Building Bridges is out to dispel the concept that one individual is too small to make a difference. On Saturday, March 14, the Building Bridges conference will present this year’s conference on “Liberation Through Education.”

This conference focuses on educational disparities in the U.S. and around the world. “Education is something that clearly everyone at Gustavus values. We are all very fortunate, and [Building Bridges] wants to help those who weren’t given such opportunities,” said Rita Stevermer, a senior psychology major and Building Bridges co-chair.

Erin Gruwell and Maria Reyes will be giving the keynote address. Gruwell began her student teaching at Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach, CA. In her classroom were students with some of the lowest performance rates in the nation. They were thought to be “unteachable.” Maria Reyes was one of the students in Gruwell’s first class. When Erin Gruwell began teaching Reyes’ class, many of her students had seen acts of hate, rape, gang violence, drug abuse and a host of other crimes. Though the tension from her students was palpable in various forms, Gruwell helped them to rethink their lives and ideals and spurred them on to brighter futures. While they were once a class that few thought would graduate high school, they became a class that went on to gain numerous college degrees. Today, many of those students, like Reyes, have stood up to demand a change.

Following the speakers, Building Bridges has organized several workshops hosted by various social activist organizations, including Invisible Children and Teach for America. Marisa Nelson, one of the first graduates of a teaching program designed by Gruwell, will also participate in the workshops. “We are really excited for [Nelson] to come,” said Stevermer. “She is one of the first teachers to go through a teaching program designed by Gruwell and now actually teaches in Coon Rapids.” These workshops are designed to help students act on what they have learned from the keynote address.

“You go to the keynote and you hear about the issues, but the workshops are meant to give you an idea about what exactly you can do,” said Alli Linn, a senior biology major and the other Co-Chair of Building Bridges. Each of the workshops focuses on a slightly different side of the issue by highlighting the particular organization hosting the session, as well as how one can get involved. Sessions will be held more than once to ensure that students can make it to each one.

Once students have completed the workshops, Building Bridges allows individuals to put what they learn into practice. The second part of the program focuses on action and combines 70 elementary school students visiting Gustavus with an interactive literacy program. Paired with a “Custie Guide,” these elementary students will be led through various stations that go along with the book Hungry, Hungry Caterpillar. At the end of the program each of these students will receive a copy of the book.

The week immediately preceding the event is packed with various activities to raise awareness about the conference. On Monday, March 9, at 7:00 p.m. “Is Gustavus Smarter than a Fifth Grader?” will take place in the Market Place. This game is modeled after the TV series Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader? Members of the Gustavus staff will be opposite fifth graders from North Elementary school in a battle of wits. Those participating are Richard Leitch, associate professor of political science and environmental studies, Richard Aune, senior associate director of admissions, and Megan Ruble, director of student activities.

Wednesday brings a presentation of the 2007 film Freedom Writers, a movie based on the story of Gruwell and Reyes. At 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room, this viewing will give the context of Gruwell and Reyes’ story to those who are not familiar with it.

Continued on page 2
Go!: The Schools for Social Change 

Thursday, at 7:00 in the Heritage Room, there will be a showing of a documentary by Invisible Children, G.O.D.: The Schools for Schools Movie. "The book drive we did last semester ties in with this movie," said Linn, "and there will be free popcorn."

Friday will feature good competition and a wealth of entertainment for all as Building Bridges hosts "Gustavus Idol" at 7:00 p.m. in the Market Place. Gustavus students will be showcasing a wide variety of talents, including rapping, singing, break dancing and other artistic flair. Performances will be presented in front of a panel of judges of Gustavus faculty members. Cash prizes will be awarded. Following the competition there will be karaoke in the Dive along with free Goldstone and Buffalo Wild Wings.

Building Bridges is a student-initiated and student-led diversity conference. Each year the conference focuses on a different social issue. The mission is to increase awareness among the Gustavus community and the surrounding community, and to increase activism. "We want to defeat the notion 'I can't do anything to make a difference in the world,'" said Stevermer.

Although most of the work has already been done and no more volunteers are needed on the day of the conference, there is one thing the Building Bridges Committee wishes Gustavus students would do: "We would love it if everyone picked up a ticket outside the [Market Place]," said Linn. Tickets to the conference are free for the Gustavus community.

"I'm really excited for the speaker this year," said Nicole Soiseth, a junior biology major. "Last year the speaker really [reached] out to the Gustavus community, connecting it to the bigger picture, and it will be really interesting to see what [Gruwell] has to say."

The Building Bridges Committee hopes to empower students to make a difference. "We want to defeat the notion 'I'm just a college student, what can I do?'' said Linn. "There is a lot that each individual person can do. Even just changing someone's mind by talking to [him or her] about a certain issue is making the world a better place."

The conference is sponsored by the Building Bridges Committee, CAB, Student Senate and Gustavus Adolphus College.

To our readers,

Last week, we received some complaints about the article "Students unite for a common goal: Case in Point," an article about Case Day. We wish to respond to the criticism we received.

Some raised concerns that the article lacked comments from students who did not participate in Case Day. The article was not meant to reflect the views of all students on campus, but was intended as an exploration of the culture of Case Day, including participants’ experiences and their reasons for taking part in the day.

Some criticized the timing of our article, and its release before Scholarship Day. Whether we like it or not, Case Day reflects an aspect of the school’s drinking culture. Our job at The Weekly is to be journalists, not Public Relations officers. We told an uncomfortable truth at an inconvenient time.

