Government grant programs make it easier for students to afford college. The Minnesota State Grant program helps more than 80,000 students across Minnesota, including many Gusties, to receive financial assistance to pay for college. On March 5, students from Gustavus will join students from Hamline University and St. Mary’s University to engage legislators and learn about advocacy in a trip to the state capitol in St. Paul.

Senior Communication Studies and Political Science Major Julia Kruchowski, who is also the Day at the Capitol Committee Co-Chair, spent a lot of time “trying to help plan the event,” and hopes students will not only spend time advocating for the grant program, but also learn about the overall political process.

Gustavus and many Gusties are directly affected by the status of the state grant program. Kruchowski hopes that the event will raise awareness of the importance of the program.

“I hope that [students] learn more about the Minnesota Grant Program: who is affected by it, how much it helps students at Gustavus, how much it does affect Gustavus.”

According to Kruchowski, Gustavus receives about $2.5 million from the State Grant Program. “That’s a lot of money, and it affects a lot of students. It’s a major factor in deciding to go to a school like Gustavus, another school or school at all, and in these tough economic times it’s really important to be able to continue this, if not give more money to the program, because it’s pinching everyone’s wallet.”

“Day at the Capitol is an excellent opportunity for students to influence policy, participate in democracy [and] have their voice heard.”

—Kim Braun

Sophomore Theatre Major Kimberly Braun spoke positively of her Day at the Capitol experience last year. “Day at the Capitol is an excellent opportunity for students to influence policy, participate in democracy [and] have their voice heard by speaking to their representatives immediately, in terms of post-secondary education. I remember the representatives coming off the floor last year to talk to us in the lobby and listen to us, and it was really cool of them to drop what they were doing to come hear what we had to say,” attribute to Braun.

Legislators appreciate hearing from students, as well. “I think that they do like meeting with students, because it shows that they care, not thinking that it is a free ride, the money they are getting. It shows that it means something to the students to get that money, that they are definitely using it, and that it is needed. I think they do like hearing from students,” said Kruchowski.

Day at the Capitol consists of much more than just meeting legislators, including a free dinner at the delicious Khan’s Mongolian Barbeque.

“We start our day there at 10:00 a.m. and we [are] train[ed] on what to say and expect with the legislators. We get to speak with the legislators a little later at 11:30 a.m. or so. Then we have a lunch at the capitol. We are scheduled to meet with Gusties who are in the legislature right now, to meet and talk with them, and then get a tour of the capitol. It’s a day that’s pretty planned, but I think for people [who] are into advocacy, I think they will very much enjoy it,” said Kruchowski.

Day at the Capitol is March 5, 2009 and on March 3 a kickoff rally will take place in the Heritage Room from 6:30-7:30 p.m. You can look for tabling outside the Market Place for the Day at the Capitol. Students can register for the event at http://ga6.org/mnprivatecolleges/capitol.html.
Putting ideas into action: An update on Gustavus Commission 150

Luke Garrison
Staff Writer

What do we want Gustavus to be? This is the main question Commission Gustavus 150 is aiming to answer. When President Jack Ohle announced the initiative this past fall, he did so with the goal of developing steps to implement the college’s strategic plan and to celebrate its sesquicentennial in 2012. Eight taskforces were created to meet and submit recommendations to the Board of Trustees for areas of future advancement of the college.

The recommendations are due April 30, 2009, and according to Executive Director of Commission Gustavus 150 Barb Larson-Taylor, the taskforces are now “at the midpoint of the work that is needed to be done.”

As it stands right now, the Commission is nearing the completion of its idea phase. The college is not, however, relying solely on the taskforces to gather ideas. President Ohle is holding 16 summit meetings around the country. “These are half-day meetings where we use framing questions to talk about our core values,” said Larson-Taylor. The national summit meetings include stops in Chicago, Denver, Florida, Phoenix, San Francisco, Seattle and Tucson.

Once the recommendations are submitted, the work is by no means complete. All recommendations will be posted on a private website for Gustavus students, faculty, staff and alumni to rate from one to five on levels of importance. “We are publicly staking where we want to be as a college, and we want everyone to feel ownership of these ideas,” said Larson-Taylor.

Students will have prime opportunities to share their input in the coming months. “This is an exciting opportunity for the college and for me, knowing the future of the college will be mapped around alumni when I graduate,” said Senior History Major John Bennetts. He is also an intern with the Commission and will be holding meetings with many student organizations in the coming weeks about the initiative. “We will be holding grass-roots meetings with student organizations to educate them and gather their input in the process,” said Bennetts.

Making all Gustavus constituents feel connected with these ideas may prove to be critical as the Commission moves forward. Once all of the feedback is gathered, the Board of Trustees will meet and set the priorities in order in August. From there, new fundraising campaigns will be drafted to obtain the money needed to implement the priorities. “People give their money to where they are engaged,” said Larson-Taylor.

Larson-Taylor views the Commission as equally important for current students and long-time alumni. “As the college continues to improve, your degree gets more and more valuable. Having a valued degree and being able to tap into a network of Gusties, especially during career transitions, is a real benefit to you. If Gustavus got mediocre, suddenly your degree just got mediocre,” said Larson-Taylor.

Perhaps it will be the ideas being circulated and the feedback being gathered at this very moment that, once put into action, will ultimately affect the reputation of a Gustavus Adolphus College degree in the years to come.

For more information about Commission Gustavus 150 visit its website at www.commission-gustavus150.org.

Journey to The Other Shore

The Department of Theater and Dance will put on a production of Gao Xingjian’s The Other Shore this weekend in Anderson Theater. Tickets are free to students.
In light of the current economic situation, Gustavus administrators are working to increase the amount of financial aid to keep the increase in tuition to a minimum.

