Gustavus makes it count

Community service and philanthropy at the heart of Greek organizations

“People tend to focus on the negative portrayals of the social aspects of Greek life that they see in movies and on TV,” Junior Social Studies Education Major Karen Rogotzke said. Most people don’t realize that the social aspect of Greek life at Gustavus is over shadowed by their volunteering and community service. This common misconception is just one of the many stereotypes faced by students that chose to pledge Greek organizations.

Gustavus is home of nine recognized sororities and fraternities to which 15 percent of students belong. During students’ careers at Gustavus, they have most likely spotted these groups around campus or out in the St. Peter community. The volunteering aspect of Greek life tends to be one of the deciding factors for those who choose to pledge.

“People involved in Greek life are highly involved on campus and in the community through service and philanthropy,” Rogotzke said. The Greek system has been in charge of many campus activities at Gustavus, including raising money and awareness for diabetes, holding a yearly Breast Cancer Convention and collecting food for those who can’t afford it. Being involved in the Greek system takes time, energy and dedication to improving the school and the community. The commitment can be overwhelming.

Pledging overlapped with swimming, so balancing pledging, school, homework, swimming and sleep was really difficult. But in the end it was very worth it,” Sophomore Jill Rykken said. Belonging to a sorority or fraternity is not just about parties or social status. It is about building lasting friendships that change lives and inspire community awareness. According to Sophomore Emily Hoene, who pledged the Delta this fall, one of the most rewarding experiences about rushing a sorority has been “becoming extremely close to her pledge class.”

Greek life takes on many different meanings for each person. “Greek life is a bunch of guys working together to better the community and themselves,” Junior Health Fitness Major Dain Clausen said. Some students decide to pledge to meet new people and make lasting friendships. “[A few friends and I decided to pledge] because we thought it would be a great way to meet 50 amazing...
A report was filed with Campus Safety of damage to a car while parked on campus the previous week.

Tuesday, Oct. 6

Five students while in Pittman Hall were cited by Campus Safety for Drug and Narcotic violations. One student was cited for paraphernalia possession. One student was cited with a Social Host violation. A student in North Hall was cited for underage consumption.

An off-age student while in College View was cited for drinking in a non-designated area.

Wednesday, Oct. 7

Campus Safety responded to a Medical assist in Pittman Hall.

Thursday, Oct. 8

Three students while in Pittman Hall were cited for an underage consumption of alcohol violation. Two students were cited for failure to comply with a College official.

Sunday, Oct. 11

A student was charged with underage consumption in Nolelius Hall.

Tip of the Week: Protecting yourself at home

- Lock your door, even when you intend to return home shortly or even if you are just going down the hall. It takes a thief ten seconds or less to enter an open room and steal your property.
- Lock or secure doors and windows when you are alone or asleep. Keep emergency numbers by your phone.
- Do not leave messages on your door indicating that you are away and when you will return.
- Do not let strangers enter dormitory or premises. Do not prop open outer doors.
- If someone asks to use your phone for an emergency call, offer to telephone for them instead of allowing them access.
- Do not put your address on your key ring.
- Know your neighbors.
- Do not leave keys in hiding places. Thieves will find them. Carry your keys or make sure that anyone who truly needs them has their own copy.
- Call 911 to report suspicious persons or activity in or around your neighborhood.
- Open a savings or checking account instead of keeping money in your room. Keep automatic teller machine cards in a safe place, keep your PIN number secret. Some charge cards insure property purchased with those cards against loss, theft or damage.
- If you find yourself in immediate danger, call 911 or 8888. Try to stay calm and get away at the first opportunity.

What do Superman, Ben Franklin and Barbara Walters all have in common?

They were all journalists.

Join the Weekly. E-mail weekly@gustavus.edu.
Diwali illuminates Carlson International Center

Stephanie Duley
Staff Writer

A utumn celebrations for most students at Gustavus focus on Halloween and Thanksgiving. However, autumn is also a time when the Hindu festival of lights, Diwali, is celebrated throughout the world. This festival means something different to various South Asian cultures and is celebrated by following different customs and traditions. For many it marks the beginning of the New Year, as the Hindu calendar follows a lunar calendar. Hindu New Year is traditionally celebrated for five days after the 13th day of the dark half of the lunar month. One of the most common ways in which this day is recognized is by lighting small, earthenware lamps filled with oil and arranging them in rows along the parapets of houses or temples. The world Diwali comes from the Sanskrit word dipavali, which means “row of lights.”

The fourth evening of Diwali when the new moon is present is recognized is by lighting small, earthenware lamps filled with oil and arranging them in rows along the parapets of houses or temples. The word Diwali comes from the Sanskrit word dipavali, which means “row of lights.”

The fourth evening of Diwali when the new moon is present is traditionally when the New Year begins. Diwali is also a time for people to visit friends and family, exchange gifts, decorate their homes, feast and set off fireworks. Gambling is also encouraged during this time to help ensure good luck in the year ahead.

This year the Crossroads organization has an event planned to celebrate Diwali at Gustavus.

Most of the places that celebrate Diwali have similar aspects to the celebration itself, but maybe a different variation of the story of why they celebrate it. We will be combining many of the traditional aspects of Diwali into one fun night, along with some variations on the traditional [aspects],” Sophomore Britney Raasch said.

This will be the third year that the Crossroads program has organized a Diwali celebration on campus. The event will feature: “food sampling, colorful decorations, some fun activities and a movie,” Raasch said.

The event will be held at the Carlson International Center this Saturday from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The Crossroads program at Gustavus has hosted many fun and informative events on campus, like the day of fasting to celebrate the season of Ramadan. Crossroads events are attended by a diverse group of students.

“As global citizens, I think it is important that we learn about cultures other than our own. This is a fun and easy way to do that,” Raasch said.

“Updates” from page 1

“We collaborated on the template. They had some ideas. They took a lot of input from us on what we thought would happen in terms of making it wider, and other things we have been wanting to do for a long time,” Web Communications Coordinator Jerry Nowell said.

“They were great to work with. [We are] very fortunate to have them as our consultant for this project,” Nowell said.

“It was probably the smoothest collaboration we have ever had,” Technical Web Coordinator Joe Lencioni said.

