The Gustavian Weekly
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The Hard Truth
Kelly Nelson Weekly Staff Writer

Whether you chug 24 cold ones with your pals on Case Day, enjoy a bottle of wine with the girls or walk through The Drive on a Friday night, you have probably caught a whiff of the alcohol culture at Gustavus.

From the administration to students who party three nights a week, members of the Gustavus community have a wide variety of opinions regarding the role of alcohol on campus. Like their beverage choices, Gusties have many different ideas about drinking.

Sophomore Management Major Kenny Latham believes that Gusties who choose to drink do so to be social and have fun with their friends. “I do drink. I choose to drink because it opens up doors to many social situations. The way I like to put it: you don’t necessarily drink to get drunk—you set a night and say I am going to go have [a few] and if you get drunk in the process, so be it.”

The administration, however, has witnessed disturbing trends as a result of alcohol-related behavior on campus. According to Assistant Dean of Students Ruth Johnson, Director of Residential Life Charlie Strey and Director of Safety and Security Ray Thrower, the quantity of alcohol consumed on campus has increased significantly this year.

Thrower said that Safety and Security has been encountering students with higher Blood Alcohol Levels (BAL) than in previous years. “In the past, if a student blew a .20—that was a pretty intoxicated student. We are starting to see students in this academic year that are blowing .27 or .32. Normally when we see students at that level they are hospital worthy, but these students are walking and talking.” Thrower said. This signifies that some students have been drinking regularly and consistently enough to become a seasoned drinker with a high tolerance level for alcohol.

Junior Sociology and Anthropology Major and Collegiate Fellow Jamie Snyder described a recorded incident of a resident in such a situation. “A girl blew a really high, detox-worthy level…[but] she was completely coherent and her BAL was ridiculous. It is scary…that she drinks so much so often that [she could] rattled off the ABCs and count backwards.”

Strey believes that the hard liquor industry plays a factor in the higher BALs of students by seducing students with flavor. “The hard liquor industry has attempted to seduce people by making everything flavored. We are seeing a lot of people using vanilla Smirnoff [and other], berry-flavored hard alcohol. It is hard alcohol with a flavor to it so it goes down easier. People are drinking 10, 12, 15 shots,” Strey said.

Sophomore History Major Natalie Baker agrees and thinks that females on campus often want to impress boys by drinking large amounts of alcohol. “It’s really scary when a 135 pound girl and a football player go drink for drink with each other as…[a] way of flirting.” According to Baker, a lot of students come to college without having experimented much with drinking. “A lot of students come to college without knowing their limits and just follow what others do.”

Sophomore Psychology Major and Collegiate Fellow Shelly Cooper has witnessed this tendency in first-year students. She experienced one incident while on-duty with a resident who could not handle the amount she drank. “An ambulance had to come and pick up [the] person. [It] was scary…seeing how gone that person was…. She wasn’t coming down and [was] still rising up in her level of drunkenness. I had never seen anyone like that before. It affected her friends. I had to step back and make sure they were okay. The friends were scared and it opened their eyes,” Cooper said.

Junior Accounting and Political Science Major Lucas Ryan experienced detox last year. “I had to pay for….one night where I happened to drink too much. I wasn’t puking or blacked out. I was coherent. I definitely am a lot more careful. When I started to drink again I did in moderation”

“Detox is a very eye-opening experience. The most common thing I hear from our students [after experiencing detox] is: ‘I am not like them, but if don’t do something different, that is my future.’ And that scares them. Most often a change of behavior occurs for awhile,” Strey said.

Safety and Security Lead Officer Dave Klein explains that S&S worries about the safety of students who drink to the point that they make decisions uncharacteristic of them. “The ones that we are really concerned about are the ones who have gone too far; they can’t handle themselves [and] they are making the wrong decisions,” Klein said. “We have had people who have…cursed us, called us names—just flat out been plain rude. I am absolutely sure that the same person in a completely sober state would not talk to us in that way.”

According to Latham, any school is going to have the occasional student who drinks too much and gets out of control, but for the most part Gustavus students drink responsibly. “Students watch over each other really well at this school,” Latham said. “There have been plenty of nights where we have all been detox-worthy. When we are, we try to be smart about it. Detox is scary, but it is always something we put in the back of [our] heads—a risk we are willing to take.”

According to statistics from the Dean of Students Office there were 21 incidents of students being sent to detox between the beginning of this year and Spring Break, and a total of 114 drinking citations were issued from the beginning of the year through January.

Thrower explained that some students seem to have the mindset that “we study hard and we are going to party hard and we are drinking to get drunk.”

Latham and his friends have developed a system for balancing school and partying. “[My friends and I] drink quite a bit, three days a week, but there are people that do more. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday are when the parties are. As it gets closer to finals it gets a little bit more intense.”

