Students gear up for “Super Tuesday”

For many Gustavus students, the 2008 presidential election will be the first chance to have a voice in choosing our nation’s leader. For Minnesota and 23 other states, the selection process begins with a caucus or primary on Tuesday, February 5: “Super Tuesday.”

However, unlike in years past, this February 5 will hold special importance for Minnesota and the country. Once little more than an exercise in futility, this year’s caucus will have a major impact on both parties’ choices for president. Both Democrats and Republicans are locked in a horse race that will determine who will grab the nomination. This year where any candidate could play a huge role because elections take person power and require lots of time and energy on some medial tasks, and college students that college students care about those issues,” Martin said.

Junior Political Science major Conor Bennett is a local caucus coordinator for Democratic Senate candidate Al Franken. “It’s all about doing what you can. It’s all about doing what you love,” said Bennett, whose objective will be to get enough delegates chosen who will vote for Franken at the state caucus. Any student can go out and caucus on Super Tuesday, but if you won’t be around St. Peter for Touring Week, find your local caucus location at the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website at caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us for both parties.

Luke Garrison
Weekly Staff Writer

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Barack Obama, above, is in a close primary race with Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination for president. Minnesota will make its voice heard on Feb 5.

Lake Garrison
Weekly Staff Writer

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Weekly Safety and Security Report


Tuesday, 01/15,
Two students in Sohre Hall were each cited with a drug and alcohol violation.

Wednesday, 01/16,
Someone vandalized the Pittman Hall third floor lounge window. Estimated replacement cost $420.

Friday, 01/18,
Safety and Security responded to a medical assist call at the Lund Center.

Crime Prevention Tip of the Week:
If someone is threatening you through emails, text messages, phone calls, or in other forms—report it immediately to Safety and Security or the St. Peter Police Department. Keep track of all incoming times and dates. If it is in printed form, save them, print them and turn them over to proper authorities. Remember: You don’t have to deal with this alone.

The Weekly Classifieds

4 BR (2-bath), 2 BR or 1 BR
Rent next year: one block from campus! All utilities included in the rent except lights, spacious 4 BR ($1320), 2 BR ($690) and 1 BR ($575) apartments. Appliances, heat, water & sewer included. Off street parking, on-site laundry facilities, deck with a beautiful view of the valley. 1118 South Washington Avenue

Call: 507-382-0249

Break Free! Live in your own house! 12 month lease for next year.

Legendary “Green Acres” 6 BR, 2BA, 2 Kitchens, LOTZ of living space. Up to 8 people.

“Taj Mahal” of St. Peter, 4 BR, 2BA, 2 Kitchens, Close to GAC campus, BIG yard for grilling.

“Gingerbread House”, 3 BR, 1 BA, w/loft. Big yard!
Across from park for healthy exercise.

“Club 169" Make it your address! 4 BR, Eat-in Kitchen, Xtra Room for study or entertaining, 1 1/2 car garage.

Call Joyce for a personal showing (612) 306-0744.

Wanted: Coach
Looking for a fun and energetic person to coach a boys’ gymnastics team next year.

If interested please contact Melissa Lee at mlee@gac.edu
Serving for class

January Interim Experience allows students to serve the community

Kerry George Weekly Staff Writer

The Clothes, Food and Supplies Drive, sponsored by the January Interim Experience (JIE) course Community Action and Social Change, is calling upon the Gustavus community to donate unneeded items to the homeless.

Advocates for Ending Homelessness, the student group who is organizing the drive, is asking for clothes, winter gear, non-perishable food items, school supplies, toiletry items or money to assist those in the St. Peter area. Those interested in helping are also provided with the means to write a letter to a newspaper editor or government representative to express their concerns about homelessness.

“They part of our class is thinking about charity versus justice, [for example] individual acts to show you are passionate versus working to end the problem that created the issue. So, we’re trying to work towards justice by writing letters that show we care about this issue, and getting more people involved,” said Junior Music and Management major Sara Halberg, a member of the group.

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The website will serve as a tool for students run their lives.”