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In the midst of an economic recession, American businesses, families and individuals have all had to reevaluate their financial status. Gustavus administrators have also had to take into account the economic state in planning tuition costs and financial aid packages for the coming 2009-2010 academic year. The Gustavus Board of Trustees have been discussing the cost of tuition and is expected to announce its final decision next week. Though tuition at Gustavus rose at a fairly steady rate over the past five years, the Board recommended the lowest increase in tuition cost in the past decade to accommodate families affected by the economic recession.

“Gustavus tries to keep increases down, help families and get students the money they've earned,” said Doug Minter, Gustavus’s director of student financial assistance. The inauguration of President Barack Obama will also had a significant effect on college costs and financial aid. The $790 billion economic stimulus package recently approved by the House and Senate will increase financial aid for college students in various ways. Students receiving financial aid from the federal government will be eligible for more assistance, more work study and larger tax credits.

One of the most notable changes in federal financial aid from the economic stimulus bill is the increase in the maximum Pell Grant award. The Pell Grant Program provides need-based financial assistance based on an expected family contribution, cost of tuition and student status. Just over $17 billion has been allocated by the government to increase the maximum award in 2009-10 to $5,350 and $5,550 in 2010-11.

The previous maximum award was $4,731 for the 2008-09 academic year, which was identified as a shortfall in financial aid. Federal Work Study, which is provided to students employed on campuses, was also allocated $200 million.

The final provision declared in the economic stimulus package is the new tax credit for college students in various ways. Students receiving financial aid from the federal government will be eligible for more assistance, more work study and larger tax credits.

Aside from the new federal aid, students at Gustavus have more resources for financial assistance. “I think [financial aid] is a high priority at Gustavus,” said Minter. “It’s important for students to pick Gustavus and for retaining students.”

Gustavus, unlike some schools, does not drop any financial aid that has been granted unless students no longer meet the academic requirements of the package. Gustavus also has a history of keeping costs relatively low compared to its closest competitors. From the 2007-08 academic year to the 2008-09 year, Gustavus’ tuition rose a total of $1,084 and is expected to announce its final decision next week. Though tuition at Gustavus rose at a fairly steady rate over the past five years, the Board recommended the lowest increase in tuition cost in the past decade to accommodate families affected by the economic recession.

In addition to the new federal aid opportunities, contact the Financial Aid Office in the Carlson Administration Building, or go online to www.fafsa.ed.gov.

For more information on financial aid opportunities, contact the Financial Aid Office in the Carlson Administration Building, or go online to www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Andy Setterholm Staff Writer

Tuition and financial aid changes

Incentives like the Gustavus Access Grant have a strong pull for students researching and choosing between Gustavus and its competitors. “The tuition cost and financial aid were a big part of my choice to come to Gustavus,” said First-year Anthony Metford. “Gustavus made it clear what the cost was and what assistance I would receive.”

In addition to the FAFSA, students are also encouraged to use online scholarship searches and seek out local scholarship opportunities. Gustavus also matches church scholarships on a one-to-one ratio, up to $1,000. Another new opportunity is the Yellow Ribbon Program, which is a post 9/11 GI bill beginning August 1, 2009. This bill will offer a large amount of financial assistance at certain colleges and universities to veterans and their families. All Gustavus students and prospective students can benefit from these opportunities and are encouraged to research them further.

With so many opportunities for financial assistance available to its students, Gustavus remains accessible to many students. “Gustavus has been pretty good about making me aware of financial aid opportunities,” said Junior Economics Major Billy Sheaffer. “They let me know that I could file as an independent student and receive the most assistance available. They do as much as they can to make going to Gustavus possible.”

For more information on financial aid opportunities, contact the Financial Aid Office in the Carlson Administration Building, or go online to www.fafsa.ed.gov.
Last Monday, Feb. 16, the Hillstrom Museum of Art became home to two intriguing shows. The first, Migrations: New Directions in Native American Art, features six new and unique artists from Native American groups. The artwork featured in this show is considered to be “more experimental in nature than what is generally thought of as Native American Art,” according to a news release sent out by Gustavus.

The second show is Fortune: Photos of China by Priscilla Briggs. It also opened Monday and will continue until April 19, 2009. The featured artist of this show is Gustavus’ own Assistant Professor of Art and Art History Priscilla Briggs. Briggs came to teach at Gustavus four years ago. Before that, she taught studio art to students from different age groups and diverse backgrounds.

At Gustavus, Briggs teaches Digital and Darkroom Photography, Video Art and Interactive Media classes. Her love for photography—her medium of choice—stemmed from her college years at Carnegie Mellon University, where she spent much of her free time and money on cameras and photography materials. This particular show is focused on how identity and values are shaped or influenced by advertising and consumerism. “I’ve spent five years dealing with markets in different countries,” Briggs said. “It’s a point of focus that interests me.” During these years, she photographed the markets of other countries, observed and photographed the advertisements in countries she visited. “It’s a point of focus that interests different countries,” Briggs said.

Because she is interested in how different markets influence identities and values, the photographs that Briggs took in China on these trips are displayed in the current art show in the Hillstrom Museum of Art.

Sophomore Annie Ahlbrecht, an art studio major, is now enrolled in her third class with Professor Briggs. Ahlbrecht said that she will definitely be attending the art show. “If Professor Briggs can express what she tells us in class, I’m sure that I will love the show,” said Ahlbrecht.

Ahlbrecht said that she hasn’t seen any of the featured artwork yet, but she knows that the show will be interesting because Briggs “is very creative and puts a lot of effort into her pieces.” The Migrations exhibit has art from many different tribes such as the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Tlingit and Nisga’a Nations, the Seneca Nation, the Ho-Chunk Sovereign Nation, the Creek Nation and the Cherokee Nation. The 42 pieces of art represent the Native American way of life.