“Some of the feedback that we have gathered over the years is that our homepage and other pages were text heavy [and] lacked a certain visual element. I think what this design attempt is to do is to portray the core values more visually. It [tries] to showcase the vibrancy of this campus,” Nowell said.

Many students have noticed these changes.

“I like how clean it is. I like the graphics and the pan quite a bit. I look forward to the rest of it changing because it is weird that it is in two different formats right now,” Senior Environmental Studies Major Scott Engelman said.

“I think it looks more professional than the old one,” Junior English Major Mel Rasch said.

“We think this is a step forward, and we’re really excited about it,” Lencioni said.

Story Campaign

The College is also launching a campaign to collect and share stories that depict the Gustavus experience and will be increasing its use of social media websites.

“We really want to take advantage of social networking to help the audience get involved in the storytelling. One of the things about the ‘Make Your Life Count’ concept is that we hope it is broad enough and flexible enough that people will be able to share stories of other people who do that convey the richness of the community,’ Freed said.

Social media is already a large part of the new website already. “I think there was a big push to incorporate social media in the design. We have done that on the alumni page, and we have links on the homepage to Flickr and to Facebook. There are other resources. You don’t have to come to Gustavus to be a part of the Gustavus community [and] share photos and stories, things these other services do a great job of already,” Nowell said.

Freed suggests that anyone who knows of a story that they think should be shared should contact Stacia Vogel, stacia@gustavus.edu, who is working to collect stories.

Moving Forward with the Website

The rest of the website will be moved over to the new template as soon as possible, but it will take time. Gustavus’ website contains more than 50,000 pages. The Web Team is currently working to move key pages, such as pages on the top navigation bar, departmental pages and the athletics pages.

The Web Team appreciates feedback throughout the process. “We love feedback, whether it’s positive or negative, or anything. We just like to hear what people think,” Lencioni said.

Anyone can leave feedback by clicking the red “Feedback” button on the left hand side of pages on the new template or the button at the top of pages that have not yet been converted.
Over the Homecoming Weekend, the Gustavus Board of Trustees took action on a number of major projects, including Commission Gustavus 150 and the new academic building. The actions of the Board set the stage for Gustavus’ growth over the next several years.

The Board tentatively approved work on the new academic building to begin in the spring or early summer this year and to be completed by the 2011-2012 school year. The Board will be presented with cost estimates and a fundraising plan at its January meeting.

“We resumed working on the bidding and construction documents last spring. These will be completed over the next couple months and we solicit bids in December,” Director of Physical Plant Warren Wunderlich said. “At the same time, the administration will develop a fundraising and financing plan for this project and related projects. This, along with the final costs of the project will be brought to the Board again in January for the final approval.”

The Board also asked that it be presented with plans for the West Mall for the remodeling of the Anderson Social Science Center. With the building of the new academic building, the West Mall will begin to take shape. It will be bordered by the new academic building on one side and Olin, Carlson International Center, and Southwest Hall on the other.

The wind turbine project also took a step forward. The Board asked the College to seek a variance from the Nicollet County Board of Commissioners, who recently passed an ordinance that keeps Gustavus from building a wind turbine. By seeking a variance, the College is looking to build a turbine on campus. However, if the County Board doesn’t approve the variance, the College is exploring the option of building a wind turbine at another location.

The Board also finalized the Commission Gustavus 150 recommendations, consolidating the list from 439 recommendations to 244. According to the Commission website, similar recommendations were merged to arrive at the final list.

The final list of recommendations were prioritized into three tiers: recommendations that should be acted on within three years, six years and ten years, respectively. They were also placed into several categories, including Cultural Perspectives, Lifelong Engagement and Tangible Resources.

The Board also began work on a Governance Task Force, headed by Trustee Mark Bernhardson. The Task Force has been charged to reexamine the Board’s membership, how it governs and how the Board communicates with the Gustavus Community.

“I decided to pledge because I really wanted to be more involved on campus. I also wanted to give back to the community. I know that the Greek system is the best opportunity to do good for the surrounding community,” Sophomore Abbey Burkel said.

Every member of the Greek system has his or her own reason for joining a sorority or fraternity. But they all work toward one common goal: to support their community, their school and most importantly, each other.

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Gustie of the Week:

Professor Doug Huff: A true Renaissance man

Katie Volney  
Staff Writer

Playwright, teacher, writer, philosopher. Each of these can be used to describe Professor of Philosophy Doug Huff. He leads a life driven by the pursuit of knowledge and finds immeasurable joy in sharing that knowledge with others.

After graduating from Concordia College, Moorhead with a B.A. in English and political science in 1966, Huff went on to further his educational experience at the University of Missouri-Columbia, leaving with a Ph. D. in philosophy in 1974. He also attended Harvard University, where he studied educational management.

In addition to his successful teaching career in the Philosophy Department here at Gustavus, Huff is also a talented playwright and author. He has written several publications for academic journals and encyclopedias, including one entitled “Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Life and Work” for the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy. Another of his works, “The Nature of the Physical Universe,” is the text of a lecture delivered by Omer Prewett and him at the 1976 Nobel Conference.

Huff is also a distinguished playwright. His dramas have been performed all over the U.S. and the globe. Some of his works include Ophelia, Hungry Ghosts and The Blind Venetian, all of which were performed in several theaters across the nation. Several of his plays have garnered awards, including A Far Shore, winner of the 2009 Mario Fratti-Fred Newman Political Playwriting Contest, and Jean Paul Savage and the Reichenbach Fall, winner of the 1993 Gilmore Creek National Playwriting Competition.

Perhaps his most famous work is Emil’s Enemies, a play based on the incredible story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his resistance to the Nazi regime in Hitler’s Germany. It has been performed all over the world, from India to England, and is set to take the stage again in Santa Fe, NM, on Feb. 19, 2010. Another of Huff’s upcoming works is a comedy entitled The National Endowment that features several Gustavus professors and other staff members. The play is a comedy about a small Midwestern liberal arts college. A staged reading of the play will take place Friday, Oct. 16 and Saturday, Oct. 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Peter Arts Center. Tickets are free to students on Friday and $3 on Saturday.