T he Gustavus Student Senate recently moved to create a new homepage specifically designed for students. While it will be operated by the Senate and serve as a means of communication between the Senate and the Gustavus community, the main focus will be to create a place where students can find information on a number of subjects.

The website will serve as a tool for student organizations to share their events with the campus and feature student forums designed to tackle topics important to the Gustavus community. It may also include weblogs written by members of the Gustavus administration, such as Dean of Students Hank Toutain.

The site will emphasize student freedom of opinion and will not be censored by the college itself. The Senate Webmaster, a position created in conjunction with this project, will monitor and maintain the site. It will also be the Webmaster’s job to keep people from using the site to spread hate speech or other offensive material. The webmaster will receive a $375 stipend for his work maintaining the site.

The idea for the site came from a similar site called Oleville, run by St. Olaf College. The site has proven popular among St. Olaf students. While the idea sprang from St. Olaf’s site, Gustavus’ won’t be exactly the same.

The Gustavus website is being designed and created by Steven Titcombe, a junior economics major, during the January Interim Experience. Titcombe is also the creator of KGSM’s website, impressing many people with his work.

Co-President of Student Senate Tony Spain said that Steven showed interest in creating the website and came highly recommended.

“I have had a strong interest in web design for quite some time, but never really found the chance to devote the needed amount of time to studying the topic in depth. Gacspot.com has definitely given me this opportunity,” Titcombe said. He’s currently working on the site from home and plans to launch the website at the beginning of the spring semester.

The Senate is really excited about the website and how it will connect the Gustavus community. Spain is extremely excited. “[The] most exciting part is that it’s an easy way to connect to the student body,” Spain said.

One benefit of the site is that it will allow the Senate to put up what it is considering doing on the site and students will be able to give back immediate response via the webpage. This will help the Senate gauge the community’s response to an idea and act accordingly.

Sophomore Senator Justin Martin believes this feature will allow the Senate to spend money in ways that the most people on campus will enjoy and benefit from. Martin thinks that the website will be a “great resource to help students run their lives.”

WHERE IN THE WORLD WILL YOU BE NEXT YEAR?

Imagine yourself in the world...

WHERE IN THE WORLD WILL YOU BE NEXT YEAR?

Imagine yourself in the world...

Young Adults in Global Mission Program
Serve for 1 year in Argentina, Uruguay, Germany, India, Jerusalem/West Bank, Kenya, Mexico, Slovakia, South Africa, Philippines, or the United Kingdom. Work in supervised setting. Volunteers gather together for reflection, study, prayer, and community building. Travel, lodging, board, and allowance provided. Volunteers rate minimum of $4000 towards support. Mid-August start. Apply by March 1.

Other 1-Year Service Opportunities
Teach in Slovakia. Local stipend and housing provided. Apply by March 15.

2-Years’ Service
Teach in China, Indonesia, Namibia. Serve as librarian in Namibia. Travel, lodging, and stipend provided. Apply by March 15.

3-Years’ Service
Teach English and engage in evangelism in Japan. Travel, lodging, and stipend provided. Apply by March 15.

(Student loan deferments or support available)

www.efca.org/globalserve
800-638-3522, ext. 2648
The Gustavian Weekly

SPORTS

International Man of Curling

Gustavus’ Catering Director Kevin Birr hopes for a repeat performance at this year’s National Championships

Jessie Doig
Weekly Staff Writer

Kevyn Birr, Gustavus’ Assistant Catering Director, calls his father a local curling legend in the Mankato area. Birr has taken after his father, becoming a highly recognized curler locally and now more so at the National level.

Last year, Birr’s curling team won the 2007 National Championship. From there, the team went on to the World Championship. This year, the team will be competing again at the 2008 National Championships, but ultimately the members hope to make it to the Olympics in 2010. The qualifier for the Olympics is the 2009 National Championship and each year is a stepping stone towards their ultimate goal.

“This year, obviously we’d like to repeat as National Champions...But really the most important thing is making the final four,” Birr said. Upon making the final four, the team will continue to fundraise and sponsor in 2008.