Along with this exhibit, Hillstrom will present a public lecture by Jaune Quick-to-See-Smith on March 8, 2009. She is an acclaimed Native American artist, curator and activist who served as a juror for the Migrations exhibition.
Gustie of the Week:

**Gustie finds on-ice success after a unique journey to the hill**

Andy Keenan
Sports Editor

This weekend, Gustavus’ Men’s Hockey team will play their final series of the regular season against Hamline, having already clinched a playoff spot with realistic hopes of finishing in MIAC’s second place. Integral to his team’s successes this season, Junior David Martinson has excelled both on and off of the ice for the Gusties, majoring in accounting while being the conference’s most prolific scorer.

A 2004 graduate of St. Louis Park High School, Martinson played on two Junior-A teams in Texas and Massachusetts before enrolling at the Air Force Academy, a Division I program. After a season in which he saw time in roughly half of the team’s games, Martinson decided to transfer to the hill. “I enjoyed the hockey there, but the military life wasn’t for me,” Martinson said. “After playing all across the country, I wanted to play my college hockey in Minnesota.”

Last year, Martinson thrived in his first season playing for the Gusties, leading the team with 21 goals and 20 assists, 12 points higher than Patrick Dynan’s 29. Gustavus finished fourth in the conference, going 13-12-1 (10-6 in MIAC) with a host of young talent. This year, that youth has had a chance to gel, and they’ve harvested a season with more notches in the win column. The Gusties sit at 14-9 (9-5 in the conference), and with wins over quality non-conference opponents (Elmira, Stout, River Falls), as well as pivotal weekend sweeps against St. Thomas and Augsburg, the Gusties are poised to make a long post season run, provided they have the momentum to do so.

“With hockey, Division III isn’t really that much of a step down [from Division I]. It’s not easy—there are some really good hockey players,” said Martinson. “Any of the top-line guys in Division III could play [Division I], just as the lower line Division I players wouldn’t necessarily come in here and dominate. They are quite interchangeable,” Martinson said.

Martinson is one of 12 juniors on the Gustavus roster, three of whom came via transfer (Martinson and the Dynan brothers), and he is the only former Division I player on the team.

This season, Martinson has dominated the conference in scoring. His 24 goals are seven more than the next highest player in the conference, good enough to put him four lit lamps behind the national leader, leaving him in second place in the country. Martinson is averaging an astounding 93 goals per game this season for the Gusties, while netting the puck three times as game-winners.

To this soft-spoken young man, however, the statistics aren’t what hold the most importance. “It’s always nice to have good numbers but I had good numbers in high school, and that’s not what I remember,” said Martinson. “What I do remember is winning the section and playing in the state tournament. It’s the team achievements that are the most rewarding.”

Martinson’s innate ability to find the back of the net is a skill not many in the sport possess, and that knack to make things happen in both open ice and in traffic truly makes him a special player.

It’s these abilities that have gained the respect of Head Men’s Hockey Coach Brett Peterson. “Marty brings a wealth of experience to the team. From his time spent playing junior hockey to the military academy and then here, he has had a unique path that brings him a lot of experience and helps in his leadership,” said Peterson. “He’s a very good hockey player, but is an even better person. That means as much on the ice and off in a lot of respects.”

After his career for the Gusties is finished, Martinson has aspirations of competing overseas. After his playing days have ceased, he will turn to a career in finance.
On the western coast of Great Britain, bordered by England on its east side and the Irish Sea on the west, lies the principality of Wales. Originally one of the Celtic nations, the Welsh people and their descendants retain a strong sense of national pride for their rich heritage. On Friday, Feb. 27 in Christ Chapel, students will have the opportunity to experience an important part of Welsh culture during Gustavus’ thirty-sixth annual St. David’s Day observance.

The Welsh people were originally inhabitants of England, but they first formed a national identity early in the fifth century after being driven south by the Normans. The region of Great Britain now called Wales currently has a population of roughly three million, half of whom are fluent in Welsh and 25 percent of whom speak Welsh exclusively.

On March 1 of every year, Welsh people all over the world celebrate their patron saint in a tradition that dates back 100 years to when the Welsh people first started writing hymns. These hymns are traditionally sung in four-part harmony, and they are commonly heard in all parts of Wales.

The annual St. David’s Day celebration is called a “Gymanfa Ganu,” a Welsh phrase that means “hymn fest.” Although many St. David’s Day celebrations feature hymn fests that continue throughout the entire day, Christ Chapel’s celebration is a mini-“Gymanfa Ganu,” because only four hymns will be sung during the service.

This year, Christ Chapel will be holding its annual Gymanfa Ganu during its regular daily chapel time (10:00-10:20 a.m.). The service will consist of four different Welsh hymns, a scripture reading and a prayer. Some of the hymns should sound familiar to many churchgoers, like “Jesus, Lover of My Soul,” but others are distinctly Welsh and will be sung in their native language by the Choir of Christ Chapel and accompanied by the Chapel Brass.

“All four Gustavus choirs come together to participate in the service. The idea is that all the hymns are sung in parts, so the choir helps the congregation with that,” said Gustavus Choir Director and Professor of Music Patricia Kazarow. “It’s been a tradition that the choir has participated in for as long as I’ve been here.”

“It’s like listening to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, except you’re right there in the middle of it,” said Ellis Jones, a retired Gustavus professor and the organizer of the annual event. “There are some Welsh publications that brag about having about 75 people at a celebration, but none of them come close to the 500 that we get here every year.”

And the celebration doesn’t just stop at the chapel service. Visitors are invited to a reception following the service at 10:30 a.m. At 11:00 a.m. a special presenter from Augustana College will speak about her study abroad experience in Wales. Afterward, a traditional Welsh luncheon of lamb, leek soup and trifle will be served in one of the banquet rooms.