Apart from his numerous playwriting awards, Huff has also won several teaching awards during his career, including the Swenson-Bunn Award for Teaching Excellence in 2005 and the Edgar M. Carlson Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1992. Now in his 36th year at Gustavus, Huff insists that his time spent here has been wonderful, and he plans to teach for ten more years if his health permits.

He credits his students and colleagues with his positive experience. “I’ve been so blessed [with my students],” Huff said.

His students hold the same sentiment toward their professor. “With his always classy attire, acerbic wit and excruciatingly sarcastic humor his classes are never dull. He’s more of a legend than a professor even now. His tales are whispered across campus in hushed, excited tones,” Senior English Major Ryan McGinty said, who is one of Huff’s students. “A student has not had the full Gustavus experience until they’ve taken a class from Doug Huff.”

When he isn’t in the classroom, Huff enjoys attending the Nobel Conference and working out in Lund. He is particularly fond of Chapel as well, especially the choir music and the variety of speakers.

Huff teaches many classes on campus, including his Ancient Philosophy class.

Huff stands in for a performer during a rehearsal of his play A National Endowment.

Huff teaches many classes on campus, including his Ancient Philosophy class.

Professor Doug Huff is well-known on campus by both students and staff alike for being not only charismatic, but also having a strong desire to pass his knowledge on to others.
The Gustavus Forensics team on a path to success

Krystal Bundy
Staff Writer

No, it has nothing to do with CSI. Nor does it have anything to do with gore of any type—except maybe loosely that of the Al variety. Actually, the Gustavus Forensics team is more about learning and teaching about current issues and less about creepy body tissues, more about expressing opinions and less about—well, you get the picture.

So far this year, the non-criminologists have started strong. They won third place in Palatine, IL, as well as second place during the K-State Swing. The team took third and fourth place on Sept. 26, 2009 and fourth place on Sept. 27, 2009 in Palatine, IL. During K-State Swing, Oct. 3-4, the team took second place both days.

“We describe the first season as a marathon,” Senior History and Communication Studies Major Mary Cunningham said. “I worked behind the scenes getting our name out and to raise awareness about GLBT issues,” Baden said.

Sibhly Mattson, a junior English major, is also helping to coordinate and set up the Drag Show.

“The show is a blast! The Drag Show is a great opportunity for us to all just break out, relax and have a great time. Men in heels, girls in bling, likely some Lady Gaga. I need not go on,” Mattson said.

“The show is our big event that finishes Coming Out Week with a bang. It’s always been our tradition to hold it at the end of the week so that our week of conversation, education and activism ends on a strong, fun note,” Junior Psychology Major and Co-President of Q&A Josh Plattner said.

“Every moment I’m with them is a memorable moment,” Senior Communication Studies Major Alex Brakke said.

Unlike a marathon, however, forensics integrates a lot of teamwork. Speaking is an individual activity, but the preparation involves the entire team. There are many individual aspects to forensics, including the categories of Impromptu Speaking, Informative Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Persuasive Speaking and After-Dinner Speaking, to name a few. Essentially, when you make a speech, you are on your own in front of a crowd. You spend a lot of time doing research independently. You write your own speech, but then the team comes together and helps you make it better.

“The team is like a family. [It] really joined forces, and they helped me get my piece to a better place.”

–Kate Bissen

Just like a marathon, forensics takes a lot of training. Kris Kracht, director of forensics, said that it requires approximately 20 hours of preparation time each week in order to get ready for a forensics meet, which then takes up an entire weekend. Many of the Forensics team members agree that being involved in forensics is like taking an additional course.

Marathons also call for mastery of multiple disciplines. “Forensics is a liberal arts education in an activity,” Cunningham said.

“The team is like a family. They really joined forces, and they helped me get my piece to a better place.”

–Kate Bissen

Gustavus Forensics team has already distinguished itself this year in many competitions. The team took third and fourth place in Palatine, IL, as well as second place during the K-State Swing.

“Every moment I’m with them is a memorable moment.”

–Alex Brakke

This weekend from Saturday, Oct. 17 to Sunday, Oct. 18, the Gustavus Forensics team will compete in the Minnesota River Swing at MSU-Mankato and at our own Gustavus Adolphus College.
Yo La Tengo shreds at First Avenue

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, Yo La Tengo gave a live two-hour performance at First Avenue in downtown Minneapolis. They performed songs off their new album Popular Songs as well as some of their old material.

Hubley along with bassist James McNew took the stage and played a two-hour show that demonstrated their penchant for variety. Opener Cheap Time played alternative inflected ‘80s rock. The bassist even had hair a la Poison or Def Leppard. When they announced they were from Nashville, their whole sound made a lot more sense, but they still seemed out of place at the show. The initial song was mildly enjoyable, but after ten minutes I wasn’t sure if they had played four songs or one long song. Mercifully they did not banter or speak much and pounded out derivative song after derivative song before concluding their brief set. Laid back was the watchword of the entire evening. Many all-ages concerts include swarms of concert newbies who show up at First Avenue as soon as the doors open only to wait an hour or more for the music to start. The Yo La Tengo fanbase consists of savvy (some might say “old”) concertgoers. I would say the average age was 30+. This kept things enjoyably relaxed and not too rowdy at any point, which made for an enjoyable evening.

Finally at 10:30 p.m. Yo La Tengo took the stage to modest; yet excited applause and tore into the fifteen-minute “The Glitter is Gone” off their new album Popular Songs. Kaplan showed off his famous guitar histrionics, flailing and tossing his red Stratocaster furiously, creating unearthly welps and shrieks that incongruously meshed well with McNew’s driving and repetitive bass. The band continued the volume assault with louder songs before quieting things down with the more soothing “Summer of the Shark,” a request from the audience.

The band was accessible and likeable, conversing with the crowd, taking requests and pausing at one point to repair a bass strap with duct tape on stage. Yo La Tengo started its career in 1984, and the many varied terrains and genres explored in their lengthy tenure were on full display as the band played everything from long jammy noise freakouts to quiet poppy folk songs. All three members shared vocal duties, from Kaplan’s hushed, subdued vocals to McNew’s Neil Young-esque warble on “Stockholm Syndrome.” Hubley stepped out from behind the drumset to sing a few songs herself and accompanied Kaplan on a cover of Daniel Johnston’s “Speeding Motorcycle.”