Additionally, we are concerned about rumors that people removed newspapers in bulk from the stands and hid or disposed of them. We believe these actions impede the freedom of the press and deprive community members of their right to enjoy the paper.

The article was written with the goal of talking about Case Day openly and honestly. It was never our intent to promote or glorify the activity. While we are thrilled the article sparked conversation, our fear is that the majority of the discussion focused on The Weekly’s coverage of the event rather than the issues it addressed.

We hope that this letter has clarified some things and will help us move on to a healthy discussion.

Sincerely,
The Editorial Staff of The Gustavian Weekly
Student Senate co-president elections forthcoming

This year’s candidates for Student Senate are Junior Derek Holm and Junior Matt Olson (left), Junior Sean Tessmer and Junior Nick Harper and Sophomore Emily Thayer and Junior Andrew Nelson (right).

Steve Palmer
Staff Writer

Just when you thought election season was over, more posters and advertisements are popping up all over campus, from dorm doors to bathroom stalls. The student body is preparing to select new co-presidents.

This year, three campaigns are vying for students’ attention and votes. These co-presidential campaign teams—Derek Holm and Matt Olson, Nick Harper and Sean Tessmer, Emily Thayer and Andrew Nelson—offer a variety of choices and ideas for the Gustavus community.

Junior Political Science Major Nick Harper said that he and Sophomore Religion and Political Science Major Sean Tessmer, his running mate, thought running for co-presidents would be a way to further their interest in making a difference on campus.

“I have been really interested, and [I’ve been] a part of Senate for the past year and really active. I started as a Dorm Rep[resentative], and then this past semester I was Class Rep[resentative]. ... I also became Senate speaker, and I just have a lot of good ideas of what could be changed on campus and with Senate,” said Harper.

“I figured the best way to do that was to move into the co-president position.”

“I think that there is a lot of potential for the organization beyond what we are doing. My goal is to try and capitalize on that potential to a further degree,” said Tessmer.

“Senate really needs to refocus on policymaking now. We have gone through a few rocky years with the whole finance situation, and now with the new constituency. I think that next year is going to be a year with a lot of potential for Senate,” said Junior Economics and Management Major Derek Holm. He also stated that, along with Olson, he would take Senate “back down to earth,” so students would know what is happening in Faculty Senate ... with the vice presidents and the Board of Trustees and we have a say in what those bodies are doing.”

Olson in particular noted his campaign’s desire to fix Senate financing. “The finance situation has been very troublesome lately. Basically, what we want to do is set some guidelines in place now; they are kind of loose,” said Olson.

“We want just a clean start and not have a budgeting crisis ever again.”

The other campaigns also expressed a desire to work and change the finance procedures. “Finance needs more work. It’s definitely improved, but we are still kind of in a rough financial position as Senate,” said Harper.

“I had already started to do that last semester by fixing and updating the way we do the accounting with the senate contingency fund.”

Nelson and Thayer also feel that finance is a key point of interest, and they want to revitalize the nature of Senate. “We feel like some things have kind of been hidden, and we want to bring it out into the open and really make it a Student Senate and really try to get students and even senators excited about Senate and want to come [to the meetings],” said Thayer.

Harper also said that his campaign wants to attempt to place a student on the Board of Trustees. On the subject of potential administration stalling regarding the student trustee, Tessmer said, “If the administration acts negatively, we will continue to meet with them, over and over and over again.”

Tessmer also cited the need to carry the voice of all student groups to the administration. “We might try and get all the groups on campus to sign onto it and/or a student-led petition for representation. The response would depend on the issue, as each circumstance would be unique and require a slightly different response,” said Tessmer.

Thayer said her campaign wouldn’t run into any problems related to the administration. “What’s unique about our platform is that it is administration-approved. We wrote it out and brought it to faculty and administration to see if we could implement our ideas. [The result is that] everything on our platform has been seen and OK’d by the administration,” said Thayer.

On the point of experience and knowledge of campus going-on, Holm said his campaign has the clear lead. “We have served in the cabinet under several different administrations and gotten viewpoints from all of them. Also, our experiences with the tech services planning committee [and working] with faculty and administration, planning for one of the departments on campus on a greater level ... is a great opportunity we have gotten,” said Holm.

Holm also cited Olson’s and his own involvement in various campus spheres. “We represent a wide constituent base, not just organizations. We are both in choir, both [economics] majors, but in addition, I’m in diving, so I have that athletic background. We also do the tech helpline, so we have a wide base of different people. “We are in contact with.”

Tessmer and Harper stressed their own political differences as a component of their campaign. Harper said that while he is liberal, Tessmer is conservative. According to Harper, this gives his campaign the sense to derive ideas from all viewpoints. “While Senate isn’t necessarily political in the sense that there are Republicans and Democrats, it helps to have two different thinking styles. That way we can build off each other, have better ideas—contrasting ideas—so we can improve on each other’s ideas,” said Harper.

Holm said that his campaign would express the interests of the students while balancing the ideas of other constituencies on campus. “Students aren’t the only constituency at Gustavus. Sometimes when we say we want this done, we have a lot of influence and power to get that done, but faculty, admin[istration] or [alum] [n] could say no,” Holm said. “It’s unfortunate, but some things take time.”

