Affirmative action at Gustavus

Is it still necessary after all these years?

Luke Garrison
Weekly Staff Writer

Nearly 50 years ago, affirmative action was introduced into workplace and educational systems nationwide. Many believe this program has fulfilled its purpose, while others say its preservation is essential to continued diversity. This consideration is the setting for the upcoming Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society) debate on campus. Is affirmative action still necessary and relevant in today’s society? But more importantly, how does Gustavus fit into the grander scheme of things?

Dean of Admissions Mark Anderson believes there are many misconceptions about affirmative action. “Race is just another factor in the admissions process,” said Anderson. “We take a holistic approach to our admissions decisions. What can that person bring to the campus as a student, as a musician, as a community member, etc…?”

If a student has qualities that fit into the grander scheme of things, they fit in with the makeup of Gustavus,” said Anderson. “We consistently have a smaller percentage of men compared to women on this campus, so we offer such things as a technology program—more of a male-dominated field to attract men to Gustavus,” said Anderson. “Despite the fact that affirmative action helps many different categories of people, racial minorities are the most commonly talked about. “The programs started in the 60s because, historically, certain groups in the U.S. had unequal opportunities, and the idea behind it was to make up for that gap,” said Professor of Sociology Suzanne Wilson, who teaches a course covering affirmative action.

“I won’t say there aren’t misuses, but I think they’re so minute that we have to focus on the positive impact that has happened rather than the occasional misuses not intended,” he said. "Being a student of color, sure I questioned whether I got in because of what I looked like or because I fit. It took all four of my years to accept that I fit, because I could do the work and I could interact with students and I could bring something to the campus,” said Booker, an African-American Gustavus alumnus. “It’s a legitimate question to ask having worked in admissions; however, it would be a disservice, knowing the academic rigor of this college, to say ‘this student doesn’t quite have the right credentials, but we’re going to let them in anyway’—that kid would be gone after the first semester.”

"I think in order to be diverse in the college’s history. A challenge that has to be con-

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November 30, 2007

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Front page 1

A challenge that Gustavus and many similar colleges face is how to recruit a diverse class and have all students feel as though they fit in with the makeup of the school.

Continued on page 3
“It is with deep sadness…” So began the e-mail telling the Gustavus community about the tragic loss of Gustavus alumnus Richard Insley ’05, and the injury sustained by his brother, Senior Aaron Insley, over Thanksgiving break. Slowly, a more complete picture emerged. There was a car accident. It hit a tree. Sadly, Richard was killed, and Aaron is in the intensive care unit. More questions remain unanswered. Why did someone with so much life left in him have to go so soon? Why did he never get to enjoy his wedding day, which was scheduled for April?

While the Gustavus community mourns this loss and anxiously follows Aaron’s progress, the hearts and prayers of the staff at The Gustavian Weekly go out to the family and friends. Richard’s funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, December 1 at Christ Lutheran Church in Lake Elmo, MN. A private family interment will be held. Visitation will be held Friday, November 30 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Bradshaw Celebration of Life Center, 2800 Curve Crest Blvd., (NW corner of Hwy 36 and Co. Rd 5), and also one hour prior to the service at the church.

A Caring Bridge website has been set up at www.caringbridge.org/visit/insleyfamily. Friends can follow Aaron’s progress, share stories and sign the guestbook.

Donations in his name can be made to either Gustavus Adolphus College or the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Compiled by Jacob Seamans
WEEKLY Safety and Security Report

Sunday, 11/11
One student and one non-student while in Norelius Hall were cited for underage consumption. The non-student was transported from campus.

A student was charged with damage to property after spray-painting the Ulmer Courtyard sidewalk. Estimated damage $75.00.

Safety and Security responded to a medical assist call at the Campus Center. The individual was transported by ambulance to the St. Peter Community Hospital.

Monday, 11/12
Sometime between 11/07-11/08, someone removed $275.04 cash from an office in Confer Hall. Safety and Security is investigating.

Saturday, 11/17
A student was arrested for driving under the influence.

A non-student was arrested for driving under the influence.

A student near North Hall was arrested for underage consumption and failure to comply with a college official. The student was transported to DETOX.