“It’s been one of those events that kids from St. Peter have been invited to as a cultural experience. It’s something that the community here looks forward to every year,” said Kazarow.

Since 1973, when Christ Chapel first celebrated St. David’s Day, the event has grown to include more and more people, many of them visitors from the Twin Cities. It is an opportunity for people of Welsh descent all over Minnesota to gather and celebrate, as well as an opportunity for the Gustavus community to learn more about and experience some great Welsh traditions.
At the age of 78, Clint Eastwood may seem too old to direct and star in a film, but he has gracefully delivered another Oscar-worthy work of art. *Gran Torino* was released in December of 2008, making it the first time Eastwood has acted since 2004’s *Million Dollar Baby*.

*Gran Torino* is the highest-grossing movie of Eastwood’s career at the North American box office. The film features a predominantly Hmong cast, as well as Eastwood’s younger son, Scott Eastwood. Eastwood’s older son, Kyle Eastwood, provided the score. Since its release, the film won widespread critical acclaim, and for good reason.

*Gran Torino* is a powerful script that combines Eastwood’s talents as both actor and director to deliver a story with lessons ranging from friendship and growing up to violence and the morality of vengeance.

The production has Eastwood typecast as the memorable Walt Kowalski, a retired autoworker, widower and veteran of the Korean War. Walt has lived in his Detroit neighborhood, where a growing community of Hmong people has settled, since the end of the war. As a bigot who carries many harsh memories of Korea, Walt doesn’t take kindly to anyone of Asian descent.

The most apparent reason for the movie’s R-rating is the astonishing use of racial slurs. Walt is what you might call an equal opportunity racist who has a derogatory name for everyone from his Italian barber to his Asian neighbors. Cranky Walt often communicates in a growl that sounds like a demon in need of an exorcist.

Despite all his raw bigotry and hardnosed personality, Walt eventually befriends one of his next-door neighbors—the fatherless teenage boy Thao, played by Minnesota’s own Bee Vang. As a part of his gang initiation, Thao attempts to steal Walt’s prized 1976 Ford Gran Torino but is caught and forced to work off the debt. In the week that follows, Walt becomes a father figure for Thao, helping to land him a construction job and even encouraging him to date his attractive crush.

But Thao’s troubles with the gang only get worse when he repeatedly refuses to join them, and violence ensues. In the conflict between the gang and Thao’s family, Walt steps in to protect his newfound friends. He must teach Thao the lessons he learned in Korea about the gravity of violence and the futility of vengeance. The man who was so rampantly dislikeable at the beginning of the story becomes a hero by the end.

With an original script, an enticing, character-based plot and rock-solid acting, *Gran Torino* delivers a superb dramatic experience. If it were up to me, *Gran Torino* would receive an Oscar nomination, but sadly this is not the case. With such Academy favorites as *The Dark Night*, *Milk*, *Slumdog Millionaire* and *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* dominating many of the award categories, it seems there is not enough room for Eastwood this year.

Instead of an Oscar nod, I’ll give it three out of three crowns.

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Drew Yackel-Juleen
Staff Writer

A powerful script, dramatic acting and overall great production combine to make *Gran Torino* an Oscar-worthy film.
New Kids on the Farm
New Farm on the Block

A greenhouse warms salad greens in the sunlight at Kern Family Farm in North Fork, CA. Greenhouse are one method Big Hill Student Farm founders may explore to overcome the obstacles mentioned by Wiechmann and Swedenborg.

Daniele Harms
Features Editor

Walking into the Market Place on any given day, most students expect to find shelves stocked with snacks, beverages flowing from machines and hot meals ready to be scooped onto plates. When the soup runs out, another pot quickly replaces it, and students continue with their daily routine of classes, activities and eventually, more eating. What journey brings the food we consume to our plates? According to statistics in Barbara Kingsolver’s bestselling memoir Animal, Vegetable, Miracle, it is a journey stretching beyond the city limits. Kingsolver’s bestselling memoir is a testament to the current state of our society, as she delved into the local agricultural practices of her family during the time of her Sixth Grade Field Trip. Kingsolver and Wiechmann, two students in the University of Minnesota, have spent abroad with a resolve to make the most of their experience through the Sustainable Farming project in their Environmental Studies Senior Seminar, taught by Donnje. “I think by dealing with food and agriculture issues, you confront many giant social and environmental issues like accessibility to food, global warming, loss of biodiversity, animal abuse issues and so many more.”

There are few opportunities for students to study sustainable agriculture in classes at Gustavus and Swedenborg and Wiechmann hope to change that, while raising awareness about the number of issues involved in food production. “Right now we are living in a society that is consuming and consuming without any pause to think about what and who is affected by the things we use,” Wiechmann said. “We see it at the size of our ecological footprint and how we consume”.

Daniele Harms is the Features Editor for the Gustavus Student and a junior at Gustavus, majoring in English and minoring in Environmental Studies.

Editor’s Note: Eliza Swedenborg is the Commentary Editor and Danielle Harms is the Features Editor of the Gustavus Weekly. If you’re interested in more information about volunteering or the organization Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF), visit wwoof.org or wwoof.us.org.

Additional reporting by Eliza Swedenborg.

By Gustavs, For Gustavs,” Kjellgren said.

Daniele Harms
Features Editor

Wieland and Swedenborg are committed to making this a campus that will nurture its time at Gustavus, especially considering the energy they feel for the campus as it acts in its environmental sustainability ways. Donsje sees this project as a valuable contribution to the Johnson Commission.

“Working with faculty and administration, the students found themselves with a plot of land granted to them by the Gustavus administration. Wiechmann and Swedenborg have maintained time as students. “We look back from being abroad and look at each other on our first day of class and we said ‘we need a farm,’” Wiechmann said. They decided to pursue the project in their Environmental Studies Senior Seminar, taught by Donnje, “knowing it was going to be more than a school project.”