Students can see the full platforms of each campaign on their Facebook groups. Be sure to vote outside the Market Place on March 9.

Classifieds

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Forensics team wins state championship

Laura Gosewisch  Staff Writer

The Gustavus Forensics walked away with first place at the Minnesota Collegiate Forensics Association State Championship on February 22, 2009. Every single member of the team earned points that contributed to the victory. “Our team has always worked hard, but this year I feel an intense drive in each individual. I also think this year our team is the closest it has ever been,” said Senior Communication Studies Major Tasha Carlson.

Gustavus’ overall score was 446 points, setting it well ahead of Minnesota State University-Mankato, which took second place with 408 points. Finishing in third place was Concordia College, which earned 213 points.

The Gustavus Forensics team is comprised of 21 members and continues to grow in size each year. The team’s dedication, especially apparent the week of competition, was especially apparent the week of competition, was especially apparent the week of competition, was especially apparent the week of competition.

The focus on the team as a unit and the absence of a distinct captain or president allows members to step up and take leadership roles in their own unique capacities. “Although the caliber and integrity of our team has remained consistent over my four years, our competitive successes have driven the team to a different and exciting level,” said Carlson.

With an overall score of 446 points, Gustavus’ Forensics team won the state championship. First-year Chloe Radcliffe took first place in the 2009 individual sweepstakes.

Interpretation. Other first-year team members who made an impact at the competition include Mary Cooley, who took second place in the Minnesota Informative category, and Chloe Goldade, who took second place in After Dinner Speaking.

Carlson and Senior Elementary Education Major Maria Siegle brought their years of experience to the competition and racked up points for the Gusties. Siegle placed fifth in the individual sweepstakes, first in Improptu Speaking, third in Communication Analysis, fifth in Extemporaneous Speaking and sixth in Informative Speaking. Carlson took first place in Prose Interpretation and Oratory and fourth place in Drama Interpretation.

Carlson was selected to represent Minnesota at the 2009 Interstate Oratorical Association National Contest in Mississippi this coming April.

The Interstate Oratory is the oldest speaking competition in North America, and many famous lawyers, politicians, newscasters and other notable speakers have competed there. Gustavus has been represented at this competition for the past five years. On receiving this opportunity, Carlson said, “I feel a sense of pressure, but also of pride.”

“The team established itself as a powerhouse regionally, but now we have set our sights on becoming recognized nationally. It is incredible to be a part of the team’s journey and to help build our legacy,” Senior Communication Studies and History Major Kavan Rogness said. Rogness has been on the team for four years and has watched the team develop. “The other teams worked very hard, and that pushed us to step it up as well. They gave us a run for our money, which made our success so much more special,” he said.

“This tight-knit group of articulate students excelled in almost every category, with Junior History and Communication Studies Major Mary Cunningham taking first place in Extemporaneous Speaking and third place in Improptu Speaking. Cunningham, along with her teammate Sophomore Religion and History Major Claire Hagstuen, placed second in Parliamentary Debate. Hagstuen also took second place in Extemporaneous Speaking at the competition.

Junior Physics Major Christopher Hunt took fourth place in After Dinner Speaking and sixth place in Poetry Interpretation. He and Sophomore Political Science and History Major Marie Bushnell took sixth place in Dramatic Duo. “While we are our own competition and at times knock each other out of final rounds, there is no hostility among teammates. It is all about having someone from Gustavus win. We really focus on the bigger picture, on the team as a whole,” said Bushnell.

Members of the Forensics team attribute much of their success to the dedication of Coach Kris Kracht. Siegle pointed out that Gustavus competes against schools that have six or seven years of pressure, but also of pride.”

The forensics team is looking to the future. “I see extreme potential. This team will only get stronger, and I am excited to watch it become better known, especially on campus,” Siegle said.

“Alumni and the absence of a distinct cap- tain or president allows members to step up and take leadership roles in their own unique capacities. “Although the caliber and integrity of our team has remained consistent over my four years, our competitive successes have driven the team to a different and exciting level,” said Carlson.

It is your destiny to own. Your decisions and decisions by others are yours to own.

“Be very careful, then, how you live – not unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity.”

Ephesians 5: 5-16

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

God’s Words for a Life of Virtue, Love, Grace and Truth.
Gustie of the Week:

Carrie Gundersen: Making a difference wherever she can

Kelli Ludwig
Staff Writer

Carrie Gundersen, junior nursing and psychology major, recently received her highest honor at the MIAC swim meet after an already outstanding swimming career: a spot at the National Swim Meet at the University of Minnesota coming up on March 18-21.

Thirteen years ago, when Carrie’s parents signed her up for swimming lessons and dropped her into the pool, they had no idea how talented she would become.

At Hopkins High School, Carrie received numerous honors. She was on the varsity team for six years and MVP for three of them. She went to the Minnesota State swim meet for five years, during four of which she ranked in the top eight, and in her junior year she placed second in the 500-yard freestyle.

Carrie maintained her dominance in the swimming arena at the collegiate level. She honored Gustavus by winning student athlete of the month for three years and the MIAC swimmer of the week three times. At the past three conference meets, Carrie won the 500 yard freestyle twice, the mile twice and placed third in the 200-yard freestyle this year.

“I wish the rest of the team was with me, because they always keep me going during the regular swimming season. But I’ve worked this hard already and I’ve gone this far, so I know I can keep going.”