Sunday, 10/18
Three students while in Pittman Hall were cited for underage consumption and failure to comply with a college official. One of the three students was transported to DETOX.

A student near Sohre Hall was cited for underage consumption, failure to comply with a college official and damage to property. The student was transported to DETOX.

Someone wrote graffiti on the center stairwell wall of Sohre Hall. Cost of cleanup is estimated at $35.

A student near North Hall was cited for underage consumption and was transported to DETOX.

Monday, 11/19
A student reported that their motorcycle was damaged while parked in the Norelius Parking Lot. Estimated cost of repair is $250.

Tip of the Week:
Get it and check to make sure there are no unknown bad hits. Pay attention to when bills should be arriving.

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Letters to the Editor can be sent to LetterstotheEditor@gac.edu. If you are interested in publishing an ad with The Gustavian Weekly, please contact our Ad Manager, Ben Smith at admanager@gac.edu.

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“The Gustavian Weekly Classifieds

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Freshly Made
Singing another tune
Meet Your Fellow Gustie: Steve Boehlke

Laura May Hedeen
Weekly Staff Writer

Interim choir director Steve Boehlke “came into a tough situation,” said Gustavus Choir President, Senior Brian Fahey, but he has proven to be “the right guy for the job.”

At the onset of director Greg Aune’s medical absence, Boehlke was asked if he could direct the Gustavus Choir for the remainder of the fall semester. “I feel fortunate that I’m in a point in my life right now that I had the time to say yes,” said Boehlke.

Fahey said he has “helped the choir through a time of need and uncertainty, both musically and personally.”

Boehlke’s entire life rings music. Boehlke has taught music in Minnesota schools for a total of 35 years, and he has been a professor of music at both the University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Currently, Boehlke continues to supervise student teachers of music, direct a men’s choir and perform additional work at Grace Lutheran Church in Apple Valley. He is married to a piano teacher and accompanist, and he has raised two musically-inclined daughters.

Boehlke also enjoys golf, and in both his music and golf, he “strives for perfection, which is hard to obtain.” Golf, he noted, also causes him “to laugh at myself a lot,” a virtue pertinent to many areas of his life. He classifies himself as “an incurable romantic,” which is why choral arrangements are his favorite type of music. “The poetry of the text says so much if you allow it,” said Boehlke.

“I’ve always been a teacher, and teaching music is both a passion and a hobby,” he said. The opportunities to “work with people on the other side of the brain,” to be allowed to safely “cry and laugh together” and to “give it all away” to someone else are all reasons behind Boehlke’s desire to direct and teach music.

“He’s obviously a seasoned professional,” said the Gustavus Symphony Orchestra director Warren Friesen after watching Boehlke conduct for the first time. He believes Boehlke’s direction of the “big performance” at Christmas in Christ Chapel will be a success.

Having watched Christmas performances at both Gustavus and St. Olaf for many years, Boehlke said, “being able to stand and conduct will be an absolute blessing.”

“It’s been so much fun to work with the G-Choir, and all three pieces will be unique and beautiful,” Boehlke said.

On a broader scale, he was blown away by the “family of caring people beyond this community” who were willing to give help when it was needed. “When Dr. Aune’s surgery came through, a half dozen choir directors came and offered help,” said Boehlke.

Even though that community is always there, “we all forget about it in our everyday lives. It was fun to see it in action.” Come see Steve Boehlke in action at this weekend’s Christmas in Christ Chapel services.
The Word Becomes Flesh

The holiday season commences with the thirty-fifth annual Christmas in Christ Chapel.

Kelli Ludwig
Weekly Staff Writer

Each year for the past 35 years, thousands of people from Gustavus, St. Peter and beyond make their way to one of the special events Gustavus offers: Christmas in Christ Chapel.

The entire program is a coordinated effort of the Chaplain’s Office, the Music Department and the Office of College Relations. Approximately 350 students, faculty and staff give their time and talents toward putting on this event, and around 1,200 guests attend each service.