Birr’s team is currently funded by the National Olympic Committee, and is sponsored with apparel by Nike. More funding and help from sponsors means less costs for travel and more practice time. Prior to becoming National Champions, competing in international tournaments and traveling expenses came at the expense of tournaments and traveling expenses.

Birr’s role on the team is the ice-maker. From this background, his passion for the sport is such that he has been training from a young age. “I have to spend hours a day practicing and it is really social and fun,” Momsen said.

Birr has been around curling his entire life. He grew up around the Mankato Curling Club where his father was the ice-maker. From this background, his passion for the sport that he excels at today grew. The team is made up of Birr, his brother Todd, and two men from Appleton, WI. Kevin Birr’s role on the team is the first thrower, which means he throws the first two rocks that set up the game strategy. Later in the match, he becomes a scrubber. Since the game is always changing, scrCbbers must find ways to position rocks to give them the best advantage.

The strategy of the game is critical in a curling match. However, the thing that curlers seem to most enjoy about the sport is neither technique nor high competition. “The greatest thing about the game is that it is a social game, it is a game about sportsmanship. When you walk out on the ice, you shake hands, and then afterward you shake hands, then sit down and socialize with them. You really get to know people,” Kevin Birr said.

These types of traditions within the sport make for a great community. There is respect for the teams and the participants are humble, enjoyable people. “I think really one of the great things about Kevin and about other curlers is that they are just normal people, and a lot of people don’t even realize how good Kevin is, even on campus. He represents the country,” Momsen said.

During these winter months, Kevin Birr spends most weekends traveling and competing in curling tournaments. He enjoys the company of his teammates, which really helps to make the whole experience worthwhile. The Gustavus community also has been very supportive of him and he has been happy to represent the college and have the opportunity to promote his passion in the place he works and lives.

Stellar dominance continues on the ice

Gustavus and St. Thomas meet this weekend in a showdown between the MIAC’s best

Andy Keenan
Weekly Sports Editor

The Gustavus Women’s Hockey team has been nothing shy of spectacular this season. With a record of 13-1 (8-0 in MIAC play), and the fourth ranked team in the USCHO National poll, the Gusties sit alone atop the conference and haven’t lost a contest since the season opener against UW-Stevens Point.

Gustavus’ latest pair of victories came at the expense of a Bethel team that the Gusties tossed around in a convincing fashion. Last Friday night in Arden Hills, the Gusties fired three shots past Royal goaltender Beth Spurrier, two of them coming off of the stick of Junior Mari Gunderson, one in both the second and third periods. Sophomore Goaltender Breanna Scavo posted her third shutout of the season with 11 saves while her counterpart in the other crease, Spurrier, had an astonishing 66 saves in the losing effort.

On the following night in St. Peter, Spurrier didn’t fare quite as well as she did the previous day. Gustavus scored as many goals in the first period Saturday evening as they did in the entire game Friday night. The Gusties lit the lamp seven times in the home half of the series including Gunderson’s third of the weekend as well as a pair of scores from Juniors Jenny Pusch and Christine Wicker, and First-year’s Lisa Sablak, Kirstin Peterson and Allie Harwood also found the back of the net.

Continued on page 5
“Women’s Hockey” from page 4

the net for the Gusties.

“At this point in the season, we are hoping to stay on track and continue to win in the conference games. However, one of the biggest challenges is not in our conference at all. We play Wisconsin rival Steven’s Point over touring break and we need to get back at them for the last few losses they’ve handed us,” said Junior forward Jessie Doig.

Gustavus’ Steven’s Point rematch in Wisconsin combined with their next match-up against MIAC #2 St. Thomas (13-2-7-1 in MIAC) shows that the Gusties have a lot of work to do to keep their dream season alive. The team has a series with conference bottom-feeder Augsburg in between their marquee match-ups.

A large portion of the success that this team has seen this season can be attributed to numerous things but in the past couple of weeks, it’s been the play of two talented Gusties that has kept the team on track and the hardware at home.