Inspecting the set list from the Chicago show the night prior, it seemed that Yo La Tengo would do two encores, one acoustic and one longer electrified one. Indeed, when they returned to the stage the first time, Kaplan had a set list in hand that appeared lengthy. I speculate they got cut short because the final song was a strange one with which to end. In addition, several of the band’s superhits (“Autumn Sweater,” “Sugarcube”) had yet to be played. I would not let this damper the show, which was amazing, but it still was a bit frustrating. The fact that a two-hour show had what felt like an abrupt ending is illustrative of how enjoyable the concert was. I was engrossed the whole time and likely would never have been satisfied with it being over. Three out of three crowns for surpassing my hopes for the night and putting on a fantastic show in my favorite venue.

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

The Love you are Given.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Romans 6:8

Galatians 2:20

Hold dear in your heart the teachings of the Bible. For scripture of yesterday is today in thought, word and deed. It is not generational, but everlasting.

Friend in Christ, Tommerdahl@aol.com
There is a new group on campus that is causing quite the commotion. Founded by Junior Philosophy and Geology Major Jonathan Monk and Junior Philosophy Major Elizabeth Torres, The Musical B.A.R. has plans to bring music to you.

In the spirit of raising the musical culture at Gustavus, the name of the group is a perfect fit. Not just a metaphorical bar, the name plays on music and the idea that “a bar is a social place to gather and share ideas,” Monk said. And in this case, it’s a social atmosphere for musicians on campus to be heard.

The Musical B.A.R. is “a collective of students who love music, [among] towards raising the musical bar on campus by social networking with other students, the community and through [seeking] philanthropic opportunities,” Monk said. “B.A.R. stands for Birth And Raising of music on campus.”

The group meets periodically to discuss new options and outlets for performance, and currently 45-50 musicians are involved.

Monk came up with the idea last year. “There needed to be a connection between musicians in Gustavus ensembles and musicians outside of Gustavus ensembles,” he said.

After sharing this idea with friends, “just kind of evolved from there,” Torres said.

Monk basically said, “I’m going to create an organization where music can flourish.” The organization is his brainchild, and it has been good to see it come to fruition. I remember when it was just an idea, and now [it] seems real as a tangible entity,” Senior History Major and Musical B.A.R. member Keegan Fraley said. “[He created] and currently 45-50 musicians are involved.

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There is nothing quite comparable to playing music live. It gives you an opportunity to hone your performance skills and exhibit songs you’ve written. The Open B.A.R. events are perfect for this. Atmospherically, they are extremely laid-back and musicians have a lot of control over their live presentation,” Fraley said.

“Regardless of your skill level or your preferred style of music, if you have always wanted to start a group, tackle a few performances as a solo artist, or need to find a specific musician to collaborate with, the B.A.R. can be a useful tool,” said Torres. “It is as simple as it sounds; the Musical B.A.R. is a good place for anyone wanting to make music.”

“Playing in the Homecoming Variety Show opened a new dimension of music for me. I had a spectacular time playing. It was nice to have a full band backing me up. It was a new dimension of music for me,” Junior Management and Health Fitness Major Keith Linne said. Open B.A.R. kicked off in September with an open concert in The Dive. Student musician Linne performed a few songs with his acoustic guitar.

“Regardless of your skill level or your preferred style of music, if you have always wanted to start a group, tackle a few performances as a solo artist, or need to find a specific musician to collaborate with, the B.A.R. can be a useful tool,” said Torres. “It is as simple as it sounds; the Musical B.A.R. is a good place for anyone wanting to make music.”

“I loved it. Opening night at The Dive was almost both as a performer and a spectator,” Linne said. “Monk sought me out [to join the group]. … I liked the idea of it, but had a lot going on. I kept biding myself to get involved, and couldn’t turn him down. Even though I thought I would be short on time, I gave it a shot and I love it.”

Also performing in September was student band Tymensaurus in F4k. This band includes Sophomore drummer Dan Enright, Senior English Major and guitarists/vocalists Matt Bechey, Senior History Major and guitarist Steve Palm and bassist/i-she. Fraley said, “There is nothing quite comparable to playing music live. It gives you an opportunity to hone your performance skills and exhibit songs you’ve written. The Open B.A.R. events are perfect for this. Atmospherically, they are extremely laid-back and musicians have a lot of control over their live presentation,” Fraley said.

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“You need to be involved in something,” Linne said. “Monk sought me out [to join the group]. … I liked the idea of it, but had a lot going on. I kept biding myself to get involved, and couldn’t turn him down. Even though I thought I would be short on time, I gave it a shot and I love it.”

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Emperor Norton's Patent of Nobility

If Thomas Edison hadn't invented his infernal lights I might still believe in God

by Steve Palmer

If there were to be one thing that could make me believe in God or a higher power of some sort, or to at least inspire some intense spiritual thought, it would be an unadulterated, uninhibited view of the night sky. When I see a great view of the stars, I am inspired to ponder life more intensely. The hustle of college life and civilized society do a good job of causing us to forget to consider the true limits of our existence, but by transitive property, will consider our own property, will consider our own environment makes us gain a hubris that has pervaded society and humankind. We tell our computers what to do and they do it. We drive our cars where we want, and if we can't get our car around a mountain, we can blow a tunnel right through it and keep driving. We think we are in complete control. But wait, we could be snuffed out in four seconds flat, like the dinosaurs, with a massive rock from space. We have no control.

Obviously the structure of our lives can't be changed easily. But it is far too easy to become wrapped up in incidents and activities. The hustle of college life and civilized life in general grounds us to a point where we consider Earth the limits of all existence and to not consider anything beyond the bubble in which we live. This can be destructive, for not only will we consider Earth as the limits of existence, but by transitive property, will consider our own lives and selves as all that exists, leading to a lack of empathy for other human beings.

What if the Chapel spire were turned off one night a month, on a night with the waning moon, so we could truly get a good view of the night sky? I feel this could spark some true spiritual examination among somebody other than me.

continued on page 12

Pant pant, sniff sniff, slurp slurp. The life of a dog could teach us all something.