-Carrie Gundersen

Her first place finish in the mile won her the honor of attending Nationals and gave her the title of MIAC co-female swimmer of the year. Carrie is under a great deal of pressure for her upcoming swim at Nationals.

“It will take effort and determination to get me ready. I wish the rest of the team was with me, because they always keep me going during the regular swimming season. But I’ve worked this hard already and I’ve gone this far, so I know I can keep going,” she said. Her goal for the meet is to place within the top eight.

A well-rounded person who likes to experience many things the world has to offer, Carrie is also involved on campus. As a member of Delta Phi Omega sorority, Carrie likes the experience of meeting “a new group of fun and interesting girls,” while being a part of the Gustavus community and giving back to it as well.

As a strong believer in the benefits of the Greek system, Carrie chose the Deltas because “they stand for everything that I believe in. They do good things for the community, and they are an open-minded, caring and unique group of girls.”

Carrie was this year’s Breast Cancer Benefit, which raised over $10,000 for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. “Listening to the stories of these strong women and knowing that I contributed so much for such a good cause made me so proud of our months and months of work,” Carrie said.

The third greatest element of Carrie’s life is her future endeavor to become a nurse. Not just a nurse, but a nurse who goes out of her way to help and support her patients through even the hardest of situations. This is a personal goal resulting from the helpful and warm-hearted spirit of the nurses who cared for her as a premature baby and the gratitude her parents have expressed to her for these efforts.

“I’m just so touched that these people would work so hard for me and my parents. I want to be that type of person, too,” Carrie said. “I’ve always loved learning and studying nursing, and if I get to focus more on the care of patients, that would be the best position for me.”

There is much more to Carrie’s life than swimming and nursing. She is a sucker for chick flicks, because “they always leave her happy in the end.” She has a passion for Nicholas Sparks novels, such as The Notebook, Message in a Bottle and Nights in Rodanthe, and she loves eating at the Olive Garden and Applebee’s with her friends.

Carrie promotes a balanced lifestyle as her best advice for anyone: “Get all the benefits of life. Get involved, taste everything and never limit yourself. Eventually you’ll find what you like and your place,” she said.

As a role model for strength and dedication, Carries lives by this motto: “If life weren’t challenging, it would be utterly pointless.” She said that when she is in a rough spot and feels tired-out from swimming, she thinks about why she started swimming, all the sport has given her and how happy it makes her, and she jumps right back in. She encourages everyone to strive for their goals like this.
If there is one artist whose name is synonymous with live music performances at Gustavus, it’s Ari Herstand. Herstand enjoys a growing fan base among Gusties who have seen him perform, either opening for Ben Folds’ Gustavus show in 2007 or at his CAB Coffeehouse-sponsored performance last fall. Now, southern Minnesota will get another chance to see Herstand when he takes his show on tour in Northfield, this time showing the folks at St. Olaf College what many Gusties already know: Ari Herstand rocks.

The show will be recorded and released as a CD/DVD set. It will be at The Lion’s Pause, which is a venue that holds up to 900 people, so it’s no surprise that Herstand wants as many Gusties at the performance as possible.

CAB Coffeehouse Executive and Sophomore Communication Studies Major Lacey Squier helped organize Herstand’s two previous Gustavus visits, both of which were hugely successful. “He was so well-received by the crowd that we knew we had to bring him back. His show this fall was such a success that the Courtyard [Café] was filled to twice its capacity; it was the best attendance [at] a coffeehouse event I’ve ever seen.”

Even though a Herstand show is always 100 percent live, he is known for mixing elements of production and performance together in a method known as “live looping.” It’s no surprise to see him whip out a guitar, a trumpet, a harmonica and a drum in the same song, all before beatboxing to put the finishing touch on a perfectly orchestrated collage of sounds.

Although Herstand’s performances are primarily focused on his guitar, his songs incorporate an eclectic mix of musical stylings, all of which display his considerable talents as a truly unique artist. His music sounds like a mix between Trey Anastasio’s upbeat jazz experiments and Jason Mraz’s easily accessible pop, especially his live recordings. It’s a musical style that is simple and predictable enough to provide an easy listen, but unique enough to stay interesting for most critical-eared listeners and indie music snobs.

“Ari is passionate about what he does and anyone who hasn’t seen him should make an effort to get to one of his shows,” said Sophomore International Management and Spanish Major Chaz Brown.

Herstand has three albums available on iTunes: Baby Eyes (2005), One Take (a 2007 live album) and Whispering Endearments (2008). Whispering Endearments showcases some of his standout tracks like “Last Day” and “Rose Stained Red,” but to truly experience Herstand’s music you need to see him live.

When you pay to go to a Herstand performance, you can expect to get two shows for your money. One is Herstand performing his songs. The other is Herstand getting ready to perform his songs. Almost every track in his catalogue features a song preparation, which includes the aforementioned “live looping” and an average of three or four different instruments. Sometimes, the pre-song, which can go on for several minutes, is so fun to watch that it threatens to overshadow the actual song. But Herstand’s songs and pre-songs are both enjoyable, and their combination guarantees a truly unique concert experience.

On his website, Herstand refers to the performance as a “milestone event in my music history,” so whether you’ve already seen him at one of his appearances on the Gustavus campus or you have yet to experience what many Gusties have come to love about his music, this is a great opportunity to see a talented performer at work.

