, we were typically working on home repair, such as when we were renovating the kitchen of a Burmese refugee family so they could cook meals at home. We painted walls, cut baseboards, assembled cabinets, and did everything else needed to refurbish the room. About halfway through the day, it was time to take a break from whatever the given project was for lunch, which was the most bizarre pairing of food I have ever eaten. We were given a loaf of bread, hummus, peanut butter, celery, mustard, hot chili sauce, and pretzels; combining them all onto a single sandwich was called a "Jerueban", and that alone was quite a challenge. Making lunch and keeping the farm running was one of the other major tasks, which was handled by the "home crew."

The group selected would prepare meals for all the other groups, clean around the house, and perform general upkeep.

Each night would end with dinner and evening prayer followed by about an hour of free time. This is when we got to know the other schools and often involved playing the various instruments on the farm. The week as a whole was a great time to meet new people, both from Kansas City and across the country, and learn about urban poverty in a new city. ★



McKenna Immersion

By: Finn Cousins '21
Contributor

Led by Mr. Sumner and Ms. Tracey, a group of students served an entire week on the Eye Street campus spending the night with their leaders and classmates. The immersion trip was based upon the direct service of Gonzaga students to the struggling people of the area through SOME and, of

course, The Father McKenna Center. Service consisted of campus kitchen, cooking meals at the McKenna center, setting up tables and doing the dishes at SOME, and providing help in whatever way the group could to benefit the community. Not only was this immersion experience helpful for the struggling citizens surrounding the area of Gonzaga, but it acted as a

huge character builder for the students on the trip. As the week moved on, reflections of what had been done during the days were discussed with the group in an open conversation. One thing that stood out was that homelessness is not simply an identity and society sometimes is confused upon how these people have personalities and their voices need to be heard. The McK-

enna Center and SOME allow people to see that these struggling people have a voice and can be related to. Through service and reflection, McKenna Immersion I

gave the group of Gonzaga students and in-depth view of social injustices and homelessness within less than a mile of our campus. ★



Camden

By: Sam Husk '20
Senior Contributor

When you bring up Camden, New Jersey, in a conversation, it usually draws some negative connotations. Everyone thinks about the hunger, poverty, and crime. Many people from Camden have trouble "getting out" due to a lack of resources and support from authority figures such as law enforcement and politicians. Camden is a city left behind.

On our service trip, we stayed at the Oscar Romero Center, an organization located in the heart of Camden, and participated in their

Urban Challenge, going to a variety of sites serving the people of the community while also reflecting on our Catholic faith. We served at Urban Promise School and the Neighborhood Center, which both needed hands for manual labor and yard work as they were getting ready for summer activities. Their goal is to provide children and teenagers with structured academics and activities, so they don't waste the summer being inside or get caught with the wrong people on the streets when their parents aren't around. We also worked at Cathedral Kitchen multiple days dur-

ing the week, which runs a similar operation to SOME here in D.C., and worked at the South Jersey Food Bank organizing cans and boxes to be shipped out to the community.

Our service also allowed us to connect with the people of Camden through places such as STARS Medical Day-care Center and Inglis House. At STARS, we played dominoes and chatted with the elderly who came there, many of whom were immigrants from Spanish-speaking countries. At the Inglis House, we helped the disabled elderly, many of whom were struggling with simple daily tasks

or suffering from mental health. Many of the people we met at Inglis House were veterans, and it was troubling to see some of them struggle.

One unique experience we had on the trip was when we did a food challenge. We were split into groups of four, and we each had twelve dollars total for that day to buy food. We went to Cousin's Supermarket (the only grocery store in Camden), and we had to buy breakfast, lunch, and dinner for our group to balance the day. It really got us to think about what the necessities were, and how we could balance our meals on a limited bud-

get. Everyone was starving at the end of the day- I can't imagine it being a daily reality.

The main focus of the Camden Immersion Trip was based on one of the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching; that is, the dignity of the human person. Each site we visited had a focus on emphasizing the dignity which Camden residents had been deprived. We were able to put our service in perspective, because the Catholic Church believes everyone is a child of God, and as children of God we need to look out for others like those in Camden. ★

Eagle Op/Ed: Ukraine

By: Matthew Dowd '22
Contributor

If you have paid attention to the news recently, you have probably heard about Speaker Pelosi's impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump, filed on September 24, to investigate the president's phone call and personal relations with Ukraine. Recently, witnesses have testified, press releases have been made, and it is becoming quite a turning point in Donald Trump's presidency. So the big question is: will he be impeached?