Continued on page 3
WEEKLY Safety and Security Report

Sunday, 3/13
A vehicle was vandalized in the Norelius Parking Lot. Damage to vehicle is estimated at $125.

A student while in Pittman Hall was arrested for a liquor law violation and damage to property. The student was later transported to DETOX.

Thursday, 3/14
Safety and Security responded to a suspicious person call at the Campus Center.

Saturday, 3/15
A student while in Pittman Hall was arrested for a liquor law violation, disorderly conduct and failure to comply with a college official and was transported to DETOX.

A student while in Norelius Hall was cited for a liquor law violation.

A student while in the Johnson Student Union was cited for a liquor law violation.

Two students while on Eckman Mall were each cited with an alcohol violation. One student was later transported to DETOX.

Four students and two non-students were cited with liquor law violations. The two non-students were trespassed from campus and two of the students were each cited with a social host violation.

A vehicle was vandalized while parked in the Sorensen Parking Lot. Damage to vehicle is estimated at $300.

Monday, 3/17
A laptop computer and assorted books were removed from two unattended backpacks at Nobel Hall. Estimated replacement cost is $1,400.

Wednesday, 3/26
A counterfeit twenty dollar bill was discovered at the Finance Office. Safety and Security and the St. Peter Police are investigating.

Several DVDs were reported stolen from the Folke Bernadotte Library. Safety and Security is investigating. Estimated replacement cost is $30.

Friday, 3/28
Two students, while on Campus grounds by Southwest Hall, were cited for drug usage and possessing drug paraphernalia.

TIP OF THE WEEK: Lost Room or Building Entry Keys
Immediately report a lost room key or building entry key to Safety & Security! Someone can use it to gain entry to your residential hall or individual room with the intention of hurting you or someone else, or with the intention of stealing personal belongings.
Drinking has become a part of college culture across the country, with incoming first-years becoming heavy drinkers at the start of college.

Johnson understands that college is a time when many students consume alcohol, yet her concerns lie in the future of our students. “There is a belief in the mind of some students that college is the time when you party and that of course you would not conduct yourself like that once you are out in the world with a job and many responsibilities. My concern is that some students may be putting themselves on a path biochemically and physiologically that will not allow them to just flip the switch when they take a job and move into a new life. Alcohol addiction may be laid down in their social practice now.”

Klein has concerns as well: “I read and hear a lot of things on the news of other colleges [that] have had people who have died. It’s probably, for us, a matter of time before we see it. And I hope I am not [the one] who will have to take care of that call.”

Strey believes that society itself has a problem that manifests itself on college campuses. “This age group of people is on the cusp of becoming independent, so they are trying to make independent decisions—or what are being toted as adult decisions and alcohol is one of them. Unfortunately, society itself says ‘these are the best years of your life’ and the alcohol companies say this is all a part of it, and your college experience needs to include this to be a full college experience,” Strey said.

Ryan believes that regardless of the academic institution, students are going to drink, and the problem is not just specific to Gustavus—it’s a nation-wide problem. “If you are getting hundreds, thousands of kids together, people are going to drink,” Ryan said. Baker agrees and thinks that students commonly drink because they are not coming up with other creative activities. “People aren’t trying hard enough to make their own fun apart from drinking, and it becomes the default activity,” she said.

Snyder concurred that those who choose to drink are going to drink, but she is also very impressed with the stability of the PLEDGE Program, Gustavus’s substance-free housing program, on campus as well as the number of students who make the decision not to drink. Snyder, who participated in PLEDGE her first year on campus, said, “I found this awesome community with these amazing girls and alcohol wasn’t a part of it at all, and it was the best year I had here,” Snyder said. “I was shocked. Not only did I come into a whole section that was sub free, but a whole tower and there is a whole upper classroom building (Prairie View). Then there are also the people that don’t drink that don’t elect to live in PLEDGE. I was surprised and really excited that all these other people enjoy a sub-free life. Drinking isn’t the only thing in college, and if you look you can find other people that don’t.”

And for those Gusties who do choose to drink, like Latham and his friends, they are just going to keep partying. “We like to celebrate a lot of different things—birthdays we get way out of control. My birthday this year we celebrated for an entire weekend. Case Day is very big. If we all have big tests on Friday, we start drinking to celebrate them being over with. We always find reasons to celebrate.”

Alcohol is certainly present on campus, and it is how Gustavus students choose to handle it that determines what kind of role it plays in their college experience.

