A sit-down with Gustavus’ next president

Two weeks ago, Gustavus announced that Jack Ohle will be the college’s next president. Just after the announcement, The Gustavian Weekly spent an hour with the new president to ask him about his past experiences, his plans for Gustavus and what talents he will bring to the college. The Weekly also got a chance to ask President Ohle about the school curriculum, problems with student drinking, Gustavus’ role as a Lutheran college and the movement to make Gustavus an RIC institution.

**Gustavian Weekly:** What do you feel is Gustavus’ biggest challenge for the students and the college as a whole?

**President Jack Ohle:** I have some ideas as to some of the issues I want to discuss with the faculty and the students, and the Board. It would be premature for me to list what I want to do until I get that feedback. Gustavus is positioned, as fine as any school I know, to really take the next step. Outstanding students, outstanding faculty. We will be working with the Board to look at how you can take Gustavus today and engage the alumni and the entire community in setting in place a plan for the future advancement of the college. I’ve done that for my entire professional career and it’s something I really enjoy doing.

**Weekly:** Can you elaborate on what you meant by “the next step”?

**Ohle:** Well, as you know, the Provost has been working on a Strategic Plan, and we will take that and use that as a foundation. So those strategic initiatives that we have identified will be at the heart of how we look with the Board at how to initiate those plans. It’s a very straightforward process. We need to build the endowment. It doesn’t grow overnight; it’s a long process. But that will be a major emphasis. Getting the alumni involved, back for reunions, homecoming activities—just giving them some opportunities to come back and remember their days as Gusties. These institutions survive on the support of the constituents we have. The tuition you pay is very high, but it doesn’t pay the full bill and you have to have resources to run an institution.

**Students stress over finals**

*Steve Palmer*
Weekly Staff Writer

As the end of the semester approaches, the stress level for college students across America is increasing. A recent Associated Press poll showed that four in ten college students nationwide said they feel stressed often, while one in five said they feel it all or most of the time. Stress can provoke many side effects, including mental trauma, worry and even physical illness. As finals approach at Gustavus, it is fortunate that there are resources on campus that can help “finals week” seems less like “stress week.”

Director of Student Health Services Heather Dale said that stress can provoke not only mental strain, but physical ailments as well. “In the health service office we see students [who] have physical manifestations of stress. Stress itself can lower your immune system and make you more susceptible to illness,” said Dale.

“As a peer assistant, I feel [that] the stress level of the student body tends to crescendo near the end of the semester,” said Sophomore Political Science Major Jon Kidd.

“There is definitely a rise during finals—we see more students with mental health concerns such as depression or anxiety, but we also see students that truly are sick with a viral or illness that at this time of year we wouldn’t expect to see as much. It’s because of the stress factor,” said Dale.

Students on campus have various ways of dealing with stress. “I try to take time out from my busy schedule to spend some time working out in Lund. I find it really releases my stress,” said Sophomore Classics Major Abbey Feenstra.

21-plus Dive night

*Amy McMullan*
Weekly Staff Writer

This Saturday, May 17, the Gustavus Student Senate will host the first 21+ Dive Night from 10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. The event will provide for students of legal age the ability to enjoy alcohol with other students 21 or older in the Dive.

“Students have been asking for this for a long time, and we wanted to make this a priority for Senate this semester,” said Sophomore Lucas Neher, Student Senate co-President. Senate has collaborated with Dining Services, the Dean of Students Office, Safety and Security and the Center for Alcohol and Drug Education to allow the highly requested event to take place before the semester’s end. “The purpose isn’t for the school to provide alcohol to students, but it shows that the college recognizes responsible drinking by students of age,” said First-year and Student Senate co-President Kimberly Braun.

All Gustavus students who are 21 or older are welcome to attend. Government-issued identification must be provided at the door.
WEEKLY Safety and Security Report

Report for May 4 – May 10, 2008

Monday, May 5
Vandalism to a vehicle in the Wahlstrom parking lot was reported.

Saturday, May 10
One non-GAC student, while in the Eckman Mall area, was cited by SPPD and Safety & Security for underage consumption of alcohol. Two non-GAC students were issued Trespass Warnings. One GAC student was cited for a social host violation.

A student, while walking on the sidewalk west of Sorensen, was cited for underage consumption and possession of alcohol.

Tip of the Week:
Tip from the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office:
Credit reports contain information about the credit history of each individual consumer, such as bill payment history, number of credit cards and total debt. The three major credit reporting agencies, Experian, Equifax and TransUnion, obtain information about consumers from financial institutions, mortgage companies and other creditors. Credit reporting companies use this information to compile comprehensive reports regarding a consumer’s credit history. Each credit reporting company uses a separate statistical model to define a “credit score” for a given consumer, based upon the consumer’s credit history. A consumer credit score is a three digit number, ranging from 375-900. Credit scores play an extremely important role in consumers’ financial matters. Banks and other lenders purchase consumer credit scores from credit reporting companies to determine whether they will lend money and at what cost. Insurance companies also use consumer credit scores to determine how much the consumer will pay for insurance.

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Fax: (507) 933-7633

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If you are interested in publishing an ad with THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY, please contact our Ad Manager, Christine Wicker at admanager@gac.edu.

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“Stressed” from page 1

“We are too stressed about papers to worry about tests. A more constructive way I deal with stress is [to] appreciate and enjoy nature and God,” Sophomore Biology Major Dan Jackson said.

Students can deal with stress productively. “When stress is at a reasonable level, we can excel. Part of it is responding, [sometimes] stress comes from our choices we make. I’ve found we can be serene and calm during stress,” said Chaplain Rachel Larson.

Many events are scheduled during finals week to help alleviate stress, as well. Students can look for study breaks in their dorms—with food provided—as well as the “Midnight Express” event on Wednesday, May 21 at 10:00 p.m. in the Caf.

Is the Firethorne burnt out?

Becky Kroak
Weekly Staff Writer

The Firethorne, Gustavus’ literary magazine, is a great place for many students to get their work published and recognized bi-annually. However, a new issue of the Firethorne has not come out for the past year.

According to this year’s editors, there are two main reasons why this hasn’t happened. The first has to do with the learning curve involved with changing staff. “Last semester Alya [Ariz-Zaman, a senior English major and one of the chief editors], and I took over, and there were no members from the staff last year, so sometimes we didn’t know what we were doing.” This is when we had to meet with the Student Activities Office and Media Board, and things like that. Administratively we fell behind and didn’t get money that we’re supposed to get for printing, but we got all of our submissions in and did all of our selections, said Senior English and Environmental Studies Major Dan Bougie, who is one of the chief editors of the Firethorne.

