With last week’s cold spell, some students might be wondering why their room is cold, or why the sidewalks are so slippery. Last week’s temperatures of 30 to 40 degrees below zero for days straight caused issues all around campus and irritated both students and staff.

For some dealing with coming back from abroad, the cold came as a shock. “Coming back from India and seeing the first snow fall of the season was really great, but normally it’s not the novelty wore off and made me want to go back to India where it’s warm,” said Junior Art Studio Major Amanda Skarpbel. Sophomore Dan Shimek said temperature does not prevent him from doing what he wants. “Although it has been bitterly cold the last few days, that hasn’t stopped me from going snowboarding,” said Shimek.

Director of Physical Plant Warren Wunderlich said that the Physical Plant had some setbacks last week, including equipment problems and plain bad luck. “There were some issues this past week—one of the skidloaders that we use for snow removal had a failure … [and] one of the hydraulic hose devices failed, so we had to get a loaner in so we could continue to take care of things. When it gets really cold, diesel fuel tends to congeal and then it stops working, so we had to push a truck into one of our heated sheds and park it a half a day to get it working again,” said Wunderlich.

In addition to equipment problems “Last week was a challenge from the depth of the cold,” Wunderlich said. “And the duration … I don’t remember a cold spell that deep and that long. There’s been longer ones, but to have four or five days where it was that brutally cold is unusual, at least in recent years.”

The cold weather compounded already icy sidewalks. “We’ve had to reorder salt and sand. We’ve gone through pretty much a season’s worth so far. Normally the temperature drops and you can … clean it up a couple of days later, [but] we had a little warm-up instead, so we ended [up] with ice everywhere, followed by … some freezing rain. We’re hoping to see a few days above thirty this week so we could clear that up,” said Wunderlich.

The cold carried over to dorm rooms, leaving some in the cold. “Coming back from Ecuador, I was headed back [to] about -20 degree temperature. … I had trouble keeping warm in my room,” said Junior Environmental Studies Major Lucas Neher. There have been other complaints regarding cold dorm rooms. “Dorms seem to have more issues, maybe in part because of their age, [and] also in part how students use them,” said Wunderlich. “[There is] a lot of stuff in the dorms that covers up the radiators, and that makes it harder. There’s just more thermostats—every 200 square foot room has a thermostat, and that’s not the case in administration buildings.”

What should you do if your room is experiencing a freeze? “If it gets too cold, call; we’ll come to see what we can do. First thing, make sure you don’t have stuff piled on the floor in front of the radiators. Most of the radiators require airspace at the bottom. You can see the vents at the top, but it really needs the air to come in at the bottom. Beds pushed against it can confound that, among other things,” said Wunderlich.

Junior Biology Major and Sauda Society Co-President Adam Strand posed another solution to the cold rather than room thermostats. “I see the cold spell as a blessing in disguise. It allows for the quintessential sauna session because it makes the best snow roll possible,” said Strand.

Physical Plant was not the only campus department to have issues. Safety and Security had to deal with many cold-related incidents, from stalled cars to escorts. Director of Safety and Security Ray Thrower presented some statistics: “From Jan. 11-17, we gave 396 escorts. A year ago in the same week, [Safety and Security] gave 164 escorts.”

“Last week from Jan. 11-17, we had 82 jumpstarts. The same time in ’08, we had nine. Last week was a bad week. The officers could hardly get anything else done. Generally when it gets cold, [students] don’t want to walk, so they call us, pulling our resources so that we can’t patrol the buildings. … We encourage people to use escorts for security reasons, but last week, most people used us as a taxi service, taking resources away. We don’t want to turn you away at night, but just keep these things in mind.”

Thrower gave some other advice to prevent stalls and frostbite. “When you start getting down to 35-45 [degrees] below, you need to cover skin, because you will get frostbite in eight minutes. If you’re going off campus and have been drinking, have a designated sober person look out for those who have been drinking so that they can get back on campus. Also consider running your car for 15 minutes a week if you aren’t going to drive it; some of the jumps we tried didn’t work because the batteries were frozen.”

The Choir of the West meets Midwest

The Choir of the West, the top choir at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, will perform a free-will concert in Christ Chapel on Jan. 27 at 7:00 p.m. The concert will feature works of the Westminster Division of the American Choral Directors Association.
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If you are interested in publishing an ad with The Gustavian Weekly, please contact our ad manager, Christine Wicker, at admanager@gustavus.edu

The Gustavus Weekly
Page 2
Sunday, January 11
A Gustavus student was cited by Safety and Security for underage drinking.