Senior Captain Laura Vannelli was named the MIAC Women’s Hockey Athlete of the Week for the week of January 7. Vannelli, who had appeared in 87 straight contests up until she got hurt, suffered a concussion and was out for the following two weeks. Upon arriving back with the team on January 14 in a game against UW-Superior, she scored the tying goal with four seconds remaining in the Gustie power play. Gustavus went on to score again, winning by a 2-1 margin.

Junior Jessie Doig was named the conference’s Athlete of the Week for Women’s Hockey Athlete of the Week for the week of January 7. Vannelli, who had appeared in 87 straight contests up until she got hurt, suffered a concussion and was out for the following two weeks. Upon arriving back with the team on January 14 in a game against UW-Superior, she scored the tying goal with four seconds remaining in the Gustie power play. Gustavus went on to score again, winning by a 2-1 margin. Doig scored two goals and assisted another over the course of the week. In that time, Gustavus defeated both St. Olaf and St. Mary’s by scores of 6-0 and 3-1 respectively. Doig is optimistic about the Gusties road the rest of the way. “We have a good combination of [First-years] and upperclassmen and the whole line-up seems to be starting to play better and better at this point in the season. Our strength this year is our depth. We have four solid lines and sets of [defense] and that helps a lot with intensity throughout each series,” Doig said.

“A key to our success is that we never underestimate a single team we play because we know they’ll throw everything they have at us. All the teams in the MIAC are getting better and better, which is great for the sport. We just always have to go out and give it our all,” said Sophomore Claire Opsahl.

Gustavus will drop the puck Friday at home against the Tommies at 7:00 and in St. Paul the following evening at the same time.

Top right: First-year Allie Harwood and Junior Gunderson celebrate with their teammates after a goal scored against Bethel. Bottom: Sophomore Alyssa Saunders maneuvers against a Royal defender.

Freezin’ For A Reason for Special Olympics Minnesota

The Polar Bear Plunge is a unique opportunity to support Special Olympics Minnesota.

Support those with Gustavus ties on Feb. 17 at Hallett’s Pond. The event starts at 2:00 p.m. Registration starts at 11:00 a.m.

Visit: www.specialolympicsminnesota.org for more information.
Changing the conversation

How to: choose a candidate

Chelsea Becker
Commentary Editor

The Gustavian Weekly
January 25, 2008

The 2008 Presidential Election is something I am sure a lot of people are sick of hearing about by now. So to avoid beating a dead horse, I’ll give you a different spin on it. Instead of persuading you to follow a particular candidate or party, I present a gift to you all, the loyal readers of the The Gustavian Weekly. It is entitled, “How to: Choose a Presidential Candidate.”

First, I will give a small introduction to this momentous how-to. After listening to many conversations, both at college and elsewhere, I have realized that this seemingly simple task is approached many different ways. I am all for choosing the method that works for you, but I start to lose my faith in the electorate when I hear of those who employ some less conventional methods (flipping a coin, selecting the most physically attractive candidate and eenie-menie-miney-moe, just to name a few). So instead of ranting about it to my friends and family, I’d thought I would jot down a few considerations that have proved to be useful for myself when evaluating presidential candidates.

Consideration #1: PARTY! PARTY! PARTY!
What individual doesn’t want to have a good time now and then? However, as we all know, parties in politics are a slightly different ball game. While this is a strong factor for almost all individuals, I am somewhat wary to tell voters in the 18-24 year-old age group to choose solely on party affiliation. I don’t mean to offend; I am sure some of these individuals have chosen their party affiliation after critical consideration of their values, mores and issue stances. Yet, from personal experience, it seems that these voters tend to be more susceptible to other influences, such as parents, friends, teachers and professors, when choosing a party. I believe choosing a party is a good thing for those who wish to do so; I just want to ensure that the decision is made after some critical thought.