The problem this spring dealt with a lack of submissions. “We had to get the posters approved to put them up around campus by [Residential Life] and the Activities Office. We had a bunch of posters up [and] approved asking for our submissions, which is usually what cues people off, but two days after we put them up we were walking around and all of our posters had been torn down. No one knows why, but basically we didn’t get any submissions for the spring,” said Bougie.

“This is not the first time that the Firethorne has disappeared for a time. “In the past it’s gone on hiatus before, and I’m not sure of the dates, but I think it was a decent chunk of time,” said Baker Lawley, assistant professor of English and the faculty advisor as an editor, because you’re reading all of the pieces and you really get a feel for what a lot of kids think [and] what makes them write,” said Bougie.

Some students may not have noticed that the Firethorne wasn’t published this spring. “No … I didn’t miss it. It’s like somebody buying me a present, then not giving it to me and not telling me about it,” said Junior Communication Studies Major Rebecca Swanson.

People are very optimistic that the Firethorne will be back next year, and works from this fall will probably be included in the next issue. “I’m very confident about the future of the Firethorne with our new editor, [Junior English Major] Katie Anderson. We already picked her, and we’re currently getting applications for the other positions … I have a bunch of e-mails about those, so there’s a lot of interest in the student body,” Lawley said.

The Firethorne is looking to expand its reader- ship in the future. “Katie and I have been talking about pushing that even further … having Firethorne involved with more ways of putting out artwork and doing poetry readings and getting that [to be] more a part of the campus life so more people know about it,” said Lawley.

Also planned is a website. “[The website] should be a really cool thing for Firethorne because they can start creating a backlog of all the years past and probably get a lot more eyes to look at them,” said Bougie.

Gusties can also turn to others for help if they feel overwhelmed. “I encourage people, even if they don’t feel like they have the time, to pause at 10:00 p.m. and come to chapel, or else find another time by themselves to just be quiet, taking a walk in the Arb. [The Chaplain’s Office] is certainly here to help. If people need us to visit about what’s going on in [their] lives—pastoral counseling, prayer, trying to figure out what’s next—it’s helpful for people to come in, shut the door, breathe [and] be still. We also work closely with the counseling center; if we feel the person is best suited to their capabilities, we will facilitate referrals to them,” said Larson.

Revisions coming to organization recognition process

Charles Owens
Weekly Staff Writer

When Whitney Langenfeld started as the new intern at the Student Activities Office (SAO) this semester, it was not long before she introduced a plan calling for revision to the student organization recognition and funding request process. Instead of using a two-tier process, with recognition from the SAO in the fall and funding from Student Senate in the spring, the new system—which will be implemented in the spring—combines both. “This process combines processes and makes it easier,” said Langenfeld.

“Leaders in student organizations are so busy,” said Lawley. “Both the SAO and Student Senate have endorsed Langenfeld’s proposal. Junior Political Science major and College Republicans President Carla Shutrop agrees. Shutrop said the revisions are “a step in the right direction” and “it’s good that processes are combined—less work. I think a lot of groups are going to be happy with it.” She is not alone in this belief. “I support the effort to make organization recognition and funding request process. Instead of using a two-tier process, with recognition from the SAO in the fall and funding from Student Senate in the spring, the new system—which will be implemented in the spring—combines both. “This process combines processes and makes it easier,” said Langenfeld.

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Weekly: How do you feel about the effort to make Gustavus an RIC institution?
Ohle: Our alliance group has become a recognized group at Wartburg and I would be supportive in working with the students to make sure that we provide opportunities for our students to express their faith and to express their interest in having that kind of an association.

Weekly: How do you think Gustavus Lutheran heritage or its Lutheran affiliation with the ELCA Church play into our current and future roles as a college?
Ohle: It’s critical. A college cannot be a church and a church cannot be a college. And what I mean by that is we have an obligation as a college to give students a chance to “go deep,” to ask the important questions, to examine and inquire as to how their education can help form their life. We need to be supportive of that as an institution, and to do that, it’s critical to know the foundation on which we were built. I talk about the college as a College of the Church. Then you start to look at interpreting that and how that comes to life in the lives of students and what we do on the campus. What I want to make sure is that we give students the opportunity to explore for their own self, their own faith—not prescribed faith, not prescribed teachings. But give them an opportunity to explore. Now, I come out of a Lutheran tradition, so I am not ashamed of that. I think that is extremely important to me as a person and as a person of faith. Kris and I have had the opportunity to do some wonderful things in our relationship with our faith. And that’s what I want students to have an opportunity to do too.

So it’s not a prescribed way of thinking or believing; it’s an opportunity for students to really ask those important questions. Weekly: What kind of role do you see yourself playing in influencing the curricula and faculty?
Ohle: Presidents don’t go there. The curriculum and the academic program is a [perogative] of the faculty. It is the responsibility for the president to provide the resources necessary for faculty, whether it’s teaching, research [or] studying abroad on a sabbatical: its very important to their discipline. Yes, there are things a president can do to support, but it’s a College of the Church; it’s not a prescription. There are students that believe from the end of the spectrum on [one] side to the end of the spectrum on [the other] side, and we have to embrace that as an educational institution. We are not a ‘Bible college;’ we are not a ‘Christian college.’ Those terms are normally used with prescriptions. In other words, ‘You must believe this; you must sign an agreement to this to teach,’ or whatever it may be. That doesn’t give people an opportunity to explore and that’s what Gustavus is doing. I would not be being true to being an educator and a person of faith if I was a president who shut people out … I need to make sure that people have an opportunity to grow and we’ll do everything we can to make that happen.

Weekly: Another thing you touched on is the rising cost of tuition. Do you think that those high costs could endanger a private institution like Gustavus?
Ohle: As long as we provide sufficient financial aid, no. Now what’s the solution to financial aid? It’s really in the eye of the beholder. It’s in what you and your families discuss. Some students do it on their own by working and doing things for themselves to provide for their education. [What] I will pledge to [current students] and to students that come here is that we will continue to try to make the education at Gustavus as affordable to you as possible.