A visitor to campus was cited for underage drinking and trespassed from campus.

A student noticed their iPod was stolen from Lund Center.

Monday, January 12
A Gustavus student was cited for underage consumption.

Tuesday, January 13
A Safety and Security officer responded to a medical assist at Jackson Campus Center.

Friday, January 16
At the Dive dance, a Gustavus student was cited by Safety and Security and the St. Peter Police Department for underage consumption of alcohol; the student was also transported to Detox.

Saturday, January 17
Two students in Pittman Hall reported a burglary from their dorm room.

Two students while in Pittman Hall were cited by Safety and Security for underage possession of alcohol. One student was cited for underage consumption of alcohol by Safety and Security. One student was cited for a Social Host violation.

TIP OF THE WEEK:
With the exception of the visitor lots, all parking lots will be considered “open parking” over Touring Week—beginning 5:00 pm Friday, Jan. 30 until 7:00 am Monday, Feb. 9. Vehicles may be parked in any red, yellow or green parking space without regard to permits.

The Choir of the West has traveled abroad to places such as Europe, Scandinavia, Japan and China, and most recently to Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary (2007).

Al Behrends, Gustavus' director of communication services and fine arts program, believes that tours are very beneficial for music ensembles. “[The] process of working from place to place to place...is a very educational process for learning music because every place is different. [When] we go with the band, one day we will be in a gymnasium, the next day we will be in a church sanctuary and the next day we will be in a nice auditorium.”

Aune said that he “will encourage [his] choirs [to go]. If you want to hear a really good choral concert, you will have the chance to do so.”

First-year and member of the Choir of Christ Chapel Peter Michalez believes there is a difference in the way choirs from different parts of the country and world sound. Michalez likes exposing himself to different cultures. “I think I will go...it sounds pretty good.”

Classifieds

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Gustie of the Week:

Phil Helt takes leadership to a new level

Ethann Marxhausen
Staff Writer

A h, January. Most Gustavus students enjoy a whole month of light workloads, increased free time and, for those involved in student organizations, decreased responsibility. For many, it is the perfect time to break out a new video game, hang out with fellow Gusties and get started on an autobiography. But while this low-key atmosphere may cause laziness in some students, others, like Sophomore Communication Studies Major Phil Helt, never stop working to serve their fellow Gusties through their leadership in campus activities.

A native Missourian to the core, Phil is proud to bring some of what he calls the “Missouri style” to the Gustavus community. “It’s like the state motto, the “Missouri style” to the Gustavus is proud to bring some of what he calls campus activities.

Between his responsibilities as a member of the Gustavus Forensics team and his involvement in GAC TV, Big Partner Little Partner, PLEDGE Council and Student Senate, Phil certainly has enough to keep himself busy. But in spite of managing a workload that would overwhelm less motivated students, Phil enjoys his level of involvement. He is in his element here at Gustavus, as he enjoys his many opportunities to be a student leader. “Everything I do here, I love to do. I wouldn’t do it if I didn’t. So no matter what it is, academics or activities, I make time for it,” said Phil.

As a story coordinator for GAC TV, events coordinator for BPLP and program coordinator for PLEDGE, Phil has mastered the skill of coordination. Hardly a month goes by that doesn’t include a Phil Helt-planned event. “Just recently I organized a retreat for the PLEDGE Council. Some people didn’t think it was going to happen, but we pulled it through and it was awesome.”

“When I get an idea about something, it’s going to happen,” said Phil. “My high school history teacher always said I was persistent, and I think that’s one of my biggest personality traits. One of my favorite quotes comes from Walt Disney: ‘It’s kind of fun to do the impossible.’

Since his first year at Gustavus, Phil has been a dedicated member of the Forensics team, his favorite on-campus group. “It definitely takes the most work and dedication, but I love doing it. The Forensics team is like family to me.”

For five years, Phil has worked over the summer at a Boy Scout camp in Oseola, Missouri. “I really enjoy the opportunity to have an impact on these youth,” said Phil. “It can be a tough job sometimes, but at the end of the day you can step back and realize that you’re doing something that really matters.”