Wiechmann and Swedenborg invite all individuals and as communities.”

Featuring Editor

Features Editor

By Gustavs, For Gustavs,” Kjellgren said.

Eliza Swedenborg is the Commentary Editor and Danielle Harms is the Features Editor of the Gustavus Weekly. If you’re interested in more information about volunteering or the organization Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF), visit wwoof.org or wwoof.us.org.

If anyone is interested in participating in this project, Wieland and Swedenborg would love to hear from any individuals who are interested in joining their newly-formed organization, Big Hill Student Farm. “Come visit us on the farm,” Wiechmann said.

Kjellgren is the Editor-in-Chief and Danielle Harms is the Features Editor.

If you’re interested in more information about volunteering or the organization Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF), visit wwoof.org or wwoof.us.org.

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Everybody loves Reagan
Thank you, Mr. President.

Dear President Bush,
How do you like your new home in Dallas? Do you have any new hobbies? I spent the month of January at home doing mostly nothing, so if you need any pointers on what to do when you are home alone and getting really bored, just give me a call. Peggie is an especially addicting game I found on the internet which I highly recommend, but jigsaw puzzles are also pretty fun as long as you don’t lose any pieces.

Anyway, the reason I’m writing this letter to you is that I want to thank you for serving as president for the past eight years. If you didn’t check, you finished with about a 30 percent approval rating from the American public, so I figure you’ll read my letter since you probably don’t get very many of the positive variety. Leading is a hard thing to do because you are forced to make decisions that will lead to both positive and negative outcomes, but I thank you for making those difficult decisions and doing what you believed would be best for the American people.

The economy sure has taken a turn recently. Conservatives like me had a hard time with how much money you spent as president, but I think anyone who blames one president for economic failure or gives one the credit for economic recovery is too simplistic. FDR and his New Deal used to be given the credit for the United States’ recovery from the Great Depression, but now most people seem to believe that it was World War II that really turned things around.

Your tax cuts were great, and your spending was excessive, but now President Obama is proposing less. I hope the tax cuts and the trillions of dollars of wasteful government spending won’t panic the people.

September 11, 2001 and the days after were probably very difficult and stressful for you, but they were also the days when Americans were most unified behind you. I remember being scared and not knowing one and whether or not those who attacked would try again. You were a calming presence and spoke with conviction that America would recover. You told us you would do everything in your power to keep us safe.

I’ll wait for history to be the final judge of how effective his presidency was, but I’d like to take this time to thank him for his service.

Theresa Carlson
Staff columnist

I, know, right?
Organ donation

As of 10:00 p.m. on Feb. 16, 2009, 101,817 names were listed as awaiting a new organ, according to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network’s (OPTN) website. To put this growing number into perspective, The Saturday Evening Post of Dec. 1989 reported that at that time, the wait list was 17,800 individuals. That is a 590 percent increase in the past twenty years.

OK, now I know what you’re thinking. Organ donation? Really? You may claim you’ve heard it before, but the fact remains that only 35 percent of Americans are organ donors, as reported by the 2008 journal of Health Communication. The Dec. 17, 2008 New York Times asserted that the transplant list exceeded 100,000 names for the first time in history this past October.

Everyone wants to live longer, diagnose diseases earlier and treat our bodies worse and worse, we will only continue to watch this number grow. When the Washington Times of Jan. 15, 2008 asserted that “the number of ailing patients who would benefit from transplants continues to far outweigh supply,” it became increasingly imperative for you and your loved ones to become better informed about this subject and to become organ donors.

From the supermarket tabloids to talk radio, Americans are subjected to many misconceptions about organ and tissue donation and transplantation. In order to combat the number of uninformed people regarding organ donation procedures, the Mayo Clinic released an article on April 4, 2008 outlining the main myths which deter people from organ donation.

One popular myth is if the doctors know you’re an organ donor, they won’t work as hard to save you. In reality, a doctor’s number one priority is to save your life. Organ donation can only be considered after you are declared brain dead. Individuals who have agreed to organ donation are actually given more tests to determine that they are truly dead.

If you believe that you can’t have an open casket funeral if you are an organ donor, you are mistaken. Organ and tissue donation doesn’t interfere with having an open-casket funeral. The donor’s body is clothed for burial, so there are no visible signs of organ or tissue donation. For eye donation, an artificial eye is inserted, the lids are closed and no one can tell the difference.

We often forget that organ donation is about giving life, but the statistics convince us otherwise. The Washington Post of Jan. 19, 2009 asserts that “the number of thousands of healthy organs donated each year, Second, Americans, and especially those who are earning their driver’s license for the first time, have an immortal mental complex. Let’s be honest, no one wants to think about death, so we neglect having discussions about topics such as our organs. We neglect to think about our personal wishes regarding organ donation because we believe we have many more years to live and believe nothing can harm us.

Because the transplant society on their website that the organs donated from one individual can save up to eight lives, if you convince 10 individuals to sign a donor card, you could save 80 lives. After you have made your decision to save lives and become an organ donor, it is imperative to talk with your family about your decision. If you tell your loved ones about your decision to donate your organs, they will have the best guide of what feels when the time comes to decide.

Racial minorities are especially encouraged to donate because the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services explains on its website that African Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders, Hispanics and Native Americans have a particularly high need for organ transplants. This is the case because some kidney, heart, lung, pancreatic and liver diseases are found more frequently in racial and ethnic minority populations.

When you donate your organs, you give someone the most precious gift—a chance to live! After becoming better informed about this growing problem, please speak with your family and friends and encourage them to sign a donor card. You can help save lives. Let’s face it, you are still alive now, but it is imperative to decide and take action today in order to become an organ donor. Please sign a donor card; consider your wishes and you will save lives.