I am also hesitant to advise people to choose only one of the two main parties. True, these apparent dichotomous parties have dominated presidential elections for most of our lives (with the exception of Ross Perot’s campaigns in 1992 and 1996). Yet, it is false to think that one must conform to this black-and-white, “you are either with us or against us” view so eloquently purport ed by many high-ranking governmental officials (aka the Bush Administration) when choosing a party. Not agreeing with the Democrats does not make you a Republican. Thus, for those of you who find that your ideas do not fit neatly into one of these two warring parties, I officially welcome you to the political “middle,” or as I like to think of it, Independent-ville. You can take one of several roads. You can choose to follow a third-party (I beg you all not to listen to those who believe that a vote for a third-party candidate intentionally hurts the candidate chosen by the DFL or the GOP). You can choose to not pay attention to politics and not vote (NOT RECOMMENDED-ED!). Or, you can choose possibly the most logical option, and contemplate Consideration #2.

Consideration #2: And you think you have issues?
To some people, one’s party is the end-all when choosing a candidate. Yet for them, the fun doesn’t start until after the primary/caucus season. Thus, I ask every individual to do their part and consider the candidates for whichever party you belong to. Or, if you don’t find yourself following one party line, evaluate all candidates you are interested in. Consider their issue stances, their education, their background, their political history, etc. You all know what that means: research. While this might be a college student’s least favorite activity, I promise you that it isn’t too painful. Put on a debate (take advantage of the Writ-ers Strike), read newspapers, or utilize the information provided by the internet.

Election information is practically everywhere, so take advantage of it. One fun way to start this research is to visit the “Candidate Match Game” on usatoday.com. This simple game quizzes you on policy stances and gives a guess at your best candidate match. Now who said politics can’t be fun?

In all seriousness, a little bit of work on your part will help you make an informed decision and, for an added bonus, you’ll look smart in front of your friends.

Consideration #3: Learning from YouTube’s “End of Ze World”
For those of you unfamiliar with this video, the possession of nuclear weapons makes the end of the world a seem ingly remote, but distinct possibility. I believe a candidate’s position on foreign relations is possibly the most important consideration. You see, a candidate can get up on a soapbox and deliver all of his/her plans to save our economy, our children, our environment, etc., yet they can only use influence and persuasion to make these plans a reality. Domestic policies traditionally belong to our legislature.

On the other hand, the President has much more power in foreign relations. According to our Constitution, the President is the Commander-in-Chief of our armed services. This allows the President to be, as John Marshall proclaimed in 1816 before the House of Representa tives, “the sole organ of the nation in its external relations, and its sole representative with foreign nations.” This belief, embraced by the executive and accepted by the Supreme Court, places the President in a very powerful, international role.

What can we conclude from this? Simply that, the President is the one who directs those nuclear warheads, not the legislature, and not the people. So if we want to avoid an “End of Ze World,” I would make sure that a candidate’s foreign policy stances will lead to discourse among the nations and sound allied relationships.

Consideration #4: The Sixth Sense—Intuition
Skeptics, you can skip over this one if you wish. However, there is some truth to sticking to your intuition, especially after you have done the leg-work known as research. A candidate can sweet-talk the voters all day long, but what they say isn’t necessarily predictive of what they will do. So if you really get a bad feeling about Hilary, or you secretly think McCain is a crazy man, don’t vote for them. Maybe you do have a sixth sense, or maybe, after the research, you think that these candidates are just trying to butter you up. Either way, if your intuition seems to be telling you something, it’s probably worth listening to, even in politics.

Now that you have thought about these considerations, it’s time to make a decision. To vote is to make a choice. You should vote, either in a caucus or primary (Reminder: Minnesota’s Caucus is February 5) or in the general election. It is your civil duty, and effective use of your voice. Don’t be silent; Vote!
Offering perspective

Turning off the reruns

January Interim Experience is a unique and interesting time of the year. Some students take one of the creative and intellectually stimulating classes, some create their own class as I did this year, some work via an internship, and others go abroad. With all the extra downtime many students rarely have during the year, many spend some time watching new episodes of their favorite television shows. Until this year. Except for a few shows like Project Runway, American Idol or American Gladiators, most television shows are reruns due to the striking of the Writer’s Guild of America (WGA). I could spend the balance of this article proclaiming my support for the writers and trying to convince you all to do the same; instead, I will give some recommendations for those who are sick of reruns or don’t know what to do without television.