Phil has continued his commitment to work with youth by making a special connection to BPLP, a group that pairs Gustavus students with youth in the area to serve as friends and mentors.

Phil’s plans for the future change daily. “Sometimes I think I’d like to be a lawyer. I’d like to go back to my old high school and teach there. A major interest of mine is still working with youth in one way or another.”

In addition, Phil is “also planning to work in an elected office, but that can wait,” he said. “My ultimate goal in getting a career is to be able to support my parents. They’ve made me who I am today.”

Through his service and involvement in a wide variety of student and college groups, Phil is the very definition of a student leader. “I think you should always try to challenge yourself in everything you do,” he said. “Otherwise, what’s the point?”

Milk: A must-see film for the new year

Ryan McGinty
Staff Writer

I f you haven’t seen Milk yet, you should. It is one of the most extraordinary films of the year and is sure to be a contender come award season. So, before you compile your list of the year’s best movies, make sure you see it; you’ll be glad you did.

Milk comes from Gus Van Sant (Good Will Hunting, Drugstore Cowboy), and is the director’s best film since Finding Forrester. Throughout his career, Van Sant’s work has been split into two types of movies: 1) the popular, award-winning bunch with such movies as Good Will Hunting and Finding Forrester, and 2) the more personal and experimental independent group containing films like Elephant and Last Days. Milk seems a perfect combination of the two.

The plot follows the exploits of Harvey Milk, a politician and gay rights activist in San Francisco during the 1970s. He was the first openly gay man to be elected into public office. Needless to say, he was a huge proponent of the gay rights movement, and he opened a lot of doors for homosexuals and heterosexuals alike.

This movie is just flat-out well made.

From the eloquent script to the flawless cast, it’s great to see a film so well-rounded. This is perhaps the best acted film I’ve seen all year. Sean Penn will get a best actor nomination, though the win may be tough (I hear Mickey Rourke has it in the bag for his performance in The Wrestler, which I have yet to see). Penn is a dead ringer for Harvey Milk. It’s amazing what a fine actor he has become since the ‘80s, when he was best known for his role as Jeff Spicoli in Fast Times at Ridgemont High (a great flick in its own right).

The supporting cast is also praise-worthy. James Franco plays Scott Smith, Milk’s lover, and should have gotten a Golden Globe nomination for his performance in this film, rather than Pineapple Express. Josh Brolin’s portrayal of Dan White, Milk’s conservative political opponent, is also Oscar-worthy. He is a monster of a character, and yet somehow his performance garners sympathy.

Milk is a must see, and is without a doubt one of the year’s finest movies. It is well made and extremely poignant. Everyone should see this film. I give it 3 out of 3 crowns.
A housing guide

Jacob Seamans, Kayla Elbert, Tom Lany, Stephanie Duley and Ally Billon
Staff Writers

As the student housing process moves forward, many students are deciding which building they want to live in and who their roommates will be. Though we can’t help you choose a roommate, we do hope that the following reviews of the upperclassman dorms will at least help you choose where you would want to live ‘09-’10.

**Sorenson**

One of the three halls making up Complex (which houses most of the sophomore class), Sorenson offers a number of advantages to residents, which include proximity to the academic buildings (see the Market Place and Land Center. It also has a well-equipped, spacious kitchen and bathrooms, and a large basement. Another convenient aspect of Sorenson is that the freshman dorms are immovable furniture, a feature that some other dorms do not possess.

Sorenson also has its downsides. Because it is conveniently close to the Market Place, it is further than other dorms from the academic buildings. The rooms are smaller than those in dorms like Southeast and College View. One other downfall is the limited parking spots in the Complex parking lot.

**Gibbs**

Gibbs Hall, located in the middle section of Complex, houses 80 students, most of whom are sophomores. Since Complex is essentially four separate buildings, both Uhler and the south side residence halls, Gibbs also has its downsides. Because it is conveniently close to the Market Place, it is further than other dorms from the academic buildings. The rooms are smaller than those in dorms like Southeast and College View. One other downfall is the limited parking spots in the Complex parking lot.

**North**

The residents of North Hall, located in the middle section of Complex, houses 80 students, most of whom are sophomores. Since Complex is essentially four separate buildings, both Uhler and the south side residence halls.