Weekly: How do you plan to tackle the alcohol problem on campus?
Ohle: When the phone rings at night, I don’t like it. Every president has a fear. There is nothing worse than having something happen [to students]. It could be a car accident or it could be something else. It would be very easy for me to say education [is the only solution], but I’m a realist and it takes more than that. It takes a community who really embraces alcohol education. It is a problem, clearly and simply and it takes responsibility. The one thing that [students today] are really doing much better than our children did when they were growing up is [that] you are starting to take responsibility for not driving [and] for having a driver available for those who do drink. If a student is having too much, we’ll help walk them out of the place. That can be … tough; students don’t want to try to tell someone else what they can or can’t do, but there is a line that you have to draw in responsibility to that person … when that person gets out of the mindset of being able to make decisions for himself or herself, students have to feel comfortable about taking responsibility for those who are in this community. So that is why I say education, but I say education with much more than that [in mind]. Binge drinking on a college campus is serious. I want to get into the situation of having a community that really cares about each other. I sense that about Gustavus … I know it about Wartburg; we are continually becoming a community and I think Gustavus cares deeply about [those in its community]. When you come to the college, you will carry the responsibility for the community. You’re going to have to do that in your job, in things that you will do with your families, with your relatives, and that is the kind of education I want to make sure we do. It’s tough to do. Some students will say “Hey, Mr. President, you don’t know what you are talking about.” I want to make sure that students have a chance to talk among their peers because they can’t talk to a person my age about it because I’m not going to come across the same way. If you believe it and you talk to them, it’s going to be different.

President Ohle and his wife Kirsten meet with Student Senate co-Presidents Kim Braun and Lucas Neher.
Names will also be cross-checked with a list of eligible students provided by the Gustavus administration. Students will then receive colored wristbands on which drinks will be recorded.

Dining Services holds a liquor license and trained employees will be serving at the Dive. Students will be allowed to purchase food and alcoholic beverages including beer, wine and malt beverages with cash or check. Each student, however, will only be sold one alcoholic drink per hour.

"[The drink limit] wasn’t our intent, but it was a compromise that had to be made with the administration. They were willing to work with us, but the limit was their line in the sand," said Student Affairs Committee Chair and Junior Political Science Major Conor Bennett.

The event will also include music, dancing, free soda and snacks.

Student Senate hopes that the Dive Night will be highly attended. "We want people to come and check it out. If it goes well, we will do this again next year," Bennett said. Sophomore Political Science Major Jordan Barry plans on attending. "First, it is a public monitored spot that encourages responsible social drinking. Second, it is a good sign that the college acknowledges that alcohol can be part of a lifestyle that is not wholly detrimental," said Barry.

This Saturday the Dive will host the first ever 21+ Dive night, where alcohol will be served to students of legal drinking age.


"The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

To the Class of 2008 and to the students of Gustavus Adolphus College

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, Fremmerdani@acsi.com

Happy Graduation!

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The following are messages to graduating seniors provided by their family.

Congratulations Adam!
You have worked so hard and accomplished so much and we are so very proud of you.
God bless you.
We love you very much!
-Mom, Dad and Aaron

Congratulations All!
You make us want to be better people. We love you and are so very proud of you! Congratulations!

-Mom, Dad and Aaron

Congratulations Amanda!
We are so proud. Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined — we know you.

-Mom, Dad and Michelle

Congratulations Andrew!
You are a college graduate!
We are very proud of you.
Love,
Mom and Gary

Congratulations April!
This is the day you strive for with determination. We watched with pride as you became a young man destined for success. We are very proud of you!
We love you!
-Mom, Dad and Kristen

Congratulations Anna!
We are very proud of you for all you have accomplished. But more than that, we are so proud of who you are. God bless you.
We love you very much.
-Mom, Dad, and Carl

Congratulations Andrew!
We are so proud of all that you've accomplished. You worked hard and persevered through some tough times, but succeeded in mastering every subject and you graduated with flying colors. We love you.
-Mom, Dad, Mary, Brent and Kellie

Congratulations Barry!
Congratulations, Bryson! We're extremely proud of you! A new world awaits you.
We wish you much success and a world of joy. We love you!
-Mom, Dad, Margie and Matt

Congratulations Cassie!
We've watched you grow into an amazing young woman and we are very proud of you! Stay true to yourself and you will succeed in everything you do.

-Mom, Dad, Mary, Brent and Kellie

Congratulations Carrie!
We are so proud of you. You worked hard and accomplished some tough times, but succeeded in mastering every subject and you graduated with flying colors. We love you.

Congratulations Das!
You are truly a Boy and God has blessed you with many talents.

Congratulations Dave!
May your horizons always reach far, May your heart know no harm, and your life be filled with blessings.
You are special.
We are so proud! Congratulations!
We love you.
-Mom and Dad

Congratulations Deb!
We are so proud of your accomplishments these past four years and we wish you continued success in your future. We will always be here to support you! All our love,
-Mom, Dad and Rick

Congratulations Emily!
We are very proud of you and your accomplishments. We hope the friends and memories you've made will last forever. We wish you a lifetime of success and happiness.
-Love, Dad, Dan, Benjamin and Christian

Congratulations Erica!
We made it! We are so proud of you.
Continuous to set your goals high and you can accomplish anything. Always remember how very much we love you.
-Mom, Dad, Eliza, Easton and Emily

Congratulations Eric!
You made it! We are so proud of you. We hope you continue to set your goals high and you can accomplish anything. Always remember how very much we love you.

-Mom, Dad, Eliza, Easton, and Emily

Congratulations Evan!
You are a great young man and we love you.

Congratulations Helen.
We are so proud of your accomplishments these past four years and we wish you continued success in your future. We will always be here to support you! All our love,
-Mom, Dad and Rick

Congratulations Jeffrey!
We are so proud of you for all you have accomplished. But more than that, we are so proud of who you are. God bless you.

Congratulations Jerrica.
May your horizons always reach far, May your heart know no harm, and your life be filled with blessings.

Congratulations Jesse.
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Congratulations Joel.
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Congratulations Julie.
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Congratulations Kyra.
You are a great young man and we love you.

Congratulations Loren.
You are a great young man and we love you.

Congratulations Mike.
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Congratulations Morgan.
You are a great young man and we love you.

Congratulations Nico.
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Congratulations Nick.
You are a great young man and we love you.

Congratulations Nikki.
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Congratulations Robin.
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Congratulations Sash.
You are a great young man and we love you.

Congratulations Sean.
You are a great young man and we love you.

Congratulations Shelly.
You are a great young man and we love you.

Congratulations Tyler.
You are a great young man and we love you.

Congratulations Victoria.
You are a great young man and we love you.

Congratulations Whitney.
You are a great young man and we love you.

Congratulations Zooey.
You are a great young man and we love you.
First-year Chris Hall is involved in Choir of Christ Chapel, Swing Club and Peer Assistants. Hall lives in Nikiski, Alaska, where he will live this summer with friends.