“I’m going to try my hardest to get to Ari’s concert on Sunday. I love his music, and he’s such a nice guy. I worked with him when he came to open for Ben Folds because I was on the concert committee, and he was awesome! I can’t wait to see him again!” said Sophomore Communication Studies Major Meghan Stromme.

The concert is March 8 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Olaf College. Tickets are available for purchase on ariherstand.com or indietickets.com ($7 in advance, $10 at door).
Loosely described as a folksy, experimental alternative rock band that doesn’t really stick to any specific genre, Cloud Cult offers a unique experience for concert-goers. Scheduled to perform on Saturday, March 7 at 8:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall, Cloud Cult is sure to impress.

Cloud Cult hails from Minneapolis, MN and has been together since 1995. There were a few other bands considered to play on campus this year, but Cloud Cult was the final selection.

“The paintings during their shows bring together the senses of sight and sound, which is explosive for your mind and heart,” said First-year Catherine Keith, who has seen the band perform before.

“I’m stoked to see them paint while they play,” said Sophomore Karina McQuarrie. The painting isn’t just a good visual when the music plays. After each show, the paintings are sold to the highest bidder. The money raised with each painting is used in an environmentally friendly way.

“I think it’s pretty cool that they auction off their paintings to buy green certificates to offset their [carbon footprint] during tour,” said Clevette. That’s not all the band does to help benefit the earth. According to the band’s website, all Cloud Cult products and merchandise are 100 percent post-consumer recycled, and “the band has planted nearly a thousand trees to absorb pollutants from travel and manufacturing.”

As one of the pioneering “Green bands” of the modern indie-rock world, Cloud Cult has backed up their open-hearted songs with green action for over a decade. Cloud Cult’s unique live performance includes live painters on stage and back screen video.

Lindsay Lelivelt
News Editor

Fans not only experience great live music at Cloud Cult concerts, but also get to see paintings created on stage, which are later auctioned off to support environmental causes.

Submitted

Lead Singer and Songwriter Craig Minowa formed his own record label in 1997, called Earthology Records. The label’s buildings are powered by geothermal energy and were constructed with recycled materials.

“They are just way more concerned about the earth and are actually doing things about it, and they are just amazing,” said Keith.

This event is free and open to the public.
Smoking debate on campus

Junior Matthew Heider knows all too well the implications of being a smoker on a cold and windy campus. If the school were to ever ban smoking on campus, people would have to walk off of Gustavus property to indulge.

“Smoking on campus isn’t always the best way to start your day,” Junior Amber Hanson explains. “I believe it is important for the campus to consider alterations to the current policy. I feel that a campus-wide smoking ban would be a significant step in improving the environmental health of the Gustavus campus.”

“Without the barrier of smoke that’s not too far away,” said Catherine Osterhaus, “I always get the funny looks or the people looking over their shoulders as they walk away.”

“Smoking on campus isn’t always the best way to start your day,” Junior Amber Hanson explains. “I believe it is important for the campus to consider alterations to the current policy. I feel that a campus-wide smoking ban would be a significant step in improving the environmental health of the Gustavus campus.”

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I know, right?
I challenge you

When I am late to class or a meeting, I apologize when I challenge someone regarding their opinion. I even apologize when something out of my control goes awry. Bottom line: I apologize too much.

Women apologize for a wider variety of reasons than men. I observe women who apologize while speaking in class saying, “I’m sorry if you did not receive the e-mail,” or “Maybe I misunderstood, but…” Un fortunately, I am not the only woman who has adopted this bad habit.

Georgetown Professor Deborah Tennen asserts that this communication pattern is typical in many cultures, those of lower social standing apologize to those of a higher position, but rarely vice versa. Apologies are viewed as a sign of weakness. Most apology enthusiasts are afraid to appear assertive, all-knowing or confident. When it’s heartfelt, an apology has the power to mend a friendship, ease an uncomfortable situation or show that you’re confident enough to own up to your mistakes. But issuing repetitive regrets not only trivializes a genuine apology; it can also undermine your own integrity and confidence.

I challenge you, male or female, to stop apologizing for unnecessary reasons. If you did something wrong or insensitive, obviously say you’re sorry. But when things happen that are out of your control, if you’re unsure of the validity of your question or remark or if the conversation just seems kind of awkward, resist the urge to apologize to smooth the situation over.

I’m not a guy, so don’t call me “guys.” Did you guys study for the test? “What are you guys doing tonight?” “You guys look so cute in your dresses!”

Picture this: you are approaching a table which consists of three guys and five girls. You approach said table of friends and exclaim, “Hey guys!” Everyone greets you in return, and conversation ensues. FREEZE. Guys? Guys? Guys? After reading the dictionary’s first definition of “guys”: “a man or boy; fellow,” I do not care to be called a guy. Some individuals claim “guy” is gender neutral. The phrase has become common in the English language today. Thanks to feminism, our society has attempted to rid itself from sexist language and implement gender neutral phrases such as police officer, chairperson and woman (which my spellcheck just underlined, unfortunately).

Audrey Bilger, author of “On Language,” which was published in the book “Kitchen,” is astounded that “you guys” is becoming “even more widely accepted as an informal and allegedly gender-neutral phrase.”

Bilger, in her book “Kitchen,” recommends that when mixed gender news publications such as The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal make an effort to eliminate sexist language, we should too.