North is a single-resident building, which makes it the perfect choice for students looking for a quiet environment to study and relax. The hall is equipped with a variety of amenities, including a large kitchen, two bedrooms, a full bathroom, a study area, and a laundry room. The building is also home to the student government and a number of residence life staff, which ensures that students always have someone to turn to for help.

**Uhler**

Uhler Hall, the oldest residential building on campus, provides a wide range of options for students. It offers three sizes of rooms: 2-person rooms and 4-person apartments. Many students prefer this building because of its large open spaces, comfortable furniture, and proximity to the academic buildings. The hall is also equipped with a large kitchen, two bedrooms, a full bathroom, a study area, and a laundry room. The building is also home to the student government and a number of residence life staff, which ensures that students always have someone to turn to for help.

**Southwest**

Gustavus’ newest building, Southwest Hall offers students both apartments and single rooms. The apartments have two bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room, and a bathroom. The single rooms are equipped with a bed, a desk, and a closet. Southwest is also known for its unique design, which features large windows and a centrally located atrium. The atrium is used for a variety of purposes, including study sessions, social gatherings, and events.

**Carlson International Center**

The Carlson International Center is the home for Gustavus’ Crossroads Program and the Russian studies. It is the newest building, and is the most expensive to live in. The building is home to 54 residents, and offers a variety of living options, including single, double, and quad rooms. The building is also equipped with a large computer lab and study area.

**Arbor View**

Located on the south side of campus, Arbor View offers both apartments and single rooms. The apartments have two bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room, and a bathroom. The single rooms are equipped with a bed, a desk, and a closet. Arbor View is also known for its unique design, which features large windows and a centrally located atrium. The atrium is used for a variety of purposes, including study sessions, social gatherings, and events.

**Prairie View**

Prairie View Hall is the newest building, and is the most expensive to live in. The building is home to 54 residents, and offers a variety of living options, including single, double, and quad rooms. The building is also equipped with a large computer lab and study area.

**College View**

College View, home to 430 upper-class students, is well-lit and furnished, and has a large kitchen and living room for students to hang out in. Each apartment also has its own bathroom and private kitchen. The building is also home to a number of events, including concerts, lectures, and social gatherings. The building is also known for its state-of-the-art technology, which includes a high-speed internet connection, a large computer lab, and a TV lounge with a selection of movies and games.
Conservative conscience

What’s next for the Republican Party

The losses that the Republican Party suffered in 2006 and 2008 were devastating. They left many Republicans thinking about what went wrong and commentators proclaiming that the “era of conservatism” was over. The 2008 Republican Primary election saw the party divided among the Paulites, Huckabeeans and McCainaites. Underneath all of this was, and is, the sense that the party has become beholden to the religious right.

After McCain and Obama were nominated, the election played out with McCain trying to appeal to the base, particularly to the Evangelicals who got President Bush elected, while Obama had a simple, yet powerful message of “hope” and “change.” The resulting campaign run by McCain had little to no consistent message (unless you count “Maverick” as a message) and left voters wondering what exactly McCain was going to do. The end of the campaign was the only time when there was a consistent message from the campaign, and that was an accidental one created from the video clip of Joe the Plumber. The resulting message from the McCain campaign was that an Obama victory would lead to wealth redistribution, which turned out to be too little too late, and Obama rolled to victory.

The Republicans were left high and dry, with a minority in the House and Senate, nearly facing a super-majority in the Senate and an Obama White House. This is the situation faced by the Republican Party between now and the midterm election, when 33 Senate seats and 36 gubernatorial positions will be up for grabs. The situation looksgrim, and the Republican National Committee has the task of trying to find the man to chair it over the next two years.

The field has been narrowed down to six candidates: Michael Shelby Steele, the current chairman of GOPAC; Katon Dawson, current chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party; Ken Blackwell, former secretary of state for Ohio; Saul Anuzis, chairman of the Michigan Republican Party; Chip Saltzman, chairman of the Tennessee Republican Party and Mike Duncan, the current chairman of the Republican National Committee. The candidates had a debate shown on C-Span on Jan. 5 that was sponsored by Americans for Tax Reform. After watching it, I believe that three of the candidates have little or no vision for the party. Duncan cannot be elected for a second term, as he was basically appointed at the behest of President Bush. Duncan was nominated, the Republicans should be discussing themselves from the former president. Moreover, he’s a neo-con and the Republican Party has been running as chairman, Republicans have to create a message that appeals to the American public. For the last eight years, the focus has been on social issues, but the problem with this approach is that little can actually be done on these issues; they are either handled within the state or within the judiciary—they are issues across the nation, but not national issues. The policies that Republicans have to focus on are free market solutions to the fiscal problems of the day and other conservative solutions to modern day problems.