A large number of campus groups will perform, including the Gustavus Choir, the Choir of Christ Chapel, the Christ Chapel Ringers, the Lucia Singers, the Gustavus Symphony Orchestra, the Christ Chapel Brass and members of the Gustavus Dance Department.

These various ensembles will bring together different forms of music and art to create one mass production, with the goal of providing an artistic look at the nativity and to usher in the Christmas season.

This year is special because the event will celebrate its thirty-fifth year in production. As Chaplain Brian Johnson said, “The program displays on campus and in Christ Chapel visually evidence past liturgies.” Anyone who has been to past services will be able to recognize hints of previous themes.

“The Word Becomes Flesh” is the title of the theme for this year. The idea is to look into theological poetry to find and make Bible narratives real or of “flesh.”

Poems from T. S. Eliot, Christina Rossetti, Susan Palo Cherwien, Louis Gluck and E.E. Cummings will be incorporated into the program under three select categories: Poetry of Mary, Poetry of the Birth and Poetry of the Journey.

A highlight for this year’s Christmas in Christ Chapel program is the premiere of Peaceable Kingdom, a multi-movement work which features all choirs and the orchestra.

Dr. Patricia Kazarow, director of the Choir of Christ Chapel and Christmas in Christ Chapel’s music coordinator for the past 24 years, said, “Christmas in Christ Chapel holds a creative challenge: to create a new look each year. That’s the beauty of it; there is no cookie cutter approach. We get to be creative each year and have a wide variety of programs.”

Christmas in Christ Chapel will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 30, and at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 1 and Sunday, December 2.

Thousands of individuals attend the program annually, and as Dr. Kazarow said, “For many it is an important part of their Christmas season.”

Kelli Ludwig
Weekly Staff Writer

The Gustavus Choir, Lucia Singers and Choir of Christ Chapel rehearse for this weekend’s performances.

Senior Michelle Kolhoff, of the Gustavus Choir, rehearses for the world premiere of Peaceable Kingdom by William Beckstrand.
On September 10, Gustavus President Jim Peterson signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. Now that they are officially tied to the Commitment, the President, administrators, faculty and students have begun to strive to work towards the goals of the Commitment.

The Commitment includes guidelines and steps which the 434 signatories and their respective schools are required to follow throughout their pursuit of obtaining climate neutrality. The Commitment states that signatories “recognize the need to reduce the global emission of greenhouse gases by 80 percent by mid-century at the latest, in order to avert the worst of impacts of global warming and to reestablish the more stable climatic conditions that have made human progress over the last 10,000 years possible.”

We are becoming increasingly aware of how the use of fossil fuels is affecting the climate. James Dontje of the Environmental Center for Innovation spoke of the increasing amount of carbon in the atmosphere as well as global warming. “As someone put it to me, ‘long before we run out of energy, we’re going to poison ourselves,’” said Dontje.

Peterson explained his reasoning behind signing the Commitment. “The primary stimulus comes from a perceived need,” he said, “We should at least take part in not only thinking about it, teaching about it, and including it in what we do in our everyday lives here on campus but also make an institutional commitment.”

The first steps of the Commitment include developing institutional structures to guide the progress of plan, creating a comprehensive inventory of college greenhouse gas emissions (including electricity, heating, commuting and air travel emissions) and developing a thorough, goal-oriented sustainability action plan, complete with target dates.

Dontje and others have already compiled a great deal of emissions information and have produced some surprising results. Of the energy used on campus, only about 25 percent of the usage occurs in the student dorms. Dorms utilize between 300 and 400 kW each hour, whereas the combined total of academic buildings rocket upward to between 1200 and 1500 kW each hour.

Throughout the development of the comprehensive sustainability plan, two of seven short-term options must be implemented. These two short-term options will reduce the amount of emitted greenhouse gases. One of these options is to build new campus buildings, at minimum, to the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver standard. This guideline will play a critical role in the plans for constructing a new Social Science Center. LEED offers several levels of standards: silver, gold and platinum. Dontje hopes that the platinum level of standard may be achieved, a very “green” building result. While this would pose the higher initial cost, it would be extremely effective in producing lower energy costs.