Andrew Evenson
Staff columnist

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Conservative conscience

The government and the economy: Not best friends

Well, now I will have a semi-regular column. The fact that I am doing this suggests that I think very highly of this publication. I am not only writing worthy enough to submit to publication and that I assume people will actually want to read it. Yes, writing in the commentary section carries all sorts of baggage, all of it deserved. Sadly, the whole world is full of people telling you what to do and think, and I would hate to be lumped in with them. People telling you what to do have some sort of motive for doing so and a stake in what you think. Shaping the way your mind works is important to the “powers that be,” for example. This summer I actually met a real live person who watches the renowned commentator Bill O'Reilly for some reason. I actually met a real live person who watches the renowned commentator Bill O'Reilly for some reason.

Besides commentators, big businesses also love telling you what to do. Every person thinks that he or she is too savvy to be swayed by advertisements. Perhaps on some level we can see through them. But, after all, people enjoy making fun of commercials. Everybody knows that commercials are important to the “powers that be” and are used to make us want to buy and consume things. But, increasingly, advertisements are viewed as entertainment. I can think of more than a few people who watch the Super Bowl for the ads.

Advertisements are remarkably sophisticated, and while we might think ourselves immune, advertising permeates our culture. Imagine if every sign or commercial that promoted a purchase were replaced with a religious icon or Bible quote. Wouldn’t you feel like you lived in a repressive theocracy? Our corporate holy men, with the power of marketing, even manage to associate individuality with the act of consumption, further cementing our frightening global situation. Finally, the results of omnipresent advertising leave people feeling vaguely inadequate. Seriously, I wish I were as happy as the people in the Target catalogs. Those who run our society have turned public relations and marketing into a precise science. It is now actually too small to

Our National Debt: $9,198,610,672,541
Your family share: $77,991.61
The National Debt Clock was adjusted in October to make room for another decimal place. The current national debt is over ten trillion dollars.

Steve Palmer
Staff columnist

The way things ought to be

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L
et’s face it: between the hir
ing freeze, the destroyed
economy and the death of Paul
Newman, going to the movies
too has not been a high priority
in the last twelve months. But
Tinseltown marches on, and
in a few days your pop-cul
tural savoir-faire will be tested
with the 81st Annual Academ
y Awards. Are you ready?

Of course you’re not. But
unless you wish to look like an
ignorant ostrich whose
head has been buried in the
sand you won’t have a high
priority this Sunday night, you
need to be informed. In our
competitive society, you will be
looking to root for one of the
five Best Picture nominations. Read on
to see which film’s target demo
graphic is closer to you.

*Note to Readers: This year,
I made a mission to view
each of the following films.
Below are my subjective and
humble opinions, but rest as-
sured they are grounded in AC
TUAL HAVING SEEN THE
F*I*S*NG PERFORMANCE IN
QUESTION BEFORE PASSING
JUDGEMENTS, and I’d rec
ommend we all do the same here
at Gustavus.

The Reader: An excellent film
for those seeking a cinematic
treatise to see Kate Winslet
naked and wet for forty-five minutes.
This film is the token underdog
of the top five, but it’s not the
cute Mighty Ducks “underdog.”
It’s more like that person who
hovers around your posse so
long that they get lumped in
with the rest of your friends, so
that one day you wake up, look
at your Facebook albums and
say, “Holy crap, where the hell did
they come from?” Yeah, that’s this movie. The Reader’s plot
also suffers from the same
draw as the 2006 film Notes on a
Scandal: it sincerely peddles the
notion that a fifteen-year-old
boy would be a sexually compe
tent lover for an older, bourgeois,
thirty-something blonde. Hey,
we all remember the cracking
voices, the merciless acne and
the untimely surges of passion
that gripped our boys during
ninth grade gym class. Serious
love-affair material? Helllllll
now.

The Curious Case of Benjamin
Button: If you love pretty mov
ies that give Brad Pitt three
hours of screen time, this is
your pick. It is also the number
one choice for people suffering
from Alzheimer’s and short
term memory loss, seeing as
how the film was made earlier
(and better) when they called it
Forest Gump. Initially the films’
similar characters, identical plot
arcs and nearly word-for-word
dialogue seem coincidental ...
until you learn that they share
the same screenwriter. Yeah ...
awful silence.

Slumdog Millionaire: When
they say “slums,” they show
everything. I have not
witnessed a child leaping that
passionately into a pile of liquid
excrement since Schindler’s List.
This movie has the most mo
mentum going into the race and
has the potential to do more than
the release of the di Rossi/DeGe
neres wedding photos. The film
is beautifully shot, the editing
is sharp and the acting
creases down like a tidal
wave... only without the mas
sive loss of life in its path. You’ll
be more glued to the screen than
fifth grade girls on their seventh
viewing of Titanic.

On a lighter note...
The Poor Man’s Guide to the
Oscars

There are some extremely
effective, such as the
intension I discussed earlier,
and the most nega
tive effect of all is the setting
of yet another precedent for
government intervention.
The government already has a
few, such as the New Deal and
some of President Hoover’s
policies. While politicians use the excuse
that these are extraordinary
times calling for extraordinary
measures, the very same people
are using rhetoric, statistics and
public panic to make us think
that any given time is extraordi
nary. I mean, how often has our
generation heard that this is the
most important election of our
generation? Clearly only one of
them can be.

While the money flies off the
printer and into our economy,
let’s just hope that a couple of
wrenches don’t get thrown at
our heads along with all of that
money. The American consumer
is a fragile thing and/or the eco
momic problems before we start seeing the
twenty-first century equivalent
of the so-called Hooversvilles.