One example is McCain’s health care policy. It was actually a good policy; the problem was that he did not articulate it well, and the average person neither knew nor understood the benefits. The reason may very well have been that he and his team did not understand the benefits. It is an indictment on his campaign that he could not articulate those benefits. In order to win any elections in the near future, the Republicans need the passion, vision and leadership of someone at the head of the Republican National Committee. This person then needs to create a message centered on policies that can be achieved and to which the American people can relate. These ingredients must exist for any recipe of success.

God’s Words for a Life of Virtue, Love, Grace and Truth.

Sell not virtue to purchase wealth, nor liberty to purchase power. For liberty is the foundation of understand and abundance.

“Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding”

Proverbs 3:23

Friend in Christ, Tommerdal@aol.com

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CALENDAR

"The Calendar Page is considered editorial. The opinions expressed herein are not the opinions of the Gustavian Weekly, but the expressions and opinions of an immature mind. Readers are advised that none of these rants are to be taken seriously.

Friday, January 23

Radical Abundance: A Theology of Sustainability 8:00 a.m.
It’s about using sustainable resources like wind and water as power sources. That’s already about half the cast from Captain Planet.

First-Year Pool, Table Tennis & Guitar Hero Tournament 6:30 p.m.
And Guitar Hero players are invited to bring girlfriends (real or imaginary).

On-Campus Movie, The Changeling 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
A changeling is a mythical creature swapped out of the cradle in place of a human baby and raised as a human. This explains Steve Buscemi’s existence.

Dodgeball Tournament 7:00 p.m.
Rumor has it the Womyn’s Awareness Center is planning a more politically correct tournament; perhaps a Dodgegurory Tournament.

Casino Night 9:00 p.m.
As long as we don’t break out the tunes from Gags and Dolls, I am there.

Dive Dance 11:00 p.m.
Gusties, please remember to leave non-Gustavus girlfriends (real or imaginary).

Saturday, January 24

First-Year Retreat All Day
But head’s up! Sunday is the First-Year Advance. Tally-ho!

Gymnastics vs. UW-Lacrosse 2:00 p.m.
I bet the Jewish version of UW-Lacrosse is UW-LaStar of David. Get it?

On-Campus Movie, The Changeling 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
Is anyone else terrified by the sheer volume of Angelina Jolie’s lips on the poster for this film? Between her, Renée Zellweger and Scarlett Johansson, I fear I will be eaten alive.

Saturday Night at Lund 10:00 p.m.
As exciting as receiving my grilled cheese sandwich from the cheerleaders last Saturday was... oh wait! They never came.

Sunday, January 25

Nordic Skiing at NCAA Qualifier All Day
With all the ice on this campus, skiing appears to be the most practical method of building-to-building transportation.

Holy Communion 10:00 a.m.
Oh no, what if the altar boy gets called up to the rectory and Chaplain Brian says he stole wine? Then we’ll all have doubts.

Monday, January 26

Body Redemption 12:40 p.m.
After a whole J-Term of sleeping in and stuffing my gut with Cheese Curds, nothing would redeem my body at this point except liposuction.

Crafts in the CVR 3:30 p.m.
There will be so much glitter that Mariah Carey herself will spontaneously combust with envy.

Team Building 7:00 p.m.
Team building? As opposed to individual skills and dreams building? Pshh. Commies.

Tap Dance Class 9:00 p.m.
Based on the teacher’s inability to make it to last week’s session, I’d say the music at this class should feature the artist M.I.A.

Tuesday, January 27

Valleymall Blood Drive 12:40 p.m.
Little known fact: this sport originated when a guy with a lisp couldn’t pronounce “volleyball” correctly.

Team Building 7:00 p.m.
Here’s a question: why did everyone think No Country for Old Men was so awesome? Didn’t everyone else think it was boring as hell? Am I missing something?

First Year Olympics Talent Show 7:00 p.m.
What talent?

The Choir of the West in Concert 7:00 p.m.
It’s a chorus of flying monkeys and Winkie Guards chanting, “Oh-we-ob.” I hope they defy gravity and become very popular.