**Hard Liquor** from page 1

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**Drinking at college**

From a 2006 survey on the drinking habits of college freshmen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer before first year</th>
<th>Fall of first year</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Drinking levels increase early in the first year of college...</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drinking levels</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstaining from alcohol</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy drinking episodes*</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problematic drinking episodes*</td>
<td>5%</td>
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...as do the negative consequences of drinking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consequences</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 3</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hangover</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regret</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackout</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
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*Heavy drinking is defined as five or more drinks in a sitting; problematic drinking is defined as ten or more drinks in a sitting.

**NOTE:** Surveys collect data on 14,000 students age 18-24 weeks after July and Labor Day, and 9,000 students per week between Labor Day and the October survey.

Source: Minnesota Student Association.

Through Oct. 27, 2006

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**This is a paid advertisement**

_The day will come when the mystical generation of Jesus by the Supreme Being in the womb of a virgin, will be chased with the fable of the generation of Minerva in the brain of Jupiter._ ~ Thomas Jefferson

**Dear Gustavus Board of Trustees and Presidential Search Committee:**

_Gustavus Adolphus College is not the place that it claims to be._

**Gustavus does not honor its Lutheran tradition.**

Lutheran doctrine declares that the Bible is the inspired and inerrant word of God. However, many Gustavus professors teach that the Bible is self-contradictory and false. Additionally, members of the Chaplain’s office also teach that certain portions of the Bible are false.

_Gustavus does not uphold its five core values._

In the last three years, the Gustavus administration has only sent campus-wide notifications and condemnations of discriminatory acts perpetrated against minority students based on their race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. Conversely, acts of bias and discrimination perpetrated against Christian and conservative students have been neglected. In accordance with Gustavus’ core value of justice, acts of bias against all students should be addressed.

_Gustavus is out of alignment with its mission statement._

The Gustavus Adolphus College Mission Statement claims that “developing a mature understanding of the Christian faith tradition” is an important institutional goal. However, many professors teach that a mature understanding of the Christian faith involves recognizing it as a collection of myths. Additionally, in the classroom, in dormitories, and elsewhere on campus students are mocked and physically and verbally attacked for expressing their Christian faith.

_However, while recruiting a new President, Gustavus can become the place that it historically claims to be._

In order to ensure that Gustavus honors its Lutheran tradition, its values, and its mission statement, we encourage you to hire a person for the position President who has strong moral values, who upholds Lutheran Holy doctrine, and who has a desire to rectify the ways in which Gustavus does not abide by its institutional tradition and claims.

Sincerely,

Gustavus students, alumni, parents, and community members in Christ

Paid for by “Friends in Christ”. Lutherans and Christians in the preservation of God’s word, works and will.

_“I am afraid that the schools will prove the very gates of hell, unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures and engraving them in the heart of the youth.” ~ Martin Luther_
A thousand faces a day

Meet Your Fellow Gustie: 
Michael J. Sielaff

Sam Grace  
Weekly Staff Writer

Michael J. Sielaff is not an unfamiliar face on the Gustavus campus. In fact, his face might be the first thing people notice about him. Whether he is making crowds laugh with his unique sense of humor or picking favorite foods off the dish line carousel in the caf, the 6'7" towering senior can be easily spotted with his lanky build, blonde hair and Kansas baseball cap.

Religion major and Theatre minor, Michael J. (as he is known by his friends) is originally from Fridley, MN. His passion for theater began during his first year as a Gustie.

“I sort of eased into the theater scene and took a few [theater] classes,” said Michael J.

Throughout his Gustavus experience, Michael J. has been involved in a number of one-act plays, as well as three main stage productions: Experiment with an Air Pump, The Tempest and a recent role in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.

Friend and Junior Psychology major, Holly Andersen, said, “[Theatre] is definitely a talent he has. I don’t think anyone can move his face the way he can. It shows diversity in his personality. Through humor he can display the love of making people happy.”

In addition to his many productions, Michael J. has also been involved with “I Am, We Are,” a social justice theater troupe on campus.

“At first I thought he was a character actor, but recently I’ve noticed he has a very realistic aspect to his acting,” said Senior Psychology and Economics major Yoshi Suzuki, who shares a KGSM radio show with Michael J. on Saturdays.

“We dedicate the show to someone before each performance,” said Michael J. “I dedicate each show to Jesus—the ultimate social justice. I feel that it’s my joyful obligation to promote justice in any way I can. My faith plays an important role there.”

Michael J.’s faith is also reflected by his avid participation in Proclaim and in Men’s Christian Fellowship. Down the road, Michael J. is interested in becoming a pastor, but for now he is unsure about what to do after graduation.

During fall semester, Michael J. studied abroad at the Visthar Institute in Bangalore, India, through the abroad program led by Professor of Philosophy Doug Huff.