Meet Your Fellow Gustie: Chris Hall

Sam Grace
Weekly Staff Writer

First-year Chris Hall is an out-of-state student. Okay, so he is really out of state—even if he’s still in the United States. Although Alaska is well over three thousand miles away from campus, Gustavus is proud to house 11 full-time students from this state.

“Alaska has every terrain you could ever want,” said Chris. “[There are] oceans, beautiful mountains, tundras up north and beautiful rivers.”

Hailing from the small town of Nikiski, Chris has spent his first year at Gustavus making a positive impact on the community. “He’s one of those people that has a ridiculously good influence on you,” said First-year Jordan Walker, who has become one of Chris’s best friends this year. “Everything he does has a purpose. … [He] is probably the most focused and driven, goal-oriented person I’ve ever met in my life.”

One of Chris’s most admirable traits is his ability to swing dance. Swing has been a part of Chris’s life for a number of years. He helps to organize dances and lessons for Swing Club on Wednesday nights from 9-11 p.m.

“Swing Club on Wednesdays is a really nice way to break loose, smile and get away from studies for a couple hours,” said Chris. “It’s a good social group. When I dance, I can’t help but smile. I just love it. And it’s not a bad workout either, although that’s not why I do it.”

Senior Biochemistry and Chemistry Major Steve Howard lauded Chris’s abilities in Swing Club as a first-year student. “He’s definitely a young talent who’s giving his all to swing,” said Howard. “He comes every week and has a great time. I can definitely see him as a crucial part of leadership in the next few years.”

Sophomore Stephanie Anderson is also involved in Swing Club and can vouch for Chris’s abilities. “He’s a phenomenal dancer,” said Anderson. “He’ll teach anyone and is a really, really good listener. I know I can trust him.”

Howard also knows Chris well from Gustavus Swimming and Diving. He praised Chris’s efforts and his positive contribution to the team this year. “He’s a great teammate that’s always cheering on different people,” said Howard. “I’m sure absolutely everyone on the team would say that he’s an excellent team member to have.”

Chris also sings bass in the Choir of Christ Chapel, which recently returned from a tour in Texas. Last December, Chris experienced his first performance in Christmas in Christ Chapel, which has quickly become one of his favorite Gustavus traditions.

“I’d never been part of such a large choral production,” said Chris. “[C in CC] brings the whole community together. We had so many people to perform for. It gave us a purpose [to per...
"Gustie of the Week" from Page 8

form] for people who were looking for a
good traditional Christmas program.”
While touring in Texas, Chris was the
soloist for "The Prayer of Saint Francis"
by William Beckstrand. "I don’t think
there’s any better way to express feel-
ing than singing in a tight-knit, well-
organized choir," said Chris. "It’s kind of
hard to explain the feelings that you get,
but most people in choir understand the
adrenaline rush you get after a concert.
There’s definitely an energy among the
music ensembles that’s hard to explain

“He’s one of those people that
has a ridiculously good influence
on you. Everything he does has
a purpose. … [He] is probably
the most focused and driven,
goal-oriented person I’ve
ever met in my life.”

-First-year
Jordan Walker

when you’re up there performing.”

Next year, Chris will start his first year
as a Peer Assistant, which is something
he has been really looking forward to. “I
think you learn a lot about people and
yourself when you get the chance to help
others,” said Chris. “[As a PA], I’m look-
ing to grow and learn more about people
and their interactions.”

In his free time, Chris enjoys being
outdoors. That is, when he is not doing
homework. “Chris is the bee’s knees, but
sometimes I think he needs to let loose,”
said Walker. “The other day I forced him
to stop doing homework and go fly kites.
On the way, he brought his homework,
so I threw it out the window of the car.
We like to go on adventure runs, going
off into the forest and jumping around.

That’s a lot of fun.”

Painting has also become an impor-
tant part of Chris’s life. “Ever since I
was young, I enjoyed pulling out some
paints and painting by myself,” said
Chris. “I love to express myself in an
artistic way.”

As a result, Chris decided to take a
watercolor course over January Interim
Experience. “I got credit for doing art,”
said Chris. “It was fun taking a lot of
hours in the day to paint a picture, know-
ing there was a grade pushing you to
paint well.”

In the Caf, one of Chris’s favorite
places to eat is the salad bar, mostly be-
cause of his intolerance to gluten. “I can
make my random concoctions or other
things,” said Chris. “There are all kinds
of possibilities there.”

“I see [gluten intolerance] as a bless-
ing in disguise,” said Chris. “I have to
turn away all the delicious pizza, cookies
and stuff. It keeps me eating healthier.”

“He eats more honey than anyone I’ve
ever met,” said Walker. “Just inordinate
amounts of honey.”

Overall, Chris has enjoyed his first
year at Gustavus and is looking forward
to three more years as a Gustie. This
summer, he and Walker plan to live in
Anchorage to work and explore the Alas-
kan wilderness. "In Anchorage I really
hope to frolic around in the nature, play
with the bears and moose and don’t die,”
said Walker. “I’m really just excited for
an adventure.”

“I consider myself pretty confident in
who I am,” said Chris. “I enjoy learning
and expanding my horizons. There is so
much more to be learning. I am always
changing, but I feel like I know the direc-
tion of my life. Life is always changing.
It [will] be interesting to see where life
takes [me].”

“He’s definitely admirable,” said
Walker. “He is always looking at the
bigger picture. Everything he does has
a purpose to it.”

What was your favorite on-campus
event this year?

Compiled by Andrea Janney

“The Drag Show.”

Pauli Jackson
Sophomore • Biochemistry and Molecular Bio

“Building Bridges and Kids
Against Hunger.”

Dan Bauer
Junior • Chemistry

“Relay for Life.”

Holly Andersen
Junior • Psychology

“Ben Folds concert.”

Josh Miller
First-year • Health Fitness
I’ve always been told that college is a time when you grow, hopefully in the right direction. The tricky part is that whatever growing, evolving or maturing we college students do, we all seem to move at a different pace.

At Gustavus there is a huge range of people in different stages in their life—from those engaged and counting down the days to an eventual wedding, to those who are single with plans to stay that way for a while, to every shade of gray in between.

With so much emphasis placed on the post-college transition that includes getting a job and making a living, the fact that one’s personal and professional lives will change is easy to overlook.

After hours spent searching for post-graduation possibilities on the internet, it was easy for me to forget that some students are simultaneously planning weddings. Three of my friends got engaged in a matter of weeks.