This inquiry is obviously a huge step that the House Democrats have taken towards impeachment; it is essentially the first formal step they have decided to take. The next major step is to investigate what the president could have done illegally. Some examples of impeachable offenses are bribery, treason, or other high crimes. This impeachment inquiry is nothing more than a first step in a long and grueling

process that may not even remove President Trump from office since that would require a conviction.

Truth be told, the reason behind this impeachment inquiry is not just the President's phone call with President Zelensky of Ukraine. This inquiry has been built up over time, with so many feelings towards the president behind it. Remember, congressional Democrats have threatened impeachment on almost every major scandal during Trump's term.

When the Mueller Report was complete, for example, Democrats asked it be released in order to 'expose' the president. When the redacted report helped exonerate the president, they asked that the redacted sections be unredacted.

This is just one example of the president being threatened with impeachment, and, I think the phone call with Zelensky is just another example. This impeachment inquiry is nothing more than a first step in a long and grueling

So, where did all of this Ukraine business start? In 2014, Hunter Biden, Vice President Biden's son, became a board member for a natural gas company called Burisma Holdings, which was based in Ukraine. In a recent interview, Hunter admitted that it was "impossible for [him] to be on any of the boards ... without saying that [he was] the son of the vice president of the United States". As he admitted, this is a clear example of Hunter using his father's political position to get a job in a foreign country. President Trump then decided to call President Zelensky, asking him to reopen an investigation into Hunter's dealings while he was in Ukraine. President Trump later called this phone conversation "perfect" because it did not mention the withholding of \$400 million in foreign aid if the investigation was not reopened.

After this phone conversation, White House aides decided to lock the transcript of the call on a private com-

puter server to avoid it being leaked to the public, drawing criticism from the house democrats. Shortly after this, Pelosi launched the official impeachment inquiry.

Now, several weeks after the start of this debacle, the main focus of the media and the impeachment inquiry is the involvement of a 'quid pro quo', which is a favor in return for something. In this case, an investigation into Hunter Biden in return for monetary aid from the US. At first, there was apparently no quid pro quo, but recently, Mick Mulvaney admitted to the press that some sort of quid pro quo did take place. Although everything is not entirely clear at this moment, after this article is published, more details will undoubtedly come out.

Because the phone call wasn't very damaging to President Trump, I think that this impeachment inquiry really has very little to do with the president's phone call with Zelensky. The only slightly off-putting action in

this turn of events was the White House aides' decision to lock down the transcript in a private server, which suggests that they themselves thought the transcript should not be released. All things considered, I believe that the two 'whistleblowers' and any other ex-White House staffers who are negative towards the president are part of the so-called 'deep state,' which we know exists thanks to an anonymous White House official. The most damage occurred, in my opinion, towards the highly-respected Rudy Giuliani, the President's personal lawyer. Rudy kept private contacts with Ukraine, which obviously draws suspicion.

Although the President is being smeared by the media, because he probably will not be impeached, I do not think we will be removed from office. It is totally within his ability to withhold aid from Ukraine for any reason, and a more in-depth investigation into Hunter Biden is long overdue. ✪

Fisher's Catch: Barry

By: Tommy Fisher '20
Editor

Barry is an HBO TV series created by Alec Berg and Bill Hader, and directed by Bill Hader, who previously starred in Saturday Night Live. Debuted in March 2019, and now in its third season, the series is critically acclaimed, receiving 30 Primetime Emmy Award nominations to date. It is a dark comedy-drama about a hitman (named Barry Bertman and played by Hader) who lives in Cleveland, Ohio, but moves to LA for a hit. He decides to stay when his profes-

sion as an assassin becomes intertwined with his new interest in acting. His acting teacher, played by Henry Winkler, has a profound impact on Barry's character. Throughout the show, Barry tries to ditch his life of crime and transition into a career in acting.

I have always struggled to see the writer's and director's craft in shows and movies. The deliberate selection of detail and indirect characterization have always been more apparent to me when reading books than when watching film; however, with

Barry, all of this changed. Each little statement made by every character ends up playing a key role in the direction of the story, and there is something unique about Barry that makes observing these details both easy and captivating. This technique becomes easy to observe because nothing in the story is ever hidden. Everything is delivered to the viewer, with the insignificant details of the plot becoming meaningful as the story progresses and vice versa.