“He’s got this magical spirit,” said Huff. “He raised the morale virtually every day for the group. Plus, he’s just funny. At one point we were asked to divide into groups and imitate animals. Michael J. came out as the most amazing stork I had ever seen. Anytime he was asked to perform, he went beyond the call of duty. And he, of course, was a very good student.”

While touring India, Michael J.’s tall frame and blonde hair caught the attention of almost every local child.

“He was absolutely magical with all the children in India,” said Huff. “He was like the pied piper. Whether on trains, buses or stations, it would only take a few minutes and Michael would have a group of children around him, and the Indian mothers smiling proudly.”

“It was really fun for me to play with the younger kids,” said Michael J. “You can’t help but call attention to yourself by being tall, white and blonde [in India].”

“He’s really positive,” said Senior Biology major Lydia Davitt, who went on the trip with Michael J. “He doesn’t complain a lot. He kept the mood really light and his sense of humor in general was really nice when most of us were really stressed in India.”

Along with his faith, Michael J. highly values relationships and the friends he makes. To Michael J., a simple, “How’s it going?” does not suffice as conversation.

“When I pass people in the hallway, I try to avoid a [simple conversation],” he said. “To sit down and talk to someone for two minutes is not real.”

“I have a lot of fun with Michael J.,” said Andersen. “He makes people a priority and makes them feel special. With him, things always seem to go deeper. I feel like I’ve gotten to share myself with him more than I have with other people.”

When he is not performing on the stage, talking to friends or deepening his faith, Michael J. can be found on the front row of the stands cheering loudly at almost every Gustavus basketball game.

“I love heckling,” said Michael J. “I said to myself if I never play basketball [for Gustavus], I’m going to be one of those people yelling at the other team. I don’t swear and I try to be as creative as possible.”

“He’s a big fan of chanting,” said Suzuki, who sometimes accompanies Michael J. in the front row of basketball games.

“It’s not a personal thing,” said Michael J. “I’m just trying to get into their heads so they do not play as well.”

“He has so much pride,” said Andersen. “If we were on the team I would be so proud to have him as a fan at games.”

No matter where Michael J.’s life leads him in the future, he will always have people in his life who care.

“He’s definitely one of the people I want to be friends with forever,” said Suzuki. “I’d never really met someone like him before I came here. I would like to have him as a friend until I die.”

“[Michael J.] is what all human beings should be more like,” said Andersen. “He’s really tall and goofy and outgoing and super friendly, but overall the best way to describe him is that he’s just top notch.”

Standing at 6’7,” Senior Michael J. Sielaff is known for his goofy personality and being super friendly.
Broadway hit *Sweeney Todd* is slightly off-tune

**Tom Butala**  
Weekly Staff Writer

Thanks to the success of *Chicago* and *Moulin Rouge*, the musical-movie has experienced a revival. Hollywood has quickly turned other successful Broadway productions into big screen productions. For the most part, as in the case of *Hairspray* and *The Phantom of the Opera*, this has been an entirely good thing. However, Tim Burton’s version of Stephen Sondheim’s *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* has a number of flaws that turn what could have been a good story sour.

*Sweeney Todd* is a grim story of revenge set in the grimy streets of London at the turn of the twentieth century. Johnny Depp plays a barber who has everything: a lovely wife and beautiful daughter. When an evil judge—played by Alan Rickman—becomes jealous of the barber’s wife, he sends him away to prison. The movie begins as the barber returns to London, vowing to exact his revenge.

If you enjoyed *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, if you've ever liked any musical or if you are a big Tim Burton fan, you'll probably find something to like about *Sweeney Todd*. However, if you are bothered by people with 'unconventional' singing voices, as I am, you might have a hard time enjoying this movie.

Tim Burton has put Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter in the starring roles. Even though Depp is a great actor, when it comes to singing ability he comes somewhere between William Shatner and Scott Stapp. Carter sounds like she’s singing her lines out of a Lutheran Book of Worship, and thanks to Alan Rickman, I now have a good idea of how Henry Kissinger’s singing voice must sound.

But, other than that, there’s really nothing to complain about. The movie looks great, as long as you’re into the whole super emo/goth thing that it has going for it.
On March 19, 2008 the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq passed. Gustavus students in protest of the war held a candle-light vigil in front of the campus center, placing them in a category with fellow protesters across the country. Two weeks ago several hundred protestors joined for another march on the capitol in Washington D.C.

I had the opportunity to accompany 17 members of my church community and observe first-hand a protest in the hub of our country’s government.

The Olive Branch Interfaith Peace Partnerships organized the protest. A group that advocates peace and represents people from different faith backgrounds, this group frequently coordinate similar events in the D.C. area.