As a gender and women’s studies minor, I never thought about the repercussions of this phrase until this last fall, when my feminist class read Bilger’s article. I was calling entire groups of females “guys.” My point is perfectly outlined and proven when Bilger states, “Calling women ‘guys’ makes femaleness invisible. It says that man—as in a male person—is still the measure of all things.”

I challenge you to neutralize your everyday language and become gender inclusive, especially concerning the phrase, “you guys.” Try calling mixed sex groups “friends,” “peeps,” “you all,” “folks,” “girls” or (if you are Katelyn Johnson) “y’all.” Each person on this campus cut their usage of “guys” in half, we could make significant strides. Personally, I’m going to cut out “guys” all together … and replace it with, “Hey girls!”

The way things ought to be
City folk sitting, sitting

I imagine yourself waking up on a typical Saturday morning. Homework can wait until tomorrow. You have a day ahead of you that is empty. You are looking for a diversion or activity. What do you usually do? The parking lot at the River Hills Mall, generally littered with Gustie parking permits, suggests that many Gusties choose the fabled “run to Mankato.” Atypi Mankato obviously isn’t the only choice, but still, think of how many amusements are centered on consumption or purchases.

Admittedly, I engage in runs to Mankato and its hideous Madison Avenue semi-often. It’s hard not to be hypocritical, especially when the Wild is oriented the way it is. Why do we seem to have no other outlet in which to find amusement? The Siberia-esque weather is definitely to blame, but I also think that local-oriented public spaces—tree areas to congregate and bond with fellow humans—are becoming monopolized and privatized. Our country’s value on personal privacy combines with this sense of private space and makes true community sentiment hard to find.

Of course, you might be saying that parks and city squares could be considered community space, but it seems like they have attached stigmas, perceived to be locales serving of budget cuts, places where homeless people loiter and drug deals go down. This means that shopping malls and shopping centers are where a large portion of the population congregates.

However illusory, centers of shopping attempt to provide a sense of community and bonding. You share space with people who also want to buy things, which means you already have something in common with everyone there. Stores also target specific subcultures, making it easy to find someone who shares your interests. For example, in Holister, you can find someone who shares your interests in surfing, tanning and lounging shirtless under palm trees. In Hot Topic, you can purchase rebellion starting at $12.99.

Malls are cunningly adapting by installing faux sidewalks, benches and open-air plazas to lure people into their special “community,” a place to spend an entire day. This adds to the illusion that it is a welcoming place to gather and bond. But really, all you are doing is buying crap.

It isn’t just malls that impede community sentiment. Look at the way we build our housing developments. I’ve noticed that in many older, inner-ring suburbs, closer to city centers, there are actual sidewalks and front porches. In new subdivisions further out, the enormously bloated tauped and cement-colored homes are cocooned safely behind two-to-three car garages. Garages are the main feature of the front of the house. Do you talk to any one or bond with anyone when going to your car? I think new suburbs have a definite sense of impersonality. We value privacy at the expense of knowing each other.

I spent last semester in India, and I noticed how intensely “in your face” Indian society is. It could be because there are one billion people there, but everything takes place on the street: talking, walking, dealing, buying, drinking tea, working, waiting. Everywhere is public space. Everything is immensely public. This might have some drawbacks, like having the truly rancid armpit of a mustached day laborer alarmingly close to your face on a crowded city bus, but I noticed how much more alive I felt there. I felt like I was bonding, connecting and seeing humanity merely by observing and being around each other. Even if I couldn’t understand what they were saying, I felt like I knew them all a little better.

During my first month back in the States, I, too, feel my brain suffering atrophy. I think our brains start going on autopilot in our regimented and private daily routines.

Continues on page 12
Uncommon sense

The search for “winners”

other grades, although for all I know there may be more. The other grades were “AA,” which apparently seeks to show how awesome someone is through alliteration, and the other was “A,” which at this point seems to be the “A” of Gustavus’s admission ranking system.

The idea behind these grades worries me a bit. First off, I would hope that any institution of higher learning would have the good sense to understand that calling someone a “winner” is just about the most annoyingly smarmy and cliché way of referring to a person. When I see someone who I don’t like, or someone doing something I think is stupid, I apparently seek to show how awesome someone is through alliteration, and the other was “A,” which at this point seems to be the “A” of Gustavus’s admission ranking system.

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Letters to the Editor

In response to Mr. Cleary’s commentary, I would like to restrict the mention of alcohol in the attempt to curb physical abuse and drinking. If we look at the situation in terms of the health and safety of our students and the physical nature of the campus, the alcohol policy change is necessary. For a piece of Gustavus’ history, and for a student who supported this position as a member of the Greek community, I agree.

From the outset of the Feb. 27, 2009 article on Case Day, the wrong message concerning this annual “holiday from inhibitions” was communicated, as it is not as black-and-white as it was portrayed. The title speaks for itself. “Students unite for a Case Day celebration” is at least my interpretation of it—was that many, if not most, Gustavus students chose to participate despite understanding the tradition’s recklessness. In the new era, the student is not a spectator to the events on campus, but it should not condone whether it should be legal. No one likes alcohol. No one says, “Hey, let’s go get an alcohol that I should not have.” The issue is that it is the reality of the world we live in. If alcohol is illegal, it only forces people into choosing illegal, back alley abortions, which can result in death for both the woman and the baby. Abortion is legal in Minnesota, and yet somehow nearly all of us manage to drink. Mysterious ... just because something is illegal, it doesn’t make it right. It is illegal doesn’t mean it won’t happen. If we look at the situation pragmatically, we soon see that legalizing abortion, sexual education and accessible preventive measures are the best means of reducing the number of women who must make this decision.