Kids Against Hunger Silent Auction 7:00 p.m.
How much do Kids Against Hunger go for these days? I would bid about $5,000.

Wednesday, January 28

The Labyrinth: A Walking Meditation 12:40 p.m.
And Pan’s Labyrinth was a freakin’ mind @%&!.

The Alchemist Book Club Meeting 3:30 p.m.
Alchemy is the art of turning any fluid into a universal elixir. This should be right up Nicholas Flamel’s alley.

Game Night in the Dive 7:00 p.m.
Funny, because the Dive’s dance floor is usually where I am told I got the most game.

Yoga 7:00 p.m.
Promoting good health and inspiring creative sex positions for centuries.

Chinese Film Presentation, House of Flying Daggers 3:30 p.m.
Between my mother and myself, I’d say home is more like House of Flying Naggers.

Swing Club 8:30 p.m.
You’ll be swinging like a college co-ed who’s tipsy and eager to experiment while her boyfriend’s out of town.

Thursday, January 29

Fun Thursday 12:40 p.m.
Let me tell you, the morning after Wasted Wednesday is never fun in my experience.

Dean of Students Office Open House 3:30 p.m.
And at 4:00 p.m., the Dean of Students Open House will close. God help the students trapped inside.

Tai Chi 7:00 p.m.
This is the ancient martial art of turning your opponent’s strength against him or her. So in theory the geeks have a better chance than the body builders.

Vocal Diction and Literature Class Recital 7:30 p.m.
I’d go, but I already promised Eliza Doolittle and Prof. Henry Higgins I’d attend their vocal diction recital.

Quotes of the Week

Christine Dombusch: Well, bye! Good luck averting your honor or whatever.

Professor Kevin Byrne: Now I lured you all here with promises of The Sexual Revolution, so let’s discuss the sixties.

Ella Bonner: They’ve got corn dogs in the caf? Dang, now I’m looking forward to lunch!

- the pickle -

The Pickle is is hungry for broomball blood. Give it to me at thepickle@gustavus.edu.
The Gustavus Women’s basketball team is mid-way through its eight game road trip, in which all eight games will be played in a matter of 20 days. The last three games that the Gusties played have proved pivotal in conference play, facing three teams with winning records within the MIAC.

Last Wednesday the squad took a trip to Arden Hills where they squared off against Bethel University. After an evenly played first half, Bethel came out strong in the second, pushing their lead to 51-41 with just under seven minutes remaining.

The Gusties used another 8-0 run to pull within two at 51-49, and a pair of free throws from Junior Katie Layman brought the Gusties within one at 56-55. After a Bethel turnover, Senior Emily Nelson dropped in what proved to be the winning layup with 0.02 left on the clock. Nelson led all Gustavus scorers with 15 while Junior Julia Schultz added 11 points and 5 rebounds. The win puts them in a tie with Concordia for second place in the MIAC with a 7-2 conference record.

The next stop on the road trip was St. Thomas, who sat just a half game behind Gustavus in the conference standings at the time. The Tommies led most of the first half after coming out firing behind a 10-2 run. Gustavus responded with an 11-2 run to close the gap and took a 27-22 lead going into halftime. The second half was all Gustavus as they pieced together a couple of early runs and pushed their lead to the biggest stretch of the night at 41-25, a lead that they wouldn’t relinquish.

Schultz led all scorers with 16 points, and Sophomore Molly Mathiowetz chipped in 13. Junior Brianna Radtke also came up big, grabbing seven rebounds to go along with three assists. The win vaulted Gustavus into a three-way tie atop the MIAC with St. Ben’s and Concordia, all of whom have identical records of 8-2. This past Monday the Gusties took a trip up to St. Joseph, hoping to break the first place tie and stay at the top of the MIAC. The first half was evenly matched once again, while both teams struggled to score, but the Gusties were able to fight through the chilly shooting and took a 26-25 point lead into halftime.

From there it was all downhill for Gustavus, with St. Ben’s scoring the first eight points of the second half. Turnovers and cold shooting plagued the Gusties and proved too much to overcome. Gustavus shot only 39.6 percent from the floor in the second half, and St. Ben’s pushed their lead to 17, eventually winning 68-45. Nelson was the only Gustavus player to reach double digits, scoring 10 points and pulling down 6 rebounds.