“Before we really thought that young? Years ago I remember thinking that early twenties are the perfect age to get married, and many of our parents were married around that age.”

First-year Jessica Wagner recently became engaged. “Sometimes I do worry because we are young and selfish—too young and selfish to seriously consider making a lifetime vow to another person.”

Ben Hilding recently proposed to Senior Psychology Major Alicia Blomquist. “It was a crash course in commitment. It is crucial to consider how your values align with those of your partner.”

Alicia Blomquist also did not plan on her engagement. “When we met I was at a point where I thought, ‘I don’t want or need a guy in my life right now,’ and that’s when Ben came along,” she said. "Maybe there is no perfect age for marriage that applies to everyone. You can’t just make those sweeping generalizations, because everybody’s different," Wagner said. "We’re not just one uniform population."

Senior Chemistry Major Nissa Hanneman became engaged to her boyfriend of five months over Spring Break and plans to enter the Peace Corps with her fiancé.

“I do question sometimes: is this what we should be doing right now?” she said. “I always come back to where we are, but I feel like it’s really healthy to ask those questions.”

At the end of the day, the most anyone can hope for in a relationship is for it to be a healthy one. For these couples, recognizing the reality of a lifetime commitment is extremely important. Hanneman met her future husband while working with him at a camp. They led a canoeing trip together that was an absolute disaster.

“It was a crash course in problem-solving and learning to be there for somebody,” she said.

Anne and Senior Psychology Major Melissa Vermeersch, an engaged lesbian couple, face a unique set of conflicts in their relationship.

“It’s really easy to be a couple when things are going well. As soon as things start getting hard it’s more challenging [to] be a functioning couple,” Anne Vermeersch said.

In addition to the challenges of maintaining a healthy relationship, the couple also spoke of the difficulty in facing daily antimanogamism from those opposed to their relationship. Through looks of horror from shoppers at the grocery store, verbal harassment from passersby and other outward signs of disapproval, the two learned to deal with conflict early in their relationship.

“It gave us a lot of experience to work off of as a couple. We’ve learned to trust each other and rely on each other,” Vermeersch said.

Hilding said that even in great relationships couples will be faced with conflict and adversity.

“The perfect relationship isn’t one that smiles all the time,” Hilding said. “We do our fair share of smiling but we’re there for each other when things are hard too.”

From all of these couples, we can learn that there are a few prerequisites to a healthy relationship. It is crucial to consider how your values align with those of your partner.

“We obviously have some differences, but the things that matter the most are the same,” said Blomquist. For her and Hilding, their Christian faith is central to their relationship.

“It’s important to think about where you want to end up in the future,” said Junior Health Fitness Major CJ Erickson, who is engaged to Junior Chemistry Major Carly Johnson. From them, faith was not a large factor, but it was important that they had similar long-term goals.

Both grew up in the same town and eventually plan to return there.

Hanneman said that it is important to think critically about the commitment of marriage. Throughout the excitement of hearing engagement stories, looking at brides’ rings and making wedding plans, it’s easy to overlook the gravity of this commitment.

As Hanneman said, “It’s not about a fancy dress or a diamond ring. It’s about finding somebody that you want to live with and spend the rest of your life with.”

Danielle Harms
Features Editor

Some Gustavus students will soon tie the knot and say, “I Do.”
Some Gustavus students will soon tie the knot and say, "I Do," while others say "I Don't" to the idea of marriage right now.

To have and to hold

The 2.3 million brides saying "I do" this year will be part of a 32 billion dollar wedding industry. Here are some average figures according to Brides Magazine:

**THE HAPPY COUPLE**
- Median age at first-time marriage: Brides: 24.5 years, Grooms: 26.5 years

**SETTING THE DATE**
- Engagements last an average of: 12 months
- Wedding bells ring: In June, July, August for one-third of all marriages.

**THE COST**
- Engagement ring: $2,807
- Wedding dress: $725
- Limousine: $192
- Average wedding: $16,485
- Wedding Reception: $5,957
- Honeymoon: 8 days: $2,964

*Average amount spent

Figures are from 1996. Courtesy MCT Campus
**Midnight Express**

**Strollin' on the Boardwalk**

Mega Flixx, caricatures and photo booth beginning at 8pm!

Food and music beginning at 10 pm!

Ends at midnight!

**Photo Booth**

Mega Flixx

**Gustavus Jazz Ensembles**

Dippin' Dots

**Caricatures**

Thursday the 22nd in the Caf and banquet rooms

Photo courtesy of: Ed Schipul
To commemorate the end of the sports season at Gustavus, The Weekly would like to honor and congratulate the following Gustie athletes for their excellent performances this past year.

Voting was done by the Gustavus coaching staff and the Student Athletic Advisory Board

Written and Compiled by Andy Keenan

COACH of the YEAR

Steve WILKINSON

It is rare to find a single person who impacts a community in a large way. Steve Wilkinson, however, is one of those people.

Wilkinson was selected as the winner of the U.S. Tennis Association/Intercollegiate Tennis Association Campus Recreation Award earlier this season from a field of over 2,000 ITA coaches from NCAA Divisions I-III, NAIA and junior and community colleges nationwide. The Campus Recreation Award originated in 2003 and is given to collegiate varsity tennis coaches who promote recreational tennis opportunities for students who are not on the varsity squad.

Wilkinson’s approach started with the Tennis and Life Camps which he and his wife Barb have directed every summer since they began in 1977. The Tennis and Life Camps, which are held on the Gustavus campus, offer a wide variety of opportunities aimed to teach and refine skills that will not only be valuable on the tennis court, but also in the classroom or workplace.

Wilkinson has helped transform the men’s tennis program into a dynasty, winning 35 out of the last 38 MIAC titles while compiling an immaculate conference dual match record of 336-1. Wilkinson has also led his team to 15 straight appearances in the NCAA Tennis Championships. He has been named National Coach of the Year by the NAIA twice and has been the NCAA Division III Coach of the Year three times.

After this year’s dominant season in which Wilkinson’s squad went 28-5, he furthered his mark left not only on Gustavus but the MIAC and Division III athletics as a whole. Wilkinson is undoubtedly in the same class as John Gagliardi of St. John’s and John Tschida of St. Thomas as the standards of excellence and domination extended on the athletic field.

But Wilkinson’s impact stretches much farther than just wins and losses. Between the camps and the large-scale events and championships that he brings to campus. At Gustavus, Steve Wilkinson’s is a staple whose impact is immeasurable. He’s truly a special individual.