Without the prospect of obtaining wind turbines, achieving the goals of the Commitment would be significantly more difficult. The Chair of the Environmental Studies Program, Jeff Jeremiason, has been working with Professor of Physics Charles Neiderriter for five years on the Gustavus Wind Project. Although these years have been
The Campus is Over the Hump

May be fulfilled. If these sustainable and efficient goals could be met, the new building would be the first of its kind to achieve the challenge of net zero energy. If fulfilled, it would result in a very sustainable and "green" building. While the new building would pose the challenge of a higher initial cost, it would be extremely efficient and the preliminary costs would be compensated by fulfilling the low energy costs.

Without the prospect of obtaining wind turbines, completing the goals of the Commitment would prove to be significantly more difficult. The Chair of the Environmental Studies Program, Jeff Jeremiason, has been working with Professor of Physics Charles Neiderriter for five years on the Gustavus Wind Project. Although these years have been the most intense, Professor of Geography Robert Douglas proposed the pursuit of wind turbines in the early 1990's. The project was furthered in May 2001 with the formation of a single semi-automated weather station by the combined efforts of Jeremiason, Neiderriter and Douglas. Since then, the college has worked with Clipper Wind to bring two turbines onto campus. The college was prepared for the turbines; there was no apparent financial issue in purchasing the turbines, even though each turbine carried a price tag of $4 million. Contracts were also prepared for selling any excess energy. However, progress halted last January. Clipper Wind received an order from British Petroleum for a large number of turbines and the Gustavus order was pushed back. The College was told to call back in 2009. There is currently a huge demand for wind turbines. The problem with being a small campus that desires a small number of turbines is that the turbine companies do not want to deal with small orders anymore. Carleton College, St. Olaf College, and the University of MN-Morris managed to receive turbines while companies still accepted small orders.

All is not lost. "We just have to get creative," Jeremiason said. Among these ideas is the option of latching onto larger orders. Creativity is the best way to formulate a sustainable and efficient plan on campus. The Climate Commitment also stresses the incorporation of sustainability into the curriculum. More environmental and energy related classes are emerging outside of the Environmental Studies program. Several First Term Seminars and Interim classes are now being offered that incorporate these concepts.

For the first time, "environmental stewardship will be a part of the Strategic Plan," said Dontje. "It’s not only about energy use." Included will be multiple aspects of "mindful consumption," such as the challenge to sustain, the awareness of consumption present during Energy Wars (which included a 6 percent decrease in energy use in the dorms alone), material use and the educational plan. "This effort—climate control—has a larger place in the Strategic Plan," President Jim Peterson said. "Other parts of that plan will include energy conservation programs and the wind turbines that we are trying to get, as well as educational programs."

Peterson concluded that "it’s not just about the college saying as an institution, ‘we’re going to do this.’ It is about whether we as a community—a whole community—say that this is really important. Then we can do all kinds of stuff."
**Sports Schedule**

**Friday**
- **@ Carleton Invite**
  - Women's Basketball
  - vs. St. Mary's - 7:05 p.m.
  - Men's Hockey
  - vs. Augsburg - 7:30 p.m.
- **@ Augsburg**
  - Men's Basketball
  - vs. St. Mary's - 2 p.m.

**Saturday**
- **@ Carleton Invite**
  - Women's Basketball
  - @ Augsburg - 1 p.m.
  - Men's Basketball
  - vs. St. Mary's - 3 p.m.
- **@ St. Mary's**
  - Men's Hockey
  - @ Carthage Invite
  - Swimming

**Monday**
- **Men's Basketball**
  - vs. Bethel - 7:30 p.m.
- **Women's Basketball**
  - vs. Carthage Invite
  - Swimming

**Standing**

**Men's Basketball**

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**Geographical Gusties:** Whittwer and Kaus hail from rural Minnesota (Redwood Falls and St. James) while Doble came to Gustavus via Sarasota, FL, and Sivesind skirted the border, coming to the hill from Madison, WI.

A combination of Senior leadership and young, developing talent make the Gusties an early favorite in the MIAC.