One alternative, if you want to stick with the mass media, is radio. I love radio and think it is a great alternative to TV anytime, especially now when there is no good, new, or on. The beautiful thing about public radio is that its writers are not WGA. This means that if the show is on reruns, it is because its writers are not being paid or because it is out of season. Public radio does not take three months off at the end of a season, radio is constantly on the air.

This American Life is one of the most creative and innovative shows on the air. Hosted by Ira Glass, one of the most respected journalists in radio, the show is not a news show, or a call-in talk show like Rush Limbaugh. Instead, it is like a movie for radio. This American Life journeys into the lives of ordinary people caught up in extraordinary events that have surprised and engaging stories attached to them. Each show features several stories centered around a central theme that is the title of the episode. A few weeks ago the title was Shouting Across the Divide and contained stories about when Muslims and non-Muslims try to communicate, and misfire. In one story brought us into the lives of a Muslim woman and her family. The family immigrated to America from the West Bank for opportunity and was met with prejudice. The prejudice was so bad that it began to affect her family and the family’s day-to-day existence in America. The best part about This American Life is that if you miss an episode, you can subscribe to its podcast and download each week’s episode for free. The show airs on Minnesota Public Radio Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. and Sundays at 8:00 p.m., and is online at thislife.org.

Hopefully, armed with these recommendations you can take advantage of the WGA strike to broaden your horizons and try something new. The good news is that there are still alternatives, and good ones at that.

Letter to the Editor

The January 18 editorial, entitled “Liberals in Conservative Clothing” made some questionable assertions. Besides personal shots made towards Barack Obama, Evenson declared, “Mike Huckabee has little respect for capitalism.” However, Huckabee wants to maintain it like every other candidate. The differences between Democrats and Republicans are smaller than constant partisan bickering would indicate. If fiscal conservatives want to talk about bloated bureaucracies undemocratically managing public funds, they often do, then why not talk about the military budget, which “taxes and spends” 626 billion taxpayer dollars a year? This figure is more than the defense budget of every other nation in the world combined. Some of this is spent on productive and necessary measures. But we also spend billions on outdated systems, like production and upkeep of nuclear weapons (9.3 billion dollars a year). Are we going to nuke a city to root out a cell of terrorists? The editorial says that responsibility of the federal government is to “protect us by ensuring that we have the world’s best military.” Don’t we already have the best military in the world? Moreover, if we are fighting terrorists, the enemy of the 21st century, new and extremely technological weapons systems are not necessary. Our military is already perfectly adept at killing terrorists.

Not one viable candidate, Democratic or Republican, has discussed the federal government’s insane military budget. It is a problem that has its roots in many social problems. The fact that none will even mention this issue illustrates the limited range of choice we have. Remember, we are more likely to die of a lightning strike than a terrorist attack. We cannot let this fear cause us to lose sight of other issues that matter. Yet it seems we already have.

Steven Palmer ’10

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403 S. Minnesota Ave.
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Order by number from our Valentine ’08 Menu

Mary’s Flowers

Ask about our FRESH LILIES! (Hershey’s, that is)

Valentines Day
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The Weekly Sudoku Solutions

Solution to Last Week’s Sudoku

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
4 & 8 & 3 \\
9 & 6 & 7 \\
5 & 2 & 4 \\
3 & 7 & 1 \\
6 & 1 & 2 \\
2 & 9 & 5 \\
7 & 3 & 8 \\
8 & 4 & 6 \\
1 & 5 & 9 \\
\end{array}
\]

Solution to This Week’s Sudoku

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
4 & 8 & 3 \\
2 & 6 & 7 \\
9 & 6 & 5 \\
1 & 3 & 8 \\
3 & 5 & 2 \\
6 & 8 & 1 \\
7 & 9 & 4 \\
8 & 4 & 6 \\
1 & 5 & 9 \\
\end{array}
\]

The Gustavian Weekly Jumble

CEPSUTS  ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
SALUEPAP  ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
KEFLIC  ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
TOBLET  ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Question:
Why was the barber forced to leave the casino earlier than he originally planned?

Answer:
To “_ _” his _ _ _ _ _ _
Use circled letters to solve.

Will I Return?
Check out the back page on Feb. 22 to find out!