Junior Philosophy and Art double Major Natalie Norberg participated in Gustavus' protest. “This was the five year anniversary for the start of the Iraq war…[and] we wanted to draw attention to that,” Norberg said. “I think it is important to have a protest here. It brings the message home a little bit more.”

For Norberg, “Peace protests are not directed against the people in the service, but [rather] against the people sending them.”

Senior English Major Mee Moua said “I think [peace protests] are needed. I see it as another war…a peaceful…war against a violent war.”

Gwin Pratt is a pastor at St. Luke Presbyterian Church in the Twin Cities. He attended the anti-war march in Washington D.C. As a founder of the Christian Peace Witness for Iraq—a group of Christians committed to working for peace in Iraq, he is very invested in the issue and helped to organize other protestors to join him in D.C.

“Protests are kind of an emergency reaction to the things that are happening…What we are trying to accomplish is a shift in the consciousness of the country,” Pratt said.

As a minister, Pratt may seem an unlikely candidate to protest in a government building. He has strong feelings about his role as both a pastor and an activist. In fact, many of those protesting beside him were religious leaders from around the country.

“Civil disobedience is generally seen as a way of saying no to business as usual,” he said, “Those folks are saying with their bodies and with their lives that this higher law governs them.”

Throughout the weekend, participants attended workshops, a protest near the capitol building and finally an extension of several human chains to the Hart Senate building.

Upon arrival at the building, the group of civil disobedience protesters in Iraq a group of forty-one individuals sat inside the building’s atrium to pray and sing in opposition to the war.

A short while in, a contingent of approximately sixty-five Capitol Police officers surrounded the protesters. “Really, it was a very spiritual experience. I had my eyes closed and… didn’t even aware of the... capitol police… until they were completely surrounding us,” Phyllis Messenger of St. Luke Presbyterian Church said.

A police officer used a bullhorn to give the activists three warnings before each of the forty-one peace activists was arrested for unlawful assembly. As the vigil continued,

**Top:** People gather at the Washington Memorial.  
**At Right (From top to bottom):**  
1) Protesters gather in Washington D.C. to express their opposition to the war in Iraq. Each protestor brought a piece of rope to create “10,000 feet of Hope.”  
2) Protestors sing outside the Hart Senate Office Building.  
3) It is the aim of peace protests to make tributes like the Vietnam Memorial a thing of the past.  
4) A protestor is arrested for unlawful assembly.  
40 others were arrested.
Throughout the weekend, hundreds of onlookers stepped onto the four tiers of balconies surrounding the atrium and applauded the individuals as they were arrested. Through it all, the officers were surprisingly courteous. Each arresting officer politely informed the protesters they were being arrested and were careful not to injure them. “They voiced their appreciation for our courage to voice our dissent. We treated one another with great courtesy and they treated us as fellow citizens,” Messenger said.

She said that her action in the protest was about “being able to say to people ‘I’m doing this for my kids, I’m doing this for your kids.’ I don’t want my kids to be sacrificed for an immoral war that...is being carried on for God knows what reason,” she said.

Messenger is realistic about the political influence of her actions. “I have no illusion that [I] will make any dramatic change,” Messenger said, “but maybe it’s a drop in a river that is going to go in a different direction.”

“Maybe my participating in civil disobedience is more about transforming myself and those people around me,” she said. Messenger does hope that her actions will bring about a degree of change. “[It’s about] passing the word that it’s time that we all start raising our voices more emphatically and... let those in power know that we will not tolerate this any longer.”

This protest was only one of many, and relatively small in comparison to some others. That being said, I believe it still has an effect on individuals. People hear about and see these protests and they are affected by them.

I was very moved by the whole demonstration. There was no yelling and no violence. It was incredibly peaceful and everyone was respectful to each other. For me, that made this a very successful protest. Peace protests show those in control that we are not satisfied with what is going on, and that we will not be quiet any longer.
The Gustavus Adolphus Baseball season is officially in full swing after their annual spring trip to Chandler, Arizona. The Gusties (8-8) finished the trip with a record of 4-6 after battling against several tough teams.

The Gustie squad is looking to build upon the success they had last year as they finished among the top four teams in the MIAC to earn a playoff spot. Perhaps the best attribute of this team is experience. Gustavus is returning with all but one player from last year's roster, including nine seniors. That one player, however, was All-American third baseman Tony Konicek.

Konicek leaves a significant hole in the offensive aspect of Gustavus' game. In 2007, Konicek hit .452 with 10 home runs and 55 RBI, and was crowned the MIAC's Most Valuable Player. Despite the loss of such a high-impact player, senior catcher and tri-captain Shea Roehrkasse still believes this year's team has all the pieces needed to be successful.