Letters to the Editor

Staff columnist

Maggie Sotos

The Poor Man’s Guide to the Oscars

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The Poor Man’s Guide to the Oscars

The Poor Man’s Guide to the Oscars

So there you have it. The
Top Five of 2008 laid out plain
and simple. And if your movie
doesn’t win, you can always
throw up your hands and ex
claim, “Well it’s all messed up
because Doubt, Grand Torino
and The Dark Knight weren’t in
the mix. And where’s Wall-E?
What kind of an academy is this,
anyway?”

On page 10

“Thank you”...
Friday, February 20

Transfiguration Talk from Pastor Ted Zimmerman. Greater China: The Scene Today 10:00 a.m.
Even if there were a scene in China today, the smog would hide it.

Noises Off at Minnesota State University Theatre 6:00 p.m.
It’s a comedy about actors who sleep around and stab each other in the back. This could also be categorized as a documentary.

On-Campus Movie, Twilight 7:00 p.m.
This is a love story with a vampire? Sorry bud, Brad Pitt and Kirsten Dunst covered this genre in Interview with a Vampire.

The Other Shore 8:00 p.m.
Featuring the creepiest lady on stilts since the 1964 musical Fiddler on the Roof.

Comedy Sportz 9:00 p.m.
For track? LineUs star Abby Karl, the combination of the two should be no big thang.

Ace in the the Whole Band Wine Café, Mankato 9:00 p.m.
Rumor has it Alice and the Queen of Hearts will be the opening act, but only if the Flamingo Croquet game wraps up by eight.

On-Campus Film, Twilight 10:00 p.m.
This is a love story with a vampire? Sorry bud, Alex O’Loughlin and Sophia Myles covered this genre in the TV show Moonlight.

Saturday, February 21

The Magic of Books Emy Frentz Arts Guild, Makato 10:00 a.m.
If there’s anything The Pagemaster taught me, it was that books were definitely magic. That, and Macaulay Culkin should have stopped after Home Alone 2.

Mardi Gras Festival First Lutheran Church 5:00 p.m.
Mardi Gras is the cultural embracing of all the indulgences you have to give up during Lent. What the hell kind of fun is a congregation going to offer, aside from musky church basement smell?

On-Campus Movie, Twilight 7:00 p.m.
This is a love story with a vampire? Sorry bud, Gary Oldman and Winona Ryder covered this genre in Dracula.

Bingo 8:00 p.m.
The alphabetical version of sudoku.

The Other Shore 8:00 p.m.
I hope it is interesting; it would be painfully ironic to call this The Other Shore.

The Sauna Society Office Hour 8:00 p.m.
The sauna is probably the only opportunity for you to legally be able to see your profs naked and sweaty. I’d take it.

On-Campus Movie, Twilight 10:00 p.m.
This is a love story with a vampire? Sorry bud, Sarah Michelle Geller and David Boreanaz covered this genre with the TV show Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

Sunday, February 22

River Hills Mall Camper Show 10:00 a.m.
Don’t pretend you’re not morbidly fascinated.

Holy Communion 10:30 p.m.
Why not go? There are free drinks and they hand-feed you the snacks.

The Other Shore 2:00 p.m.
With more backstage puppeting than Dick Cheney in the White House.

KGSM, Afternoon Delight 3:00 p.m.
It’s not just the afternoon, though! Since they started serving biscuits and gravy all day on Sundays, I am delighted around the clock.

Monday, February 23

Announcement: On-Campus Movie, Twilight 10:00 p.m.
CAB applications available. But good luck getting a CAB if you’re a person of color! Get it? A cab? *angry silence*

Announcement: The 81st Annual Academy Awards 5:00 p.m.
Slumdog Millionaire is about to win the 2009 Oscar for Best Picture. Is it because
A: It cheated and bribed the Oscar judges.
B: It got lucky and was released when we all wanted to see a feel-good movie.
C: It is ingenious.
D: It is destiny.

Tuesday, February 24

Mardi Gras T.G.I. Fridays and Wasted Wednesdays have catchy nicknames with positive associations. They are therefore the more upbeat days of the week. But Tuesday has historically had the lowest self-esteem, due to its reputation as “Fat Tuesday.” Tuesday, you are beautiful, no matter what they say, words can’t bring you down. ...

Transfiguration Talk from Pastor Ted Zimmerman. The Call: God’s Mission in All Directions 10:00 a.m.
God may call me at some point in my life. But with my luck I’ll be in the shower.

Zeta Café 7:00 p.m.
I will come, but only for the step dancing.

Demeaning Words Discussion 7:30 p.m.
Sponsored by Chi Kappa Chi (so don’t show up complaining about skanky sorority bitches; it might be seen as ironic and tactless).

Wednesday, February 25

Healthy Open Talk: Sex and Media 12:30 p.m.
Wait, wait, hold up! There’s sex in American media? That’s crazy talk!

Leaving our Legacy: Senior Class Gift Kickoff with Schell’s Beer Sampling 6:30 p.m.
... “The Pickle has stepped out of the office but will return in fifteen minutes.” ...

Thursday, February 26

Free Confidential AIDS Testing 10:00 a.m.
The test results come back in 20 minutes. That’s about how long it took to sign onto my e-mail last weekend; I can certainly spare that amount of time for a life-saving test.

Gustavus Study Abroad Returnees—Pizza and Pictures 6:00 p.m.
Hopefully none of the pictures are so disturbing that it will be “Pizza, Pictures, Pizza Round II.”

Curb Your Cravings Potluck 7:00 p.m.
Women share their period comfort foods with each other in the Linner Lounge. When men do this it is called a “barbeque.”

Gustavus Greens Meeting 8:30 p.m.
Now featuring 20 percent more hemp!