The Gusties have been struggling with their shooting percentage over the last couple games, shooting only 33.5 percent from the floor in the last three games. Defense has helped to weather the storm, though, as Gustavus has been forcing an impressive mark of 22.3 turnovers per game this season, including 13.7 steals per game to hold a 6.9 turnover margin over their opponents. “We are definitely a team that focuses on our defensive play, and are very aggressive when it comes to putting pressure on the ball and making sure we get into passing lanes,” said Mathiowetz, attributing the turnovers to their defensive pressure.

“It is an all around team effort and requires everyone to be aware of what is happening on and off the ball,” said Layman.

Gustavus currently sits in third place in the MIAC with a conference record of 8-3 while holding an overall record of 10-4. Gustavus played Carleton the night of Wednesday, Jan. 21, and will continue its road trip Saturday Jan. 24 at 1:00 p.m. as part of a Women’s/Men’s double header.

The Forgotten Midwest?

Andy Keenan
Sports Editor

Sportscenter re-runs and Sunday afternoon football games are as much a part of college life as Facebook, five-dollar footlongs and Keystone Light, but there is a glaring lapse in the journalistic sports voice that is undeniably biased and is dampening the National view of professional athletics. Having had the benefit of growing up in Minnesota, a small-market located in America’s heartland, the big market washout emphasized by the East Coast markets especially, has been apparent over the past few years.

Take the Wild Card round match-ups two weeks ago, for example, when the Vikings played host to the Philadelphia Eagles. In the week between the regular season finale and the weekend’s first round playoff games, ESPN spent the majority of its air time on its affiliated stations matching up that weekend’s games. Only three of the eight teams playing that weekend, the Vikings, Cardinals and Chargers, didn’t come from an East Coast market, and when being discussed on the air, the hired football personalities regurgitated the most shallow and basic aspects of these teams, Minnesota and Arizona especially. Had San Diego not won their final five games and benefited from the Broncos grand crumbling in the home stretch, they would have been at the same mericles. For the Cardinals, a lot of time was spent on their offense, especially the MVP talk of Kurt Warner, and for the Purple, all efforts were spent on the praising of Adrian Peterson and the importance of the mentally impotent Tarvaris Jackson.

This bias extends even further. When the New England Patriots ran the table in the regular season last year, numerous segments of all national newscasts and papers devoted to their chase of history. The boys in Bristol focused more and more time on them every week, comparing them to the greatest teams in history and essentially handing them the Lombardi Trophy after Week 14. This season, the Tennessee Titans won their first ten games and despite covering and analyzing how they were winning, the “National Sports Leaders’” effort wasn’t close to equivalent. There was no comparison of their ball-hawking defense to the Steel curtain. No over dramatizing of the mental state of Vince Young and the revival of Kerry Collins.

This bias isn’t confined to a single sport, either. The Timberwolves are 6-1 since the start of 2009 and have won 8 of their last 11 games, giving a team that started 4-15 before canning Randy Wittman a light of optimism. Now, had this same winning streak happened in New York, Washington, Philadelphia or another East Coast basketball club, there would be much more of a buzz surrounding the team and, if they would continue these successful ways, much time in the future would be spent on their tandem.

On the other hand, a lot of negative attention is avoided by this bias. Had the Knicks traded away future All-Star O.J. Mayo on draft day instead of the Wolves, the New York papers would have bi-weekly comparisons between Mayo and Kevin Love, highlighted by Mayo’s impressive scoring average and Love’s perpetual ups and downs, while ripping Mike Miller as a bust thus far for not being the comparable offensive threat the trade promised. While it is nice to avoid the excessive negativity, the lack of deserved heralding is quite frustrating.

The next time you watch Sportscenter, pay attention to the amount of segmented time spent on Big East basketball, the AL/NL East Hot Stove reports and the Eastern Conference elites as opposed to WCHA Hockey, the Big Ten or any NBA team not playing in California or Texas. Beware, though, the ratios may explode your possession of a Yankee’s hat, obsession with LeBron James or why you may feel compelled to pencil in Georgetown, Pitt, Connecticut and Syracuse in the Final Four of your bracket come March.

Gustavus hang tough in competitive MIAC

After splitting pivotal conference road games, beating St. Thomas and falling to conference-leading St. Ben’s, the Gusties are still in striking distance of first place.