"Defensively, from 1-9 (in respect to the team’s batting order) we’re a pretty solid club. It will take a cumulative effort from all nine guys in the lineup to compensate for the loss of Konicek, but we’ve got plenty of young talent and returning starters to achieve that," said Roehrkasse.

One of those key returnees is Junior shortstop Mike DesLauriers. DesLauriers, who was named to the American Baseball Coaches Association All-Midwest Region team last year, finished the 2007 season with a .415 batting average while leading the team in hits (59), at-bats (142), runs scored (40) and stolen bases (9).

Along with DesLauriers, Seniors Tyler Kaus and Pat Siering look to return as strong offensive and defensive contributors. Kaus comes off a strong offensive year, during which he hit .400 with 10 doubles, 6 triples and 80 total bases. Siering is also coming off a breakout year which saw him bat .353 with 5 home runs and 31 RBIs.

Aside from position players, the Gusties are returning with every pitcher from last year’s team. Seniors Andrew Hoffer, Kraig Olson, and Dave Wold will solidify the starting rotation. The three combined to collect a 10-4 record last season while starting 24 of the team’s 36 games. The starting rotation is not the only thing that will benefit from an experienced senior backstop, hit .394 with 26 RBIs last season and is expected to have an even bigger year in the absence of Konicek.

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Justyn K. Dow
Weekly Staff Writer

Fresh off their trip to Arizona, Gustavus looks to the conference season hoping that their talent and experience will translate into contention for a MIAC Championship.
enced pitching staff. The Gustie bullpen will also heavily depend on its veterans, particularly seniors Chad Schnettler and Charlie Cicalello. The two relief pitchers teamed up to accumulate a collective 2.66 ERA over 54 innings.

Roehrkasse is not one to be lost in reference to team leadership and experience. As well as being a two-time captain, the senior is entering his third consecutive year as a starter behind the plate for the Gusties. Besides the consistency he brings to the batter’s box, hitting .394 last season, Roehrkasse provides important leadership to a pitching staff he has become very familiar with over the past few seasons.

Returning starters are not the only ones looking to contribute this season. There are several underclassmen who are poised to make an impact this year. First-year starting pitcher Cody Sukalski made his presence felt early this spring when he pitched a complete game shutout against Williams College during the Gustie’s 6-0 win in Chandler, Arizona.

Sophomore Derek Eddie will also look to consistently supply solid pitching as the year goes on. Eddie turned in a solid pitching effort in Arizona by earning the win in a 4-1 Gustie victory over MIT.

Sophomore Tory Herman will look to help fill the void left by the departure of Konicek, literally. Herman is expected to start at third base and has already helped early in the season, currently tied with Siering for the team lead in RBIs with 11.

Considering the amount of talent and experience returning to this year’s Gustie lineup, it’s not hard to imagine the level of expectations. “I think expectations are pretty high for everyone this year,” said Schnettler. “The guys are ready to build on the strong season we put together last year and extend the season a little longer than we did last year.” The end to last year’s season that Schnettler was referring to was Gustavus’ first-day exit from the double elimination MIAC playoff tournament.

Siering also agreed on the team’s outlook this season. “Our obvious goal is to make the playoffs. But this year our main goal is to prepare ourselves for a run towards the end of the season to gain more momentum for the post-season. Our real goal is to make a deep playoff push,” said Siering.

The MIAC is figured to be a very competitive conference this year. St. Thomas returns as the defending regular season and playoff champion. MIAC play was slated to begin this week before the late March snow showers postponed the first few games.

Baseball from page 8

“Offensively, from 1-9 (in respect to the team’s batting order) we’re a pretty solid club.”

- Senior Catcher Shea Roehrkasse

Senior pitcher Kraig Olson struck out 28 batters in 43.2 innings last season for Gustavus. Olson and the rest of the Gustie pitching staff went 14-6 with a 5.17 ERA a year ago, all of which are returning.
Rethinking recycling

I know, right?

Tasha Carlson  
Weekly Staff Columnist

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eties don’t dare address it; it goes against everything we have been taught since kindergarten, and I’m sure you will be surprised to learn that recycling actually harms our sacred earth.

Editor of Machine Design Magazine, Leland Teschler, asserted in a July 13, 2006 issue, “Some people buy hybrid cars to save energy. As for me, I do my part by not recycling paper, glass, or plastic.” Like oh-so-many things that we are told, recycling sounds vaguely plausible. Save the environment, right? Wrong.

We rarely question the act of recycling, but perhaps we should question this ‘golden rule.’ While this may seem like a foreign concept and a huge paradigm shift, we must forget popular slogans such as “Reduce, reuse and recycle,” which means that recycling will become a realistic activity that actually has environmental and economic benefit and may actually harm the environment.