We need to remember that even adult humans have been complete autonomy over his or her body, regardless of whether you define life as beginning at conception. A developing fetus is not a human being, and we would be infringing on her rights as a human being to force her body to incubate a multicellular blastula.

Drew Ajer ’12 and Mandy McCourt ’12

The article showcasing Case Day in the Feb. 27, 2009 issue was a demás, as her comment was a threat to many students who I am aware, as we all should be, that as a private college our “freedom” of speech can actually be curtailed, but this latest example of such a curtailment is very disheartening.

Harry Youngvorst ’09

I write in response to the Admission Office’s removal of weekly newspaper copies this past weekend. As our main source of campus news at Gustavus, The Gustavian Weekly is a student-led campus publication that brings the community up to speed on news of the college. It is through this public that students are able to express themselves in writing, express a variety of opinions, and enjoy in a much basic way the freedom of speech. Now I am aware, as we all should be, that as a private college our “freedom” of speech can actually be curtailed, but this latest example of such a curtailment is very disheartening.

Barbara Fister Library Department Chair

“I’m pleased the Gustavian Weekly published a story about the 1.5 million pages that have been printed on paper. I think that our printing habits mirror our society’s. While D.A.R.E. provided a gentle approach to fighting drug abuse, students still check out around 2,000 books to prevent prospective students and their families from seeing that story. While I do not think we should force people’s credit, I do believe we have the right to write about that if we so choose.

Reflecting on our core values as an institution, this decision to remove the papers really conflicts with how we value “justice” on this campus, and for that I am disappointed with the place that has affirmed the values I hold as an individual. For all parties involved ... let us learn from this incident and be better because of it.

Respectfully submitted,
Luke Garrison, ’09
Student Senate Co-President

Comments are limited to 2,000 characters and may be edited for length and clarity.
Sunday, March 8

**Amy Jahnke and Kathryn Casey, Student Voice Recital**

Let’s see if they’re ready for *American Idol.*

**A Night of Wonder**

It’s not a strip show, it’s an illusionist.*

**DuoSolo in Concert**

It’s a brother and sister doing an instrumental duo. Let’s hope it doesn’t turn into a Donny and Marie snugglefest.

Jason Lezak

8:00 p.m.

He may not have Michael Phelps’ 14 Olympic gold medals, but at least Jason won’t show up to the lecture with a bong and drive home drunk. Oh SNAP!

College Republicans Meeting

5:00 p.m.

If you guys ever end up making that piñata that looks like former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, let me know; I want first hit (and I’m from Illinois, too!)

2009 Rydell Lecture

7:00 p.m.

Ah, good old Rydell Lectures. I wonder if Sandy, Rizzo, Kenickie and the whole gang will show up. Oh wait, they’re too busy pretending John Travolta could pass as an 18-year-old.

Eating Disorder Awareness Panel

8:30 p.m.

Celery sticks and water provided.

**Monday, March 9**

**Student Senate Voting**

9:30 a.m.

Good luck to all the presidential candidates (even the ones who seem to promote the use of knives and arrows within Student Senate. Who the hell green-lighted that advertisement logo?).

**Jaune Quick-to-See Smith Lecture**

3:00 p.m.

She is a nationally acclaimed Native American artist discussing contemporary American Indian art (by the way, I don’t think the dream-catcher you picked up at that Kwik-Trip in Eau Claire counts as Native American art).

Is Gustavus Smarter than a 5th Grader?

7:00 p.m.

Tough call. A Gustavus student would not be as amused by words like poopy and butt, but a fifth grader would not waste hours viewing LOL Cats online, either.

**Monday Night Recital**

7:30 p.m.

Does anyone else ever laugh when the piano benches move? If you laugh, we can sing the words with you.

Tuesday, March 10

**Philosopher’s Guild**

3:30 p.m.

This week’s field trip: Recreating Pluto’s Allegory of the Cave! Bring spelunking gear. No sunglasses allowed.

**The Pickle was the victim of a drive-by chomping.**

If you guys ever end up making that piñata that looks like former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, let me know; I want first hit (and I’m from Illinois, too!)

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Eating Disorder Awareness Panel

8:30 p.m.

Celery sticks and water provided.

**Wednesday, March 11**

**Blood Drive**

12:00 p.m.

If only I had not shared all of those needles, gotten all of those tattoos and had all of that unprotected sex whilst in Africa. But hey, you only turn sixteen once!

**Showing of Freedom Writers**

7:00 p.m.

It’s a true story about a teacher inspiring students to leave their rough and oppressive hometowns by educating themselves. But it’s not Stand and Deliver, Angela’s Ashes or October Sky.

**CAB Coffeehouse Performance: Meg Allison**

8:00 p.m.

You get Meg Ryan on that stage and you’ll get some butts in some seats.

**Swing Night**

9:00 p.m.

With the availability of private lessons, does this make regular Swing Night a bit drab?

Thursday, March 12

**Amnesty International Meeting**

6:30 p.m.

Out to spread world peace, one candle and/or dove at a time (depending on local fire codes).