Barry also raises countless thought-provoking ques-

tions about life, guilt, and what the right thing to do is. From the beginning, Barry wants to be a good and moral person. He allows himself to be a hitman because he is an excellent marksman who knows that most of the people he kills have committed horrible crimes and atrocities. At other times, he has to kill people not because they are bad, but because he does not want to compromise the valuable relationship he has with someone else. The observer is left stumped when trying to judge the morality of his actions. The situ-

ations Barry finds himself in remind the observer that it often doesn't take much to make good people do terrible things--just bad circumstances. Finally, the viewer can't help but sympathize with Barry, who is trying desperately to "go straight" and exit his life of crime. Such a sentiment brings home that while being killed is something to dread, being forced to live life on the earth as a self-loathing killer and having no way to atone for your heinous deeds could be even worse. ✪

Totalitarian Class

By: Charlie Neill '21
Contributor

"No matter how hard you work, you will all get the same grade." I can imagine the look on the seniors' faces as they wonder if Mr. Oryshkevych is serious about the grading scale in his brand new Totalitarian Class.

The new senior elective was started this year by Mr. Oryshkevych partly because of his interest in totalitarian states and partly because

the College Board wouldn't let him only teach about the USSR in European History. His course covers Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, the Soviet Union, North Korea, the last two being his personal favorites. Class time is mostly for debate, with assignments that place more focus on critical thinking and analysis.

The class's goal is to impart a better understanding of what life was like in these states and an appreciation for how lucky we are to live in

a free, democratic country. After meeting someone who escaped North Korea last summer, Mr. Oryshkevych especially wants to warn us that the democracy we live in is fragile, so we have to preserve it.

Anyone who took his European History class got a taste of this sophomore year, so I can imagine the Totalitarian Class is AP Euro without DBQs, insane test questions, or notes; in other words, a dream come true. ✪



GONZAGAFEST 2019!!!

By: John Ferrara '22 Editor
Photos: Gonzaga Faculty & Staff



You know that feeling when you have the option of choosing between two foods that you really love, and you're only able to have one of them? That's pretty much how I felt on Thursday, October 31, when the GonzagaFest opening ceremonies concluded. The schedule of events for the day had to change due to some rain, but there was still no shortage of activities. As soon as the SGA president, George Clifford, finished his remarks before the day truly got started, the student body dispersed to participate in a variety of events, including (but not limited to) spike ball, an Uno tournament, and chariot racing. Unfortunately, that meant I could only go to a couple of the things happening throughout the day on the Gonzaga campus. I had a ton of fun with almost everything I did on Thursday, and reviewing some activities I partook in only seems right...



Chariot Racing – 8.5/10 The chariot race was easily one of the best moments of the day. I learned that watching a bunch of Gonzaga students sprint down a path, which is being suffocated by eager spectators, while they pull a classmate is a lot of fun to watch. The best part of the race was when the pairs had to turn around a barrel when they were at top speed. As you can imagine, there were many crashes. My only complaint is the fact there weren't more entries to make the event last longer.



Flag Football – 7/10 Flag football was also a good event, and it was well-run, which is pretty impressive, considering there were so many students on the field. I liked that there was some officiating, so games didn't spiral out of control, yet it wasn't too restricted. It did take a while to get to play, but that's understandable as there were so many teams entered into the tournament.



Chess Tournament – 7.5/10 I was very happy with all the events held in the library during GonzagaFest. It was a nice break from the more chaotic events happening downstairs like dodgeball, which was still fun. It was a low-stress tournament, and the constant flow of candy being handed out was a nice touch. The one minor-negative for the chess competition was the fact it was cut short due to the closing ceremonies beginning.



Hula Hoop Competition and Pumpkin Painting – 8.5/10 I only got to come by here for a little bit before heading over to the hot dog eating contest, but I really enjoyed it. I learned that I'm pretty bad at hula-hooping; however, it was still fun watching people trying to outlast one another for over ten minutes. The pumpkin painting station was also a success. I saw a lot of Nats-themed pumpkins and some pretty creative ones in general.



Hot Dog Eating Contest – 9.5/10 Best moment of the day. Nothing even came close, and that's not an insult to the other events. The competitors did an excellent job, and they ate a surprisingly high amount of hot dogs for being amateurs and having just three minutes to do so. The fact that it went to sudden death and the winner was whoever could eat a single hot dog the fastest made it even better. The student sections going crazy for people competing in their grade was also really fun to be a part of.



Canned Food Drive Announcement – 12/10 All I heard during the announcement for the number of cans raised was 17. The final tally was over 17,000 cans contributed by the Gonzaga community, but all the student body needed to hear was the number 17 to storm the court. The 15,000 can goal was broken, and the McKenna Center should be stocked for almost another full year. Having the day off after the Super Bowl in February also enhanced this part of Gonzaga Fest.