Children are told in school that recycling will reduce pollution, but actually, the entire recycling process generates a large amount of toxic waste as in contrast to simply throwing the paper away.

Also, curbside recycling programs require more trash pickups per week, which means that recycling actually harms our sacred earth. Although we are choosing to forget about the third “r,” recycle, it is imperative to keep in mind the first two: reduce and reuse. The best way of dealing with waste is to reduce it or don’t make it in the first place. Use Nalgene bottles for water instead of producing endless plastic bottles, and use coffee mugs instead of paper or Styrofoam cups. Reusing is also an important concept to keep in mind: methods include reusing items such as cars, clothes and reusable grocery tote bags. It is important to recycle your electronics for chemical and environmental reasons. In order to find an electronic recycling plant near you, refer to electronicrecycling.com.

Now that we have become aware of the harms and significant effects of recycling, you yourself can become a select recycler. Recyclers are not better citizens; they are ill-informed.

THE WEEKLY CARTOON

MY WAY FOR A GREAT..  
ECONOMY IS BY...  
CUTTING TAXES AND...  
IF WE CAN’T PAY FOR...

A NECESSARY ITEM...  
THATS EASY, JUST BORROW  
HEY, HOWEVE, CAN YOU...  
AFFORD A WARR...

THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY  
COMMENTARY

April 4, 2008

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THE Rogness RANT
Time to grow up

Kavan Rogness
Weekly Staff Columnist

College is often seen as the peak of existence, the prime years of a person’s life. Films portray the college years as the best years in which to have fun, experiment or try something completely new. The college experience is the culmination of years of preparation and is one of the primary goals of millions of Americans. Students across America look forward to it, and many alumni look back on their college years as the best years of their lives. American culture has ingrained in us the idea that college is the breakout period, the teenaged Declaration of Independence from parents.

What is the result of this cultural indoctrination? Many students arrive on campus thinking that college is their ticket to unrestrained freedom. It’s their chance to do whatever they want in a perceived consequence-free environment. Anyone who dares to stand in the way is essentially a force of evil that is to be condemned. Anyone who gets them in trouble is a problem, and the blame is laid on the person in authority who must dole out any sort of punishment.

Unfortunately, I have seen this mindset and these behaviors here at Gustavus. Let’s take the case of John Doe. “My CF is a total jerk,” says John Doe. “He busted me with an alcohol violation last night. Now I’m in trouble. It’s all his fault and now I’m screwed. I’m in big trouble.” says John Doe. “He busted me with an alcohol violation last night. Now I’m in trouble. It’s all his fault and now I’m screwed. I’m in big trouble.”

How is that behavior fitting the person who caught you. It’s their chance to do what they want, whenever they want, in a perceived consequence-free environment. Do you think that’s how CFs think about it? Do you think they get a kick out of it? Do you think that they enjoy the process of delivering punishment? How is that behavior fitting of a Gustavus student? I like to think that we Gusties are above that sort of behavior. I believe that most of us are, and I hope that I’m preaching to the choir. But the minority that does behave this way is disconcertingly large.

Too many people come to college thinking that they can do whatever they want, whenever they want. We need to learn to accept greater responsibility for our actions. I’m not asking anyone to be perfect—I certainly am not. I’m not saying that anyone who doesn’t obey the rules is a bad person. But if you want to go have a drink when you’re underage, that’s your choice. If you make that choice and then get caught, realize that it was your choice. Yes, it sucks to get caught, but when you’ve been caught, just accept responsibility for it and move on. Try learning something from it.

Whatever Gustavus’ reasoning is for letting him go, it certainly isn’t based on Friesen’s effectiveness as a teacher or as a mentor to students, not to mention his unmatched ability of recruiting new talent. I know students who have come here mainly because Warren Friesen would be their mentor. Professors are here for the students and should be judged on their effectiveness and interaction with students, instead of being disproportionately judged by the opinions of the other faculty/administration.

Take a survey of Friesen’s students, and show me that they’d like to see him go, and then I’ll consider the decision justified. Until then, it’s simple: keep Warren Friesen or lose one of the most valuable members of this community.

Luke Garrison ’09

Since we are college students, I would go so far as to say that we are all well-versed in how to distinguish a good professor from a bad one. Does the professor improve the program he/she is a part of? Does the professor make him/herself readily available to students, connect with them and actually listen? Does the professor make a difference, and is he/she a good teacher? These are all good questions to ask, especially in light of a recent decision made about the future of one of Gustavus’ brightest and most well-liked faculty members—from a student perspective that is.