FINAL VOTING (TOP FOUR):

WILKINSON 29 PTS
CARLSON 18 PTS
CARROLL 14 PTS
ZALENZ 13 PTS

Wilkinson has won 35 MIAC Championships in his career at Gustavus.
Bryan’s nearly 30 wins this season have him ranked #2 in the nation and an outright MIAC for the Gusties ever, has been an impact player for the Gusties. He was also named the WBCA/All-Region Team and an hon- orable mention to the WBCA/State Farm All-American Team. She was also named the MIAC All-Conference and All-Defensive teams.

**FEMALE athlete of the YEAR**

**stefanie UBL - HOCKEY**

After all of the voting for these awards, the race for Female Ath- lete of the Year had to be called a tie; and for good reason. Senior Stefanie Ubl and Jess Vadnais have both been stand- out athletes at Gustavus not only this campaign, but also throughout the entirety of their careers.

Ubl, a forward on the women’s hockey team from Maple Grove, MN, has been an impact play- er for the Gusties ever since she transferred in from Division I North Dakota. This season, Ubl finished with a team-leading 40 points (13 goals, 14 assists), helping her team to a 15-3 record and an outright MIAC Championship. She was also honored as the MIAC Most Valuable Player, along with being named to the AHCA All-American team at season’s end. Ubl was the sev- enth Gustie to be named to the All-American team in the past eight years and she will gradu- ate with a degree in communi- cation studies in next week’s commencement ceremony.

Vadnais, a guard from Hud- son, WI, will leave Gustavus as one of the most decorated and honored players in school history. After being named the league MVP following last season, Vadnais averaged 19 points for the second consecu- tive season.

Gustavus finished with a 18-10 record this past season and snuck into the NCAA Tour- nament following the MIAC Championship. She finished her career ranked first in school history in points (1,788), three-pointers (210), free throws made (481), steals (223) and in the top ten in field goals (3rd - 544), assists (4th - 306), and games played (tied for 4th - 106). Vadnais was also one of ten finalists for the Josten’s Division III Player of the Year award, a member of the D3hoops.com All-Region Team and an hon- orable mention to the WBCA/ State Farm All-American Team. She was also named the MIAC All-Conference and All- Defensive teams.

**MALE athlete of the YEAR**

**andy BRYAN - TENNIS**

Andy Bryan is winding down his career with the Gusties in the most desirable way possible. Bryan, a Senior hailing from Edina, MN will compete in the NCAA Division III National Indi- vidual Tournament in Lewis- ton, Maine; beginning this Sat- urday, aiming to end his career as a National champion.

After watching his team fall 5-0 to Washington Univer- sity on Tuesday, Bryan will stay in Maine and compete in the singles and doubles (with Paukert) tournament. In the team’s losing effort, Bryan’s mate (which he led 7-5) went unfinished after the opponents clinched midway.

Up to this point, Bryan has a 29-4 record and has played every match as the #1 singles player for the Gusties. He was also an undefeated 4-0 in the MIAC this season as well as 3-0 against nationally-ranked oppo- nents. Overall, Bryan is ranked second in the nation individu- ally and he and doubles partner Junior Charlie Paukert are ranked fourth.

About two weeks ago, Bryan was named the recipient of the Arthur Ashe Award, given by the coaches of the MIAC to the player that best combines ability with aca- demic success, sportsmanship and community service.

In his four years of playing tennis on the hill, Bryan will walk away with a 102-25 record overall and a 79-26 mark in doubles play. Last fall, Bryan won the ITA Midwest Regional title in both singles and doubles. He then went on to finish second in singles and fourth in doubles at the ITA Championships in Mobile, AL.

While playing for the Gusties, Bryan has contributed heavily to four consecutive MIAC champi- onships as well as two National third place finishes and a fourth place finish.

Like most athletes competing for Gusta- vus, Bryan excels in the classroom as well as the tennis court. A biology major carrying a 3.89 GPA, Bryan will be at- tending the University of Minnesota-Twin Cit- ies Medical School next fall. He has been named an ITA Scholar Athlete selection three times and has been an Academic All-Conference honoré three times as well.

**FINAL VOTING (TOP FOUR):**

**BRYAN** 32 pts

**BUTTERWORTH** 27 pts

**WITTLER** 16 pts

**DELAUBENFELS** 11 pts

Vadnais and Ubl leave as two of the most influential athletes in Gusta- vus sports history.
When looking at the recent (and not so recent) history of the Gustavus Men’s Tennis team, one can only describe their performance as dominant. This season was no exception. Finishing the season with a 29-6 record, the Gusties won another MIAC conference championship—their eighteenth consecutive and forty-second overall. The Gusties put together another one of the exceedingly strong overall performances that fans and followers of the team have grown to expect. The Gusties thrived playing at home, going 20-0 on their own courts.

Led by Male Athlete of the Year Andy Bryan, who went 29-4 this past season, the team was solid from top to bottom. Senior Aaron Zenner and Juniors John Kauss and Ben Tomasek ended their seasons with 20-plus victories a piece individually. Juniors Mike Burdakin and Charlie Paukert finished with 18 and 16 wins respectively playing.

In doubles play, Burdakin and Kauss led the team with 27 wins; playing mostly as the second doubles pair. Bryan and Paukert played the majority of the year as the number one pair and finished with a more-than-modest 24 victories. Tomasek and fellow Junior Nick Hansen finished with 18 wins playing together in the third spot—another solid number for themselves as well as the team.

After a loss to Hawaii Pacific in the early part of February, the Gusties rallied off 17 wins in 18 matches and rose to the top of the polls. They finished the regular season on a thirteen-match winning streak.

After a bye in the first round of the Regional competition (which was hosted by Gustavus), the Gusties went on to demolish rival Luther and the University of Texas at Tyler with scores of 5-1 and 5-0 respectively.

This past Tuesday, Gustavus fell to Washington University by a score of 5-0 and failed to advance to the semifinal round at the NCAA Tournament for only the second time in the past nine years.

The 2007-08 season for the Gustavus Women’s Hockey team was a story of a team on the verge of greatness. After going 23-2 in the regular season, a pair of losses to the University of Wisconsin-Steven’s Point and going undefeated (18-0) in conference play, spirits were high going into the first round of the NCAA Tournament. They were facing the University of Wisconsin-Superior, a team that had never beaten the Gusties—regular season or not. In a hard-fought contest played in Don Roberts Ice Rink, the Gusties fell by a score of 3-1 and the magical season was over.