**Andy Keenan** Weekly Sports Editor

**The Gustavus Men's Basketball team has hard work laid ahead of them for this upcoming campaign, and hopes are high that the experience and athleticism of this year's squad will translate into a MIAC Championship. Led by a foursome of senior ballplayers, the team seems to be equipped to make that type of run. Returning is the team's leading scorer and rebounder from a season ago, post Trevor Whittwer, as well as guard Ty Kaus and post Andrew Doble and Kane Sivesind, the latter of whom last year's percent-age leader from behind the arc. Apart from being teammates, these four young men live together and are very good friends.**

“The four of us have been playing together for a long time, and we've been really good friends for the past four years. We aren't just doing it for our teammates; we are doing it for our friends. It makes you want to fight for the guys next to you and you know their game; you know what they are going to do,” said Sivesind.

“We don't have any problem telling anyone that they're [messing] up. We're trying to help one another,” added Kaus.

The Gusties are devoid of a couple of key players from last year's team, most notably, three-time All-Conference player Phil Sowden, who left Gustavus as the fourteenth leading scorer in school history with 1,264 points in four years of contribution. Also gone are starters Andrew Olson, Jay Stein and Tyler Kramer. Junior Mike DesLauriers was inserted into the starting lineup midway through the season in Kramer’s spot. The departed players leave a tall order behind them. “Losing Phil, who was a 1,000 point scorer and a captain, hurts but we have to make it on our own. Those guys were good leaders, and anytime you lose guys like that the team takes on a new persona,” said Whittwer.

The Gusties look good how shaky the other teams in the conference look on paper. St. Thomas, the conference champions from last season, lost their four leading scorers, including post Isaac Rosefelt, the 2007 MIAC MVP. MIAC runner-up, St. John’s, graduated the twintower Sivesind twins as well as another pair of starters and with eight first-years on their varsity roster, they will need to mature quickly if they want to compete in the MIAC this season.

“We have the benefit of playing together for a while and it may take the competition a while to figure things out. But with teams like that they just rebuild, they don't have to completely re-load. We have guys that have seen a lot of minutes and hopefully that gives us an edge this season,” said Doble.

Even with the four seniors and DesLauriers, whose contributions were vital to the Gusties' fourth place finish last season, the lynch pin holding this championship dream together lies in the three contributing sophomores. Jesse Van Sickle was the team’s sixth man in his first year on the hill and captured Freshman of the Year honors last season. Contributing for the Gusties early in this season are 6’9” post Sam Paulson, who has been the starter in the middle and 6’5” post Ryan...
McPartland, who has seen extensive minutes so far coming off the Gustie bench. Junior Tim Olmstead, Sophomore Andrew Hartman and First-year Dan Schmidtknecht have also see some time for the Gusties.

“We have an interesting and eclectic mix of players. How those pieces fit together will determine how competitive we will be this season,” said Head Coach Mark Hanson in a pre-season MIAC interview.

Gustavus began their season a week from last Wednesday versus Luther that was ruined by a made lay-up in traffic with three seconds left. Whittwer scored 12 points in the second half, but foul trouble sent him to the bench for good with about six minutes remaining in the game. He finished with 15 points, while McPartland added 11 in the first varsity action of his career.

A trip to Storm Lake, IA, last Tuesday to take on Buena Vista brought the Gusties their first win of the season. Sivesind and Van Sickle each scored 13 while Doble and Whittwer each added 12. To go along with the 12 points, Whittwer also grabbed 10 rebounds, had four assists and three blocks in the quality 68-56 win in Iowa.

After their win at Buena Vista, the Gusties came home to play their conference opener against the Scots from Macalester. A shootout from the get-go, Macalester hung tight and two 30-plus point performances from their two 2007 all-MIAC selections Abe Woldeslassie and Tom Conboy helped the Scots to an 85-81 nailbiting victory. Whittwer had another spectacular game with 17 points and nine rebounds while Paulson had a breakout evening with 13 points in 23 minutes. Doble had 12 points and six rebounds and McPartland scored 10 and pulled seven down in the loss.