RootZoo through Creative Commons

We're all doomed from the start, really. Not just as individuals, but as a species, as earth dwellers, as a cognitive part of the universe.

continued on page 12

You can almost see this at Gustavus, but light pollution prevents a clear view.
Wonder-ful Leaf a note

Rebecca Hohag
Staff Writer

As the leaves of many text books flip by, let’s admit, pre-mature burning have arrived atop the Hill! Freshly sharpened pencils and skills, new smiles and old remind us that it is a time of renewal and illumination of new paths. Leaves tumble down from their branches; one unique one nudged itself like a notion, very well it will be used. The world kinda sucks. Like this is something we can all relate to. The world kinda sucks. Right after I catch up with all my friends and loved ones, party it up and study sometime in there…

Stuffed like the scarecrows in the Arboretum, our minds can feel ready to burst with facts, celebration and, shall we say, light studying?

Life is a rhythm of learning, application and rest comes in countless forms of creativity—shapes, colors and melodies. In their autumn colors, leaves are uplifted from their comfy tree limbs and set dancing into the midst by the gusts. Ensconced in our comfy, crunchy and full nests of to-do lists and sticky notes, could making our own enlivening sticky-notes with things like “take a break” or “breathe in a couple deep breaths” or “go for a walk!” be more fitting?

Perhaps the reminder comes in soft forms of the leaves cascading down across the sidewalk or gathering along the Arboretum’s paths, waiting to cheer on the joggers and late night strollers. Maybe it’s someone wearing a Center for Vocational Education (CVR) t-shirt, daring to ask “What brings you joy?” What a splendid conversation starter those shirts are!

These shirts were given out by the CVR in an effort to reach out to first-year students and, more broadly, dare to ask the big questions in life. Answers to these questions are not tucked away in neat little boxes, waiting to be handed out to the first 50 or the 50 brightest or busiest people. The CVR is a room in the Student Union where these questions can be asked, dwelled on. Sometimes it is a place for doing nothing—maybe glancing at a fun book or napping on the embracing couch is just what we need. Check out the Chill Out and Wellness Fair in November to sit back and chill out!

How about making sticky-notes “joy-full” instead of just “full.” Finding rest and relaxation (the oldies say “R and R”) and feeling enlivened is a part of growing into ourselves and into our lifestyles. How will we shine and exclaim joy with the exuberant leaves?

In the meantime, keep watch for those neon CVR t-shirts. Those questions are there for a reason! Ever notice how the crispy leaves rarely scuttle across the ground alone? Walking across campus and in the Arboretum, the maples are turning together. In more consistent autumns, the gingko leaves turn yellow and fall nearly at the same time. It is as if they coordinate the leap of faith together, twirling down to their new place in the earth. There, they will continue to nourish the life of the next spring. These leaves come and go, their rhythm of color change ebbing and flowing with time. The season will come and go and the responsibilities and maintenance will continue, but hearts will rhythmically enliven us as constantly as the leaves change.

Examining life

Life sucks, but in the meantime I’ll…

Alex Legeros
Staff Writer

Work. Try. Live. Have fun. Drink. Run. I don’t know. Maybe all of these answers, and maybe plenty of others too. How do we know how to deal with this shitty world? A better question: how do we deal with it the right way?

Ok, so I may have just jumped off the high dive before testing the waters with you, but I feel like this is something we can all relate to. The world kinda sucks. Let’s face it, the world, at the very most, is a composite of not-perfect things that are supposed to teach us about what is right and what is wrong. Perhaps one can think this is the “best of all possible worlds,” in that at least we glimpse what “the good life” could be and have a chance, albeit a minute one, to grasp at it.

However, many of us do not tend to take the world at its best and rather recognize the world for how screwed up it is. Bad things happen. Not just today, not just in remote parts of the world, but here and now and all the time. Worse, perhaps, is that we ourselves do “bad” things. So what if I grabbed for my cell phone when a friend I don’t really talk to walked past in order to avoid even looking at him or her—everyone does it, and it’s not really that bad either.

But we also all want to have a conception of a “right” or “just” universe, one that is good, one where gangs don’t slay children in Chicago on their way to school over arbitrarily defined turf wars, or at least a world where if this happens, we hold responsible those who do it.

Let me tell you first hand: as a philosophy major, I have some experience looking at conceptions of “how the world is,” or “how we should be.” There really isn’t much hope. I could tell you that absolute ultimate good is out there, and all you need to do is search for it and ye shall find and it will change the world forever for the good. But you’d also have to cross many a bridge in order to convince anyone you’re right. In the words of American Philosopher William James, “Although all men will insist on being spoken to by the universe in some way, very few insist on being spoken to in the same way.”

For instance, how do you know other people even exist? Can you not doubt that the world around you is merely an illusion (a consistent but nevertheless persistent one), and can you prove anyone to have a mind and consciousness predetermined responses to any potential question and situation)? Let’s even grant that you’re right. Say you’ve found the ultimate explanation for everything; what now? Perhaps you assume that once you’ve explained everything...
Ghost riding the whip is another way to liberate yourself from the drudgery of life.

“Life sucks” from page 11

thing, you’d know what to do, but if you’ve explained everything and the meaning behind it, what part of life is there left to live?

Isn’t there some emotional emptiness in that conclusion, in that once you have all the answers, the meaning is taken out of the acting out of life? Are you happy with your explanation of everything? Does it really have any meaning behind it that applies to you and your meager existence?

We all like to think that even though we are floating on a tiny blue marble in the (almost) infinite vastness of space and time, we matter. If we don’t matter, we get into some really sticky murky areas where our purpose seems only to reproduce and continue the species, if indeed life itself has any purpose whatsoever.

So you have to believe life does have a purpose. Belief is critical and necessary if we’re going to step beyond this void. Think of belief like a working hypothesis: you believe that something may be true, and then you test it. As James would say, some hypothesis can be refuted in minutes, while others, like religion, defy the ages.