The staple of success for the Gusties was their defense. Sophomore goaltender Breanna Scavo was lights out between the pipes for the Gusties. Scavo was 22-3 wearing the three crowns, with nine shutouts and an average goals against of .96. One of the main reasons for her success was the suffocating defense played by her teammates.

Led by Senior Captain Laura Vannelli, the Gustie defensive unit kept the heat off of Scavo while keeping the puck on the offensive end. As far as the offense goes, no one was more productive than MIAC MVP Stefanie Ubl. Ubl’s team-leading 40 points jump started the offense and in averaging nearly a goal every game, Ubl lead the team in almost every offensive category. Junior Mari Gunderson, Senior Molly Doyle and First-year Allison Harwood followed up Ubl on the stat sheet, finishing the season with 20-plus points throughout the season. Doyle, along with Vannelli, were named as MIAC Players of the Week over the course of the season for their solid efforts.

The Gusties were easily the most decorated of all MIAC teams in their end of the season awards. Along with the MVP, Ubl and three other Gusties, Doyle, Gunderson and First-year Kirstin Peterson were named to the All-Conference first team. Peterson and Harwood were named to the All-Rookie team. Scavo, Vannelli, Junior Jenny Pusch and Sophomore Melissa Mackley were named as Honorable Mentions.
COMMENTARY

Everybody loves Reagan

War on the Unborn

Andrew Evenson
Weekly Staff Columnist

Over 4,000 soldiers have died defending our country and the Iraqi people against terrorism and tyranny in Iraq, and regardless of your views on the war, we owe them and their loved ones more than we could ever give in return for their sacrifices. Their names belong on the long list of heroes who have given their lives to protect America and its high ideals, but over 49,000,000 innocent lives have been taken since January 22, 1973, in a war that few take time to notice. That date symbolizes the very worst of our country’s past and present. On that day, Roe v. Wade officially declared war against the value of life and began the War against the Unborn.

Many of you probably think that abortion is a taboo issue that just starts fights and is best to only be discussed with those who agree with you. Others of you disagree with abortion personally, but it really isn’t that big of an issue for you because you’ll probably never have to make that decision yourself. Even the libertarian streak in me wants to say that what other people do is none of my business, but if you and I don’t stand up for these most innocent lives, who will?

Most of you have probably already made up your minds on this issue, so my purpose in writing this is to inspire those of you who believe that life begins at conception to fight for the lives of the unborn with everything you’ve got. The most callous of you don’t believe the fetus becomes human until it is out of the womb. Maybe you should tell that to the pregnant woman who was shot in the Twin Cities a couple weeks ago and lost her baby or the other millions of women who have had devastating miscarriages. I have a picture of a baby 6-8 weeks after conception. You can clearly see the baby has eyes and fingers, but you’ll probably just turn the other way when the doctor performs a saline abortion on the baby when it is up to 16 weeks old. This procedure involves injecting poisonous saline solution into the amniotic fluid that the baby then swallows and is poisoned from. Within one to one and a half hours the baby’s heart will stop and the solution will then burn off the outer layer of the baby’s skin. You can choose to turn the other way when these procedures are performed right here in Minnesota.

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On the lighter side...

Gustie Guide to the Library

Maggie Sotos
Weekly Staff Columnist

Greetings, fellow students! The year is winding down, and the tell-tale signs of May are upon us: the rush of senior recitals, the irritatingly fickle weather and the existential panic of the graduating class as they realize, “HOLY BUCKETS, I’M A BIG KID NOW! I NEED A JOB!” And as we enter the final week of school, there are two things every Gustie will probably attempt: A. finally sucking it up and taking the Big Lebowski Challenge and B. A trip to the library to cram for finals. Since almost half the school is under twenty-one, let us concentrate on the latter of the two tasks.

The Folke Bernadotte Library is a peculiar institution. Let us also go over the unspoken rules of the library, shall we? You do not want to be the first one there in the mornings, particularly on weekends. During the finals rush, this rule becomes more flexible; you will not be judged as severely if you are seen waiting for the doors to open at 8:00 a.m. Still, the street-smart Gustie will not arrive until at least a quarter past opening time.

Another unspoken rule of the library: the group study rooms in the back are meant for just that: GROUP STUDYING. Do not be that irritating moron who hogs the whole room to yourself at a key rush hour with your little laptop and your feet propped up on another chair. Similarly, don’t be the idiot who plops down your stuff and subsequently leaves on a two-hour lunch break. I propose that if such people are not back in fifteen minutes, eviction procedures be put in motion. If the squatter returns and finds his/her things moved, a West-Side Story dance-off should ensue. Judges and witnesses are required.

However, the exception to a “no hogging the rooms” rule would be romanticizing. The video and study rooms at the back are fair game for making out. Period. No exceptions.

For the rest of the library, there are rules and codes of conduct that need to be respected at all times. For example, eating crunchy celery and those noisy Butterscotch candies on the third floor is a bad idea.

Continued on page 19
Gas prices seem to keep climbing in 2008 and some of our presidential candidates have taken notice. Two weeks ago, a Lundberg Survey found that the average price for regular gasoline rose 15 cents in the preceding two weeks, reaching $3.62 per gallon. A personal interview between my wallet and our local gas station tells me that we’re sitting just a tad under $3.30 a gallon. The latest ruckus our presidential candidates have been discussing is how there should be a “gas tax holiday,” whereby they would lift the national gas tax of 18 cents from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

While this may seem like a good idea in theory, in truth, it is little more than political posturing. That lovely little 18 cent “discount” we receive would be lost faster than you could say “supply and demand.” If this plan were to be passed by May 31—a major hurdle in itself that is unlikely to be overcome—then, I ask, would people drive 1) more, 2) less or 3) the same? My guess would be number one, which would increase the demand on the supply and thus raise prices even more. And that’s assuming the oil companies wouldn’t take advantage of the tax break to jack up the prices.

In addition to being little more than a campaign gimmick, this plan is also fiscally irresponsible. If enacted, this plan would cost the government $30 billion while we are already running massive deficits. While it has been proposed that one response would be an increase in taxes on oil companies, you’d think that might cause the oil companies to raise their prices to offset these new taxes. So, while Senator Clinton and Senator McCain are pushing forward election-year gimmicks that do little to actually help our financial situation, we should perhaps look at what our government hasn’t done to bring us cheaper gasoline.

This brings us to sugar cane ethanol. This should not be confused with the inefficient U.S.-based corn ethanol, which is little more than a method of converting natural gas to gasoline while using enormous quantities of water in the process and driving up food prices as well. This has led to increased starvation—thanks to record food prices. It has worse effects on the environment than gasoline while also being a massive waste of government money on tax breaks (as much as $1.31 per gallon, counting the 51 cent-per-gallon tax break on ethanol and the massive subsidies for corn).