The Gusties play next this Saturday in Minneapolis against Augsburg and then Bethel, the pre-season MIAC coaches poll #1, comes to town on Monday evening. Gustavus is ranked second in that poll, ahead of both St. Thomas and St. John’s, last seasons top two teams. St. Thomas upset Division II’s #1 Winona State last week and the Johnnies have a pair of wins over Minnesota-Morris and Concordia.

Gustavus will then head to Collegeville to take on St. John’s, the team that ended the Gusties’ season a year ago in the semi-finals of the MIAC playoffs.

After hosting non-conference, highway 169 rival Bethany Lutheran on December 12, the Gusties are done until their trip to Boston over Christmas Break.

“We didn’t play well in the first game against Luther and you could tell that they guys weren’t satisfied. We bounced back well against BV but we need that consistency to be successful,” said assistant coach Josh Drinkall, a former assistant at Winona State during their recent years of Division II success. “We have to look at things one game at a time and play as if we need a win every night.”
Learning from the Left
Could Bush be impeached?

Former White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan’s allegations that President Bush and Vice President Cheney knowingly instructed McClellan to lie about the Valerie Plame case. If this is true, then this is an obvious obstruction of justice. This is important for several reasons. First, it is a federal offense to knowingly reveal the names of covert CIA agents. They need the anonymity that their covert status gives them to help defend our nation from the very terror-ists and other national security threats that this administration so adamantly claims it supports with its purported “War on Terror.” Second, it involves a massive cover-up by various officials within the Bush administration that implicates them, along Lewis “Scooter” Libby, the man who ended up being sentenced to jail for perjury and obstruction of justice because he lied under oath during the investigation of the leak of Valerie Plame’s name. Given these facts, the necessity of reopening and continuing the investigation into the Valerie Plame case is much greater. It was stated in these excerpts that not only were Scooter Libby and Karl Rove involved in leaking Plame’s name to the media, but also that the President, the Vice President and the President’s Chief of Staff were involved. Although we cannot be certain of their role based on these excerpts alone, an investigation into a potential cover-up of this scandal might be able to clarify the facts.

If people would take a moment to remember the days of Bill Clinton during the Lewinsky scandal, they would find that there are a few similarities with the current situation. One is that Clinton was impeached for lying under oath, i.e. obstructing justice, much like Scooter. Granted, he lied about having an affair with another woman while on national television, which is not an impeachable offense, since the Constitution says a federal official can only be impeached for “treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors,” but I digress. He lied during the Senate proceedings and was promptly impeached.

During Clinton’s term in office, Congressional Republicans instituted 16 formal investigations into “wrongdoing” by the Clintons, including their firing of the White House travel staff and misuse of the White House Christmas card list. Question: how does one criminally misuse a Christmas card database? Nevertheless, the Senate heard 130 hours of sworn testimony on the subject.

In addition, Kenneth Starr investigated the Clintons for seven years in what essentially constituted a standing inquisition—going from one charge to another in the hopes of finding skeletons in his closet. Starr’s investigation, using as many as 60 FBI agents and 24 assistant prosecutors, went beyond a normal investigation; he investigated a married couple—the Clintons—in hopes of finding not a specific crime but any crime in their past.

The reason why I’m explaining the investigation of the Clintons in such detail is to show just how long the Clintons were being investigated for crimes they didn’t even commit! After four years of unethically snooping around for dirt, they still didn’t find a thing! Instead, some intern named Lewinsky revealed that dirty secret about the Clintons that they were looking for; Bill can’t keep it in his pants. How does that compare to potential treason and perjury by the President, Vice President, the Chief of Staff, etc.?
"Bush" from page 10

If Clinton was worth investigating, then President Bush’s commutation of Libby’s sentence should be as well. There is more than potential for an investigation of a boss (Bush) helping out the same crony (Libby) who shielded his (Bush’s) name from investigation.

Luckily, there is someone with power and authority who also finds it odd that there has been investigation of alleged criminal conduct within the President’s administration. Senator Chris Dodd issued a statement last Tuesday asking for an investigation to be initiated. Sadly, given the slim majority Democrats have in the Senate (I can hear the calls of partisan politics already), the limited amount of time in Bush’s term and the general spinelessness of the Democratic Party, I fear that there is little chance for an investigation into one of many looming questions about this administration.