Warren Friesen, a music instructor and orchestra conductor, was recently told that Gustavus is planning on terminating his contract after the next year. I haven’t even had the luxury of being taught by this man, but from what every student I’ve ever met has said, he makes Gustavus a better place and it would be a tragedy to see him go. Over the course of his tenure here, the orchestra he conducts and recruits for has grown by nearly 80 percent, at a time when almost every other music program has declined in numbers. He takes the time to get to know his students, and even makes the effort to befriend students whom he doesn’t teach. Gustavus will never find another Warren Friesen, and I’m ashamed of the college’s recommendation to let him go.

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Luke Garrison ’09
Friday, April 4

Experience Gustavus  All Day
We’ve got prospies on campus. Bryan Pelach, this is not a good time to streak.

LineUs Improv Comedy  All Day
Slightly funnier than the Avian Bird Flu. Slightly.

On-Campus Film, Sweeney Todd  7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
Johnny Depp is the sexiest cannibalistic serial killer since Anthony Hopkins.

Mr. Gustavus Pageant  8:00 p.m.
If one of the categories is “Coolest Faux Hawk,” my money’s on Dave Christians.

Women’s Golf at Wartburg  All Day
Wartburg? What’s the mascot, Pumba from The Lion King?

Anime Club  All Day
My life would be so much more interesting if I were an anime character. I’d look hot in a skirt, to say the least.

Spring Swing Dance - Enchantment Under The Sea  7:00 p.m.
No thanks. If I wanted to make a fool of myself I could join LineUs Improv Comedy.

On-Campus Film, Sweeney Todd  7:00 p.m.
Helena Bonham Carter was not nominated for Best Supporting Actress because the Academy mistook her for a crack-added rag doll, not a human being.

Sunday, April 6

Women’s Golf at Wartburg  All Day
Hermit crabs and Shawn Gyro have one thing in common: they both spend a ton of time in the sand.

Guest-Cellist and Classical Guitar Recital  3:00 p.m.
“Classical Guitar?” So will there be a Renaissance Lute Player jamming out to some Pink Floyd?

Hallamallah  7:00 p.m.
This is Bible study, but the word “Hallamallah” sounds like what you shout when you slam your finger in the door.

10 Minute Play Auditions  4:00 p.m.
I can only think of one other thing that takes ten minutes.

I went there.

Sorry, Mom.

Thursday, April 10

This Day in History:
1940 - World War II: Germany invades Denmark.
They do either because they are power hungry or for the Danish.

Cheerleading Tryout Information Meeting  7:00 p.m.
Here’s some cheerleading information from Bring it On:
I transferred from Los Angeles, your school has no gymnastics team, this is my last resort!

Democracy Matters Movie Night--Can Mr. Smith Get to Washington Anymore?  7:00 p.m.
If Mr. Smith’s half as cute as Barack O’bama, he will get to Washington.

Gustavus Greens  8:00 p.m.
The tupperware rule didn’t fly; they didn’t get the house . . . . Hey, it’s not easy being green.

Fika  9:15 p.m.
You is one bad Sweedish Mother-Fika -- SHUT YO’ MOUTH!

Quotes of the Week:
Kyle Hulbert: I know this might be emasculating, but that is the cutest piñata I’ve ever seen.

George Sotos: If you really love something you don’t set it free; you squeeze it to death.

Katie Dierkes: I am so short. I am a weiner dog in a school of German Shepherds.

Good luck to the Forensics Team!

Wednesday, April 9

Announcement: Mid-Term Grades Due  4:00 p.m.
Can’t negotiate that D to a C? Now might be a good time to pull out the checkbook.

UMAI Study Abroad Fair  8:00 p.m.
Don’t listen to the critics, the J-Term class “Cancun Tanning” is a legitimate cultural experience.

Comedian Tony Deero at the Courtyard Cafe  9:00 p.m.
And next week, Tony Moose-o. Get it? MOOSE? Hehehe . . . hehe . . . ugh. Where’s the Drains?

Swing Club  9:00 p.m.
Swinging? I thought that was only done by Governors from New Mexico.

Monday, April 7

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA!
Let’s put a birthday cake on his pillow and smear the mattress with pink frosting.

Meals and Manners in Black and White  4:00 p.m.
Because Minnesotans are not known for being polite.

All we’ve got is a mall, funny accents and food on a stick.

What Happy Faces are Hiding  7:00 p.m.
Ladies, this speaker looks like an Abercrombie model. Do not miss it!

America’s Best Campus Artist  7:00 p.m.
Beware opponents, Holly Anderson is bustin’ out some very edgy “Color By Number” works for this competition.

Tuesday, April 8

Rydell Professor Lecture  7:00 p.m.
And no, the Pink Ladies and the T-Birds will not be there.

Meditation  7:00 p.m.
This week’s special guest: Professor X.

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