Simply because something cannot be proven today does not mean it to be invaluable either. In fact, what you believe in does not have to come to fruition in your experience or in your lifetime. The beauty of belief is that it helps you come to conclusions, come to a sense of value, because it also ratifies them. Say you can’t do well on a test, and likely you shall not. Believe something is wrong, and it stops you from doing it, regardless of whether that action is wrong in itself.

To conclude abruptly, life sucks, but in the meantime I’ll … find something to believe in.

“Saddles” from page 10

According to the theory of entropy, all of the energy in the universe will slowly dissipate until nothing moves anymore. Kaput. Forget fossil fuels. The universe is running on empty.

Now, here’s where I am berated with comments about my insufficient knowledge of entropy, thermodynamics, physics at large, ecology, philosophy, theology, or my disregard for religion and, namely, God.

No one can know if God exists or not. But I assert that I do know one thing for certain. The Earth, as astronomer Carl Sagan put it so eloquently, is nothing more than a Pale Blue Dot.

He was referring to an image taken of earth by Voyager I from record distance in 1990, showing the earth to be a microscopic dot against the incomprehensible vastness of space. Of this dot, Sagan remarked, “The earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that in glory and in triumph they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot … Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark.”

Insignificant? Maybe. But what defines something as significant? What makes our dot less relevant than any other dot? As I proposed earlier, nothing has ultimate meaning. Ultimately, no one living currently, and probably no one living ever will at any time understand more than a fraction of the universe. Quantitatively, we will always be dwarfed by the universe. May its mysteries always tower above us.

But there is one thing that we do know, and I think it is better than knowing everything. We exist. Maybe everything around us is illusion, and no one else is real, and maybe even we have no

self, but at least some non-existing self is fooled into believing it is an existing self. Maybe Sagan was wrong about us having no privileged position in the universe. Because I’d sure as hell rather be a lowly indifference than having myself as a nebulae that has existed for millions of human lifetimes but doesn’t even realize that it is such an ominous and mysterious thing, that doesn’t even realize that it doesn’t even realize that it doesn’t even realize.

So because we can even wonder if life has meaning, I think we are entitled to say that it does. Maybe it is to stick your head out a car window and feel the earth spinning. Maybe it is to go to college to get a job to earn money. Maybe it is to divide your day into three equal portions of sleep, work, and World of Warcraft. Maybe it is simply whatever you choose to do. You may compare your meaning of life with that of others, and you may find yours wanting. But life only loses meaning when you say it does.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, Oct. 16</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Coming Out Week Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Out All Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hmm ... I have been noticing a lot of confused looking escape artists around campus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Daily Chapel</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christ Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I think the reason Christianity is so popular is that everyone can imagine Jesus liking their music. For instance, give him a trucker hat and he looks like a country fan, or give him ripped jeans and Chucks and he's into punk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Fireside Chat</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Melva Lind Interpretive Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fireside Chat? Kick'n, I'll go get my black robe and sacrificial goat. Oh ... chat ... That could be fun too... I guess.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Saturday Night in Lund</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lund Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>They'll be showing the <em>Pirates of the Caribbean</em> and the sneak peek to the fourth movie where Jack Sparrow discovers all the boats are on rails, the gold is plastic and fat tourists in mouse ears have been taking pictures of him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, Oct. 18</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Healing Prayers</strong></td>
<td>All Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christ Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If at any point I start speaking in tongues hurry and bring me my French homework. There's about a one in forty chance it will be the right one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, Oct. 19</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Holy Communion</strong></td>
<td>All Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christ Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>As opposed to regular Communion which just turns into the body of some random guy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, Oct. 20</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Photo Contest Voting</strong></td>
<td>All Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Linner Lounge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Last year the winning picture was of a very surprised and angry looking Native American man. It won for “Having the most soul.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, Oct. 21</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daily Chapel</strong></td>
<td>All Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christ Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>... or if you give him dreadlocks and a green, yellow and red beanie he would be into Reggae.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Birdwalk</strong></td>
<td>All Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Linneaus Arboretum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Huh, all the foot prints point south ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream</strong></td>
<td>All Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Campus Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This event has been banned from the Gustavus Adolphus campus on the grounds that it is “too cool for school.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prepare Ministries</strong></td>
<td>All Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Linner Lounge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>... or he could be that Christian camp counselor who takes his acoustic guitar everywhere and can't sense when people are tired of it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, Oct. 22</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daily Chapel</strong></td>
<td>All Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christ Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>... or he could be Kurt Cobain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Courage to be Imperfect: Perfectionism and You</strong></td>
<td>All Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Linner Lounge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Perfectionism and me? Or is it myself? I? OH, GOD!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gustavus Greens Meeting</strong></td>
<td>All Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gustie Den</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>You spend so much time cultivating the Earth and then fall comes along and stabs you right in the back!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Standing

**FOOTBALL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>MIAC</th>
<th>Record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. John's</td>
<td>4-0</td>
<td>6-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas</td>
<td>4-0</td>
<td>5-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>4-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carleton</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>3-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augsburg</td>
<td>2-2</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gustavus</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Olaf</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>3-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamline</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concordia</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>2-3</td>
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**Volleyball**

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>17-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Olaf</td>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>21-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concordia</td>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>12-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Ben's</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>18-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Kate's</td>
<td>4-2</td>
<td>14-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Augsburg</td>
<td>4-2</td>
<td>15-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary's</td>
<td>3-3</td>
<td>17-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carleton</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>12-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gustavus</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>9-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macaulester</td>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>6-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamline</td>
<td>0-6</td>
<td>10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel</td>
<td>0-6</td>
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**Men's Soccer**

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</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Carleton</td>
<td>6-1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Olaf</td>
<td>6-2</td>
<td>31-10-23</td>
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<td>Concordia</td>
<td>4-3</td>
<td>21-7-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel</td>
<td>3-3</td>
<td>22-7-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>22-7-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gustavus</td>
<td>3-2</td>
<td>18-5-3</td>
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<td>Macaulester</td>
<td>3-3</td>
<td>19-6-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamline</td>
<td>1-3-1</td>
<td>16-5-7-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augsburg</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>16-5-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Ben's</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>16-5-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary's</td>
<td>0-4-1</td>
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**Women's Soccer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
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<th>Pts</th>
<th>Rec</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concordia</td>
<td>7-0</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>12-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Olaf</td>
<td>5-2</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macaulester</td>
<td>4-2-1</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>6-3-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carleton</td>
<td>4-2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6-5-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Ben's</td>
<td>4-3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6-5-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel</td>
<td>2-4-1</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9-4-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gustavus</td>
<td>2-4-1</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9-4-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Kate's</td>
<td>1-5-2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4-6-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary's</td>
<td>1-5-2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4-6-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augsburg</td>
<td>1-5-1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3-4-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamline</td>
<td>0-5-1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3-8-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Results