Quote of the Week

"The top question would have been whether Arnold Schwarzenegger was a cyborg sent to save the planet Earth."

DAVID BOHRMAN

CNN senior vice president, explaining why network executives decided not to use an online voting system to the agenda for the CNN-YouTube presidential debate.

Letters to the Editor

Student theft from Nobel Hall

Honor and honesty are essential elements in a community of scholars. Students should be able to trust that their professors will deliver courses meeting the highest standards of integrity and professionalism, and professors should be able to trust that their students will uphold the highest standards of honesty in completing their work. Thus, my colleagues and I were deeply disappointed when a framed poster and two unframed posters disappeared from a hallway and classroom display in the Geography Department in Nobel Hall. One of the missing items was a map of Scandinavia. The others were posters of European cities that were displayed while teaching urban geography. Ultimately, the victims in these thefts are current and future Gustavus students. On one hand, it is heartening that the Nobel Hall thieves have geographically sophisticated tastes. However, knowledge without virtue is a dangerous combination, and we hope to see these items returned to their rightful place.

Professor Mark Bjelland

Geography Department Chair

Congratulations Gustavus!

Congratulations to you and all the Gustavus Students, Faculty and Staff on the tremendous level of volunteerism in the Saint Peter community. Your article in the November 16 issue of The Weekly entitled “Volunteers: The Seams That Hold Community Together” by Eliza L. Swedenborg illustrates the impact you have on our small part of the world.

WOW!! What fantastic things you all do. The article included seven “signature” type programs; I know there are even more. What you have done for building a positive community impression of students is really great.

Thanks for all you do, Gustavus!!! You help make our larger community a better place to live.

Todd Prafke

City Administrator

Cellulosic ethanol: an alternative

Fueling the United States is no easy task. Oil is approaching $100 per barrel, and ethanol made from corn costs more than gasoline. Ethanol’s true cost is hidden by agricultural subsidies of seventy cents per gallon. It also leads to high feed prices that disrupt the economics of meat and dairy production. Ten percent of the U.S. corn crop is required to replace five percent of the gasoline consumed. The ethanol of the future must come from cellulose (corn stalks, wheat straw or switch grass). A mandate from the nation’s people is needed for cellulosic ethanol to permanently find its way into our gas tanks.

The ethanol of the future must come from cellulose, reducing the cost and improving the energy efficiency of the process, then ethanol will be lucky to offset the growth in gasoline consumption. While this progress is encouraging, without an acceleration of the ethanol mandate jumpstarts the processes for making ethanol from cellulose to ethanol.

Corn-based ethanol has recently made great technological progress as the energy needed has dropped about seventy percent. In corn milling plants, the energy output is now twice the amount of energy input. Despite this impressive improvement, ethanol is still an extremely expensive vehicle fuel.

Cellulosic ethanol has also been making technical breakthroughs. The cost of a critical enzyme to break down cellulose has been reduced from five dollars per gallon to ten cents. Several pilot plants are operating to further refine the cellulose-to-ethanol process. While this progress is encouraging, without an acceleration of change—a mandate—it won’t make much difference to the price of fuel, foreign oil dependency or air pollution. The extra ethanol will be lucky to offset the growth in gasoline consumption.

If the ethanol mandate jumpstarts the processes for making ethanol from the various forms of cellulose, reducing the cost and improving the energy efficiency of the process, then ethanol will become a more significant fuel in the decades to come. Ultimately, cellulosic ethanol will benefit U.S. consumers by saving them money on both food and gasoline purchases.

Kevin Horn ’09
Sunday, December 9

Brassworks!
1:30 p.m.

The exclamation mark makes it seem that much more exciting. Let’s see if it works for other words: Physics final! G.R.E.! The Spanish Inquisition!

2007 Shared Space Dance Concert, Ephemeral
7:30 p.m.

I submitted a proposal for my own piece, but apparently dancing to Limp Bizkit’s “Break Stuff” didn’t fit with the tone of the program.

Monday, December 10

Spring Break Work Sign Up
All Day

You work hard nine months out of the year at Gustavus. Now is your chance to do it during your week off!