The Pickle thinks yo’ mamma’s so fat, she makes Mardi Gras look skinny.
Unsportsmanlike Spectating

St. Thomas may be the best in class on the hardwood, but its their classless fans that spark the most controversy

I understand that here at Gustavus we are supposed to become adults and respectful, responsible citizens, but they are already adults, and they really fell short.

As I entered the forum for Saturday’s game against St. Thomas, I heard an eruptive crowd: it was a college basketball game on Saturday. But what I found most interesting were the fans.

In high school, I was voted the person with the most spirit by my peers; I wore my green and gold. The Gusties were cheering on their team for their fifth ITA title.

However, I wasn't pleased with the Gusties. Having heard many of these cheers at “Bullsh*t! Bullsh*t!” Having heard that, I wasn’t sure what reaction to expect from the fans.

But why I am talking about this really has nothing to do with the students. It really has nothing to do with the Gusties. What I was shocked and disgusted with were the parents and adult fans sitting opposite the Gustavus students.

As I sat down in the stands, I was happy to see that St. Thomas had a good amount of fans. I wasn’t cheering them on, but it’s good to see some hard-core fans down here in St. Peter. However, I wasn’t pleased with the actions of these people.

As a child of many youth sports, even into high school, I know that parents take calls and their children very seriously. They tend to get “excited” and can overreact sometimes. My parents were never these people, but I know plenty of parents who were. But in the great state of Minnesota, the overreactions were hardly heated.

From many personal experiences, I know what a reaction is. The adult St. Thomas fans were not just reacting or even overreacting—they were just plain mean. There were dozens of fouls in Saturday’s game, and after almost every one, the purple would turn to red; red faces like spilled blood from the family. After every call those fans were on their feet. They were screaming, shouting and scaring the crap out of me and some of my peers.

After cheers against St. Thomas came the jeers of the Gusties, an uproar would occur. Tommies would grab their shirts and flaunt their black and gold. The Gusties were cheering on their fellow athletes and classmates. These Gusties brought back memories of my chanting mates. These Gusties brought back old memories of Minnesota, the overreactions were hardly heated.

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Swimming from page 16

their Men's Swimming Athlete of the Week, for their strong performances in the Steven's Point and St. John's Invitationals respectively.

“We will need some strong performances from our relay efforts. Also, our 11-18 guys to move up into places that they can score more points than they are seeded. For example getting a 20th seed person in to the consolation finals (9-16th place) or having someone seeded 15th move into the Championship heat (top 8),” said Matt Stewart.

“Scored out as seeded right now we are down about 50 points, but we were down 80 points last year at this time and we ended up winning by 120 points. So our confidence level is relatively high. We will need to bring our Gustie atmosphere, and will be looking to our teammates in the stands to be leading the way in cheering.”

On an academic note, the CSACC honored both of Gustavus' Swimming and Diving squads for their excellence within the classroom. The men's 3.15 collective GPA placed them 25th in Division III while the women and their 3.28 GPA was 37th best in the Nation. The Gusties have been named to this team each of the past five years, emphasizing the well-rounded individuals this team boasts.

The Gustie faithful were painted up and in full force on Saturday, and despite a tough loss to a very good team, the Gustie crowd created a thrilling atmosphere for the high profile affair. Gustavus fell 72-59 to the nation's #1 team. The MIAC Playoffs begin on Feb. 23, with Gustavus able to finish anywhere between 2nd and 6th in the MIAC.
Head Swimming and Diving coach Jon Carlson’s 19th season at the helm of Gustavus aquatics has been one unraveling in a somewhat different fashion than the team’s recent history would indicate.

This weekend, the Gusties head to the natatorium on the University of Minnesota campus to compete in the MIAC Championships. Gustavus will serve as the host team this year.

“Right now, emotions are running high from nerves to excitement, but overall we are coming in to this meet knowing that we have trained so hard for the last five months just for this weekend,” said Krista Koenen. “We know that we have the best cheering section, the best coaches and have the most fun out of all the teams in the conference, so we are just going to go out there and put together three days of amazing swims and whatever happens, happens.”

Most notably, on the women’s side of the pool, a team that has won the past two MIAC titles doesn’t head to Minneapolis this weekend with much hope for a number-one finish.

Junior Carrie Gunderson heads back to the pool for Gustavus hoping to defend her two-time reign over the 500 freestyle event and also to break her conference record-setting times. Sophomore Anika Erickson finished second in both the 100 and 200 breaststroke a year ago, and the Junior diving tandem of Brittni Mateke and Maria Freund, along with speedy First-year swimmer Dajana Vidovic, hope to contend legitimately for the third conference title in a row.

On the men’s side, optimism follows a team ready to defend their 2008 conference title (their seventh of the past eight seasons) heading into this weekend’s events.

This season, the men enjoyed a great deal of success, winning both the St. John’s and St. Catherine’s Invites, as well as a second place finish out of eight teams at Steven’s Point. They too suffered pivotal dual losses to MSU and St. Olaf but beat MIAC foe Carleton early in the season.

“As always our distance team is exceptional, but it is the "bubble” swimmers on the roster in the middle distance and sprint groups which are going to really determine the outcome of the meet. The great part about our team is that everyone has their own role to play and we are all swimming to inspire one another,” said Kevin Horn.

“We had many great swimmers not make our conference team because of the coronavirus pandemic. As a result of having great mix of underclass and upperclass leaders on the team, I feel this year our confidence is equivalent if not stronger then previous years.”

With an emphasized strength in their depth, Gustavus is led by the ever-consistent and dominant duo of Senior Matt Stewart and Junior Skylar Davis, with help from Sophomore distance swimmers Whitaker Davis and John Rice, as well as Seniors Dave Pearson and Tyler Wakefield. Skylar Davis and First-year Billy Schultz were honored by the conference as...