**Special Screening of Invisible Children**

7:00 p.m.

Why would I come to see a movie I can’t even see?

**Fellowship of Christian Athletes**

9:00 p.m.

If accused of taking performance enhancers, this crowd can always say it was Christ and his “Jew Juice” that made the difference.

**The Pickle was the victim of a drive-by chomping.**

If you guys ever end up making that piñata that looks like former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, let me know; I want first hit (and I’m from Illinois, too!)
Gusties look to senior leadership to continue hardcourt dominance

Senior Mike Burdakin has been a stellar mainstay for the Gusties this season, with a 10-6 record individually and a 4-4 mark while playing with Gustavus ace John Kauss.

Tony Davis
Staff Writer

After a fifth place finish at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) National Indoor Championships here at Gustavus, the Men’s Tennis team now looks to build momentum as the grind of a long season continues. With matches every week from now through May, much is left to be determined as far as the success of this year’s team. Key wins have propelled the Gusties to a national ranking of eighth place, including wins over twelfth-ranked Mary Washington (VA) and ninth-ranked UC-Santa Cruz during the ITA Indoor Championships.

“Having our friends and families out there to watch us beat UC-Santa Cruz was something special,” said Senior Mike Burdakin. “We have great support from our fans.”

Burdakin and fellow Senior John Kaus remain unbeaten in Division III doubles play, which is exactly the type of success this squad looks to expand upon. With twelve seniors on the 21-man lineup, leadership and experience is plentiful. Head Coach and three-time Division III Coach of the Year Steve Wilkinson had a lot to say about his senior class.

“They were all junior varsity families out there to watch us improve upon their record of 7-3. Their first opportunity comes Thursday, March 12 against Montana State-Billings. This weekend they face off against Morrisville College (IA), Bethel University, St. Olaf and an up-and-coming program in Grinnell College (IA). They finish the busy weekend on Sunday, March 15, on the road at Drake, a place where success has been hard to come by for the Gusties.

“It is always fun playing

Continued on page 15
Gustavus hopes to utilize a challenging non-conference schedule to give them an edge in postseason competition.

Continued from page 14

Drake,” said Senior Charlie Paukert. “They are a high-caliber Division I team with lots of international players. We will fight hard and give it our best shot.

Regardless of the outcome against Drake, continuing matchups against MIAC schools help serve as confidence boosters throughout the season. Gustavus repeatedly handles MIAC schools every year, this year being no different. Just last Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009, the Gusties defeated Hamline 8-1 to move to 2-0 against the MIAC on the season. They also had the same outcome against WIAC school UW-Eau Claire that same day.

As for the rest of the season, one weekend stands out as the true measuring point. On April 4 and 5, 2009, Gustavus will play seventh-ranked Kenyon College (OH) and second-ranked Washington University (MO), among other teams. Success against these regional rivals could lead to home court advantage for the NCAA Regional Championship May 9-10, 2009.

For these key matchups, as well as for the rest of the year, “Our goal is always the same: to work hard every day, have positive attitudes in practice and bring home national titles,” said Burdakin when asked about his goals for these matchups as well as the rest of the year.

Another interesting matchup is against the University of Redlands, an opponent for whom the Gusties maintain a general dislike. This matchup, which comes March 25 out west, just adds to the intrigue and pressures of the long tennis season.

One member of the team who understands pressure is Burdakin.

“Well, being that I have the smallest hands of any guy in the Midwest, every win isn’t just a victory for me, but a victory for people with small hands everywhere,” he joked. “I always have that pressure to win for them, as well.” Expect Burdakin and crew to step it up beginning this weekend as the seniors look to finish off their collegiate careers on top.

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<th>The Gustavian Weekly Sports Schedule</th>
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- A pair of Gustavus Women’s Athletes were honored by the MIAC for their efforts in competition last week. First-year Allie Schwab was named the Women’s Hockey Athlete of the Week for her two goals against St. Olaf in the MIAC semi-final, while Junior Kaelene Lundstrom was named the Indoor Field Athlete of the Week for her 1.67m high jump performance at pre-MIAC meet.

- Senior Kelly Chaudoin will represent Gustavus next week at the NCAA Championships in Nordic Skiing. Chaudoin currently sits as the 11th ranked participant in the country in a field which includes all divisions of NCAA schools.

March 8th 2009
Doors open 7:30
Begins at 8 pm
Alumni Hall

Gustavus Campus Activities Board Presents
Four Time Olympic Medalist and
Record Holder
Jason Lezak

Jottings

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With their 5-0 victory over St. Thomas on Wednesday, the Women’s Hockey team celebrates their sixth consecutive MIAC Playoff title and a berth in the NCAA tournament. Still the #1-rated team in the country according to the USHCO.com poll, Gustavus waits for the selection committee to announce the tournaments field on March 9th to decided where they will play next.

**Triple Crown Double Delight**

Both the Gustavus Men’s and Women’s Hockey teams are headed to the NCAA Tournament after convincing wins in the MIAC Championships this past Wednesday.

After the first two attempted shots on goal lit the lamp for the visiting Pipers, Gustavus answered with 5 straight goals en route to clinching their first MIAC Playoff Championship since 1993 and a spot in the NCAA Tournament. Lead by two goals off the stick of First-year Ross Ring-Jarvi, the Gusties head into the tournament having won their last three contests.