Interim and Spring Internship/ Career Exploration
3:30 p.m.

Check out the table regarding cheeseburger flipping and coffee pouring.

CII Holiday Party
5:30 p.m.

Who’s up for a little Epic of Gilgamesh?

Big Partner Little Partner - Holiday Event
6:00 p.m.

Come celebrate children with runny noses who cry a lot (though this weather has that affect on almost everyone).

GOLD Leadership Holiday Party
7:30 p.m.

Folks, there’s nothing funny about free root beer except for the foamy mustache it gives you. I guess that is kind of funny.

Tuesday, December 11

Fall Art Show by Senior Studio Art Majors
All Day

These students are in their early twenties and none of them have cut off their own ears yet. And you call yourselves Art Majors? Ha.

Wednesday, December 12

Announcement: Michael Johnson Concert Tickets on Sale

His name sounds like Michael Jordan, so he must be cool!

Happy 8th Day of Hanukkah
Hmmm, eight days of Christmas versus just one? I’ll take Hanukkah!

Climate Change and Campus Leadership Webcast
1:00 p.m.

This is a must-see for the environmentalists in the house. You’d better be there, Breanna Draxler.

Men’s Hockey at St. John’s
7:05 p.m.

Why does it start at 7:05 p.m., what happens at 7:40 p.m. that takes five minutes? Is the National Anthem really that long?

Bible Study
8:00 p.m.

Can the Buddha come?

Thursday, December 13

Stargazing
8:00 p.m.

I miss calling Pluto a planet. What are we supposed to say now, “My Very Extraordinary Mother Just Serviced Us . . . Nipples?”

Quotes of the Week

Ying Cao: I want to get a tattoo on my butt that says ‘Made in China.’

Melissa Vermeersch: I don’t trust these cheese curds, especially since some of them are disemboweled.

Shane Jensen: He has soap, ladies and gentlemen, SOAP RUNNING THROUGH HIS VEINS!

Leigh Clanton: You’re the kind of person I hate, but for some reason I don’t hate you.

HEY READERS! WANT TO BE QUOTED IN THE PICKLE? Then answer this hypothetical question:

Imogen Heap, Feist and Regina Spektor get in a fight to the death, armed with only their singing skills and knowledge of the martial arts. Who wins and why? E-mail your opinions to thepickle@gac.edu, and funny ones will be printed in next week’s issue!

- the pickle -

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Friday, December 7

This Day in History:
1941 -- Um, I don’t know . . . PEARL — FREAKIN’ HARBOR?

On-Campus Film, 3:10 to Yuma
7:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Why aren’t we showing it at 3:10 p.m.?

Shabbat Dinner
7:00 p.m.

My only experience with Kosher food preparation was when I read the book Postville sophomore year.

24-Hour Prayer Room
7:00 p.m.

The goal is to have someone praying in this room for twenty-four hours. It’s kind of like 24 hour tantric sex, only you pray instead of have tantric sex.

2007 Shared Space Dance Concert, Ephemeral
7:30 p.m.

Ephemeral: (i-fem-rəl), adjective
Definition: lasting for only a short period of time
Example: Coke Blak was ephemeral.

Dive
7:30 p.m.

Where the underclassmen go to party and the upperclassmen go to escape the fact that they are applying to grad schools.

Saturday, December 8

Men and Women’s Nordic Skiing at CCSA Season Opener
All Day

This event is held in Dresser, Wisconsin. Next week the team will probably go to Bureau, Indiana.

Student Appreciation Day in the Bookmark
9:00 p.m.

I appreciate myself everyday with a warm fuzzy, big hug and insulting those different from myself. That never fails to make me feel better.

Student Recital, Kira O’Bradovich
3:30 p.m.

How many Mezzo-Sopranos does it take to screw an Orion?  Two, and leaving no permanent trace. Example: Coke Blak was ephemeral.

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Christian Bale with a mustache? That’s about as disturbing as Brian Tahey’s lutefisk obsession.

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We all have high expectations for you, Jordan Klitzge, you’d better bring your game face.

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