10/14
Men's Soccer
 against Malaester
 W 2-1 (OT)

10/13
Women's Soccer
 @ Malaester
 L 0-1

10/12
Men's Golf
 Twin Cities Classic
T 11th

10/11
Men's Soccer
 @ UW-Whitewater
 L 0-2

10/10
Volleyball
 vs. Hamline
 W 3-0

10/9
Northwestern
 W 2-3

10/8
Pacific Lutheran
 W 34-33

Women's Soccer
 @ St. Kate's
 T 1-1

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**Scrumming for success**

Julie Hammond
Staff Writer

After taking a year to re-build the team, Gustavus Women’s Rugby is back with a new reputation and a new attitude toward the game. Being the only sport in a Division II league at Gustavus, Senior Captain and President Vicki Hidalgo is proud of their record to begin the season.

So far we are 6-1 in our regular season games. That is a huge accomplishment for our team considering we started this year off with only seven returning players and eight rookies to train,” Hidalgo said.

Junior Captain Lindsey Stene added to Hidalgo’s excitement about this year’s season. “We have a wonderful group of girls who are eager to improve. Last season we replaced a lot of seniors with rookies who are now coming into their own on the field and really taking on new responsibilities. We’re playing at the highest level I have ever seen this team play at, and we have a fantastic group of girls who are hard working and committed, which has made all the difference in this season,” Stene said.

Hidalgo and Stene are not the only players excited about their achievements this season. One would think that being a rookie on a rugby team would be nerve-racking, but not for Sophomore defensive prop Allison Kieley.

“This season has been a lot of fun so far, and the team has a really strong bond which makes practice and games a lot more fun,” Kieley said. Kieley has been the only rookie to start in all of the Women’s Rugby games so far this year.

Gustavus’s Women’s Rugby team is the only student-led team in the entire Division II league. This obstacle has presented some challenges to the girls in the past. Sophomore offensive fly-half Amy Hughes recalled a key game in which an experienced coach could have helped them win the game. “The only loss we had this season was against Winona State University; if we had an experienced coach on our bench that might have turned the tables and helped us get the extra point we needed to beat them,” Hughes said. This Saturday the Gusties have a chance to face off against Winona again during the Final Four before heading into the “Sweet Sixteen,” or Regional Tournament.

Although every team has some disappointments, no team is left without some achievements. This year the Women’s Rugby team surprised everyone by winning the All Minnesota Tournament over Sept. 12-13, 2009. They faced off against teams like University of Wisconsin-River Falls, Luther College and the College of St. Benedict. Hidalgo recalled how important that tournament was at the time: “The All Minnesota Tournament was a huge win for our team. It was basically a preview of what the Final Four would look like, and looking at the Final Four now the predictions seem pretty accurate,” Hidalgo said.

The girls also felt that the team’s playmaking has improved considerably from last year. “Our cohesion has increased greatly as last year’s rookies step up to fill positions of our departed seniors. In the scrum we’ve had some wonderful new additions that have allowed us to do things with the game that I haven’t seen in our level of the game ever before.” Also we’ve been working with an amazing alumnus ‘Vegas’ also known as Janet, who has really helped us improve our game,” Stene said.

The women’s first game in the Final Four Tournament is this Saturday, Oct. 17 at 11:15 a.m. in Eagan, MN against St. Cloud State University. Hughes expressed her feelings of excitement about this weekend in that it is her first time going to the Final Four Tournament. “I am very excited for the game this weekend and I feel as prepared as I will ever be,” Hughes said. “We’ve been having good success in practice lately. Hopefully that will transfer over to our game against St. Cloud State.”

However, some of the seasoned veterans have different feelings about this weekend’s game. Hidalgo feels that Winona State will definitely be a challenge for the Gusties, especially since they only lost to them by one point in their regular season match-up. “We have been working hard in practice preparing for this weekend, and we definitely want to move on after the Final Four. Our reputation is definitely something that keeps us motivated. However, it is going to be a challenge against Winona,” Hidalgo said.

Stene agreed with Hidalgo. The Final Four is extremely competitive. In the past it’s been three evenly matched teams with one team that is clearly stronger, but that has changed over the past two years. All of the schools have really stepped up their play, and there’s no clear winner. You can try to judge who might beat who, but when it comes down to it any small mistake could really turn the game around,” Stene said.

The Women’s Rugby team has had great success so far this year and plans on continuing its success this weekend at the Final Four Tournament.

Next Tournament: Final Four

**Date:** Saturday, Oct. 17

**Time:** All Day

**Location:** Eagan, MN

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**Gustavus Women’s Rugby team in various games throughout the season thus far.**

All Photos submitted by Vicki Hidalgo
Men’s Soccer team hoping to utilize added pressure from a subpar season so far in order to make the MIAC playoffs

Craig Nordquist
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Men’s Soccer team has struggled to a 4-5-3 overall record halfway through the Conference season, despite being voted overwhelming preseason favorites to win the Conference title.

Last weekend, the team traveled to play games in Iowa and Wisconsin, with the team falling to both Loras College and UW-Whitewater. The Gusties have lost three consecutive games and are now 0-4-1 over their last five matches.

“There is a sense of frustration right now due to the fact that we are playing well enough to win games and don’t,” Senior Captain Bret VanderStreek said. “Soccer is a 90 minute game, and in the second half of the MIAC season we can’t afford to come out and play anything less than a full 90 minutes.”

Junior goalie Luke Strom believes the team has a high level of talent but needs to work on using that talent for an entire game in order to win.

“This year’s team has lots of potential with a good core of returning players,” Strom said. “However, we have not yet played up to that potential for a full 90 minutes, so we still have some work to do.”

Despite returning 13 letter winners from last year’s squad, the Gusties now find themselves in jeopardy of missing out on a MIAC tournament berth.

“Our biggest struggle [has been] putting one game together where every single player on the team comes together and plays their role,” Vanderstreek said. “We have the ability to come back and finish another strong season.”

The Gusties currently find themselves seventh out of the MIAC’s 11 teams. Gustavus has played well against very good opponents,” Vanderstreek said. “Unfortunately [the outcomes] aren’t going our way, but we feel very confident we will end the season on a high note.”

The Gusties now look forward to a five game stretch against Conference opponents in which they can narrow the gap and move up in the standings.

“The rest of the MIAC season is going to be very important to us,” Strom said. “We need to get some results in order to make the playoffs, and I think that added pressure is going to help us excel.”

“Swimming” from page 16

The Swimming and Diving teams have the unique aspect of competing as individuals but also as a team. The teams also practice together but in three different training groups—sprint, middle distance and distance. For these reasons, they motivate each other and work together in order to ensure everyone improves.

“Put a big emphasis on team and what we can accomplish as a team,” Carlson said. “We work [hard] to make sure everyone feels as though they are an important part of what we try to achieve as a group.”

Michelson also expressed optimism about the strength of the team going into the season. “I think it’s nice to have both last year’s [giving teams] and Women’s teams because we feed off each other and are able to motivate each other in the pool during practice,” Michelson said.

Carlson expressed more of a cautionist optimism about the upcoming season. “I think that it’s a different year in that in the past there have been two or three teams [that could] win the Conference title. This year I feel there are up to five different teams that could come away with the title,” Carlson said.

No matter the outcome, the teams will devote countless amounts of time and effort to improve their own times and motivate teammates to do the same.

After the Alumni and Intrasquad Pentathlon last weekend, the Men’s and Women’s teams will travel to Northfield, MN to compete in the MIAC Relays at the end of October. “The MIAC Relays are different from every other relay. There are a lot of random events. It’s more to have fun and cheer on your teammates,” Berry said.

Even with the Alumni and Intrasquad Pentathlon and the MIAC Relays, the Gustavus Swimming and Diving teams will not get their first real test until November. “Our first insight as to where we stand as a team is Nov. 6, 2009 at Mankato State,” Michelson said. Both the Men’s and Women’s teams will undoubtedly be ready to dive off the starting block as Nov. 6, 2009 approaches.

“Some of the results we’ve had this year have been disappointing,” Strom said. “However, we know what we are capable of, and [knowing] that is something that keeps us going.”

The Gusties are quick to point out that while their season is over halfway done, their Conference schedule is far from finished.

“Another bright spot is that we are playing fairly well against very good opponents,” Vanderstreek said. “Unfortunately [the outcomes] aren’t going our way, but we feel very confident we will end the season on a high note.”

The Gusties now look forward to a five game stretch against Conference opponents in which they can narrow the gap and move up in the standings.

“The rest of the MIAC season is going to be very important to us,” Strom said. “We need to get some results in order to make the playoffs, and I think that added pressure is going to help us excel.”

Sophomore Mary Jo Behr concentrates on her swimming form.
Gusties feel swimmingly about new season

Seth Wisner
Sports Editor

The Gustavus Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving teams are excited to hop back in the pool and dive into the 2009 season. Since practice began Thursday, Oct. 1, the Men’s and Women’s teams have been working hard to return to a regular routine in order to prepare for the fast approaching season. Just this past weekend the teams participated in their annual Alumni and Intrasquad Pentathlon in the Lund Natatorium. “We usually have about 70-80 alumni come back. I think it’s good to keep a connection between this year’s team and the history of what makes Gustavus swimming what it is today,” Jon Carlson, Head Coach of the Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving teams, said. “[After the meet] I have the alumni speak to the current swimmers to give advice and words of wisdom. It turns out to be a really great day for Gustavus swimming.”

Despite being MIAC Champions of the 2007 and 2008 seasons, the women are hoping to reclaim the MIAC Championship after losing to Carleton last year. “I think we have a good team this year, so I’m excited to see how well we can do. [We can] take back our title. There is always room for improvement. We will have to work really hard, but I think we have a lot of potential,” Senior Jonna Berry said. Berry specializes in the 200-meter freestyle, the 200-meter backstroke and the sprint freestyle. “I feel really good about the strength of our team” because I think there are a lot of fast girls that will help us beat Carleton,” Senior distance swimmer Carrie Gunderson said.

With one of the largest athletic teams on campus, there is a large emphasis on team bonding and welcoming the first-year swimmers. In order to facilitate this process, every senior is appointed as a captain and assumes a leadership role. “We break up into a lot of training groups [in order to learn everyone’s names]. We spend at least 12 hours a week in the pool so we can meet people really quickly,” Gunderson said. “Putting in the time and effort now might be pivotal to the team’s success throughout the season.”

The men are also looking to bounce back this season after a tough loss to rival St. Olaf at the MIAC Championship last year. Despite their second place finish, the Gustie men will settle for nothing less than the MIAC crown. “[I’m looking forward to] topping off my four year career here at Gustavus and finishing up strong,” Senior swimmer Andrew Michelson said. Michelson specializes in the butterfly and freestyle, while dabbling in breaststroke. “[I just want to] swim fast and improve my times,” Michelson said.

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Gustavus escapes with thrilling last-second Homecoming win

With their exciting 34-33 victory on Saturday, Oct. 10 in the waning seconds against Homecoming opponent Pacific Lutheran University, Gustavus won its first Homecoming game since 2005. The Gusties won in thrilling fashion with quarterback Jordan Becker throwing a one-yard touchdown pass to Elliot Herdina with 0:12 seconds remaining in regulation play. Both Becker and Herdina had career games. Becker completed 26 of 41 passes for 310 yards and 5 touchdowns with no interceptions. Herdina had 11 catches for 141 yards and 2 touchdowns including the game-winning score. After a low first half score of 7-7, the two teams exploded for a combined 53 points in the second half. Gustavus will host Carleton College in an important MIAC game next Saturday at 1:00 p.m.