Continued on page 18

Cheaper gas: how can we get it?

The Rogness rant
Disagreeing with homosexuality

As you may be able to guess if you’ve read my previous columns, I’m a vocal person. I generally have no problem voicing my opinions on a wide variety of issues, and I’m usually perfectly willing to have a civil conversation with someone who holds the completely opposite view of what I believe. The majority of such conversations have ended with an “agree to disagree” solution that is generally predictable and entirely acceptable.

Some conversations, however, leave me with a bit of a bad taste in my mouth—namely the conversation about homosexuality. I’m going to be very frank here. I disagree with homosexuality. I am a fairly traditional Christian, and I believe the Bible says that homosexuality is a sin. There have been multiple times when I have brought this point of view into a conversation, and in several of these conversations, I have subsequently been regarded as someone who is intolerant, hateful or ignorant. I know that this is not something that only happens to me. There are many people in this world who share the viewpoint that I do—that homosexuality is a sin as described in the Bible.

Oftentimes, whenever someone expresses such an opinion, they are deemed bigots. This viewpoint is frequently seen as a radical, fundamentalist Christian perspective that goes against the trends of societal progression and equality for all.

This idea that anyone opposed to homosexuality is intolerant or ignorant is something that I cannot agree to disagree upon. Despite my disagreements with homosexuality, I refuse to be labeled as a bigot, as ignorant or as intolerant. Just because I do not agree with homosexuality doesn’t mean I have a problem with homosexual people. I have many homosexual friends and their homosexuality doesn’t bother me at all. In fact, in many of these friendships, they know my views on the subject and still know that I don’t mean it in a hateful way. For me, it’s kind of like Democrats and Republicans—they disagree with each other on some fundamental issues, but each side has friends on either side of the party line.

One could argue that these views (or other radical Christian perspectives) have been used for centuries to perpetuate hatred and discrimination against homosexuals. But, the Bible doesn’t ask me to discriminate, hate, punish or judge. The Bible asks that I treat everyone with the same love and respect I ask for myself. That—as best as I can—is what I do, whether I agree with a person or not. I hate it when someone is discriminated against because of homosexuality and I try to put a stop to it when I see it.

Continued on page 18
Sugar cane ethanol does none of the above, so why aren’t we using it here in the U.S.?

To answer this question, we must better understand the situation. First, we can’t produce sugar cane in the U.S. due to the climate requirements. Second, we want to protect our own corn ethanol market from this cheaper alternative. The result? The U.S. has a 54 cent-per-gallon tax block against most Brazilian sugar cane ethanol, the largest producer of sugar cane ethanol in the world. The U.S. isn’t the only country that doesn’t want Brazil’s ethanol; Europe and China also have high tariffs. They also would rather experiment with wheat, rapeseed and other crops that produce less biofuel per acre and require a loss of a food crop in comparison to sugar cane.

There have been numerous criticisms of sugar cane ethanol that pessimists could use to answer why the U.S. and other nations don’t import ethanol from Brazil. One of the major criticisms is that biofuel production is hogging farmland that could be used to produce food, causing the rise in food prices and shortages. Please tell me that I’m not the only one who thinks hearing the U.S. government criticize Brazil for creating a food-for-fuel crisis seems both ironic and hypocritical.

I mean, it’s not like the U.S. isn’t the largest ethanol producer in the world, using the most inefficient ethanol known to man. An acre of sugar cane in Brazil produces about 800 gallons of ethanol, while an acre of corn produces 328 gallons. So in order for the U.S. to actually out-produce Brazil, we must use more than twice as much farmland.

The other major criticism is that Brazil’s ethanol industry is cutting down the rainforest. Brazil’s response has been to point out that they don’t knock down forests when they increase their ethanol production, but actually expand into degraded pastures. They say the country’s beef industry, on average grazes 2.5 acres for every head of cattle, could double that rate and free up about 260 million acres of pasture for sugar production, thus preserving the rainforest.

The only thing stopping Brazil from doubling its ethanol production within a decade is the lack of demand abroad. Eighty-five percent of the nearly six billion gallons of sugar cane ethanol has been used domestically, which has virtually tapped out the nation’s domestic market. Brazilian officials are quick to point out that if other countries drop their respective tariffs, then the sky is the limit for this eco-friendly enterprise.

So maybe our politicians should stop wasting our time and their colleagues’ time with discussions about a gas tax holiday and instead look towards Brazil’s sugar cane ethanol to lower our gas prices. As flex-fuel vehicles continue to flood the U.S. market, it is becoming increasingly clear that this type of ethanol would be a great way to reduce U.S. gas prices. As flex-fuel vehicles start using this cheap ethanol instead of gasoline, it will significantly reduce the demand of oil, thus reducing the price of gasoline for the rest of us. Everyone would win! Now if only someone in Washington would actually do something about it; maybe then I wouldn’t be cringing every time I have to stop for gas.

The Bible outlines a number of sins, one of which is homosexuality. That is simply how I see it—a sin, one of many. While homosexuality is not one of my sins, I certainly have a variety of other sins, all of which are held equally in God’s eyes. I am no better or worse than anyone who shares this point of view.

I know that I’m not going to convince anyone to change his or her views about homosexuality in this article, nor is that my intent. If you disagree with me for whatever reason, that’s fine. We’re OK to agree to disagree on that. Please don’t think less of me for my opinion and don’t think that it means I hate or discriminate. If you feel that GLBT persons should be accepted on the basis of equality, extend the same courtesy to me and allow me to equally have and express my own opinion.

Don’t disrespect those who share this view by labeling them as bigots. The majority of us who feel this way don’t harbor any hatred towards homosexuals. It is just a different and equally valid point of view.

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Letter to the Editor
Sustaining Gustavus’ beauty

As spring finally rolls through our part of the country and life starts to slowly crawl out of its winter slumber, I am reminded of what a beautiful campus I am privileged to live on. Here at Gustavus we are surrounded not only by the natural beauty of well-kept open spaces, abundant flora and an arboretum that we can escape to when needed, but also by academic buildings that are architecturally and visually pleasing and well-kept by our custodial staff. It is the latter of these two that I wish to address here.

In my four years at this school, I have seen the Gustavus community band together a number of times to collectively resolve problems plaguing our campus. We do it well, and because of this, I have faith that we can absol-utely overcome a bad habit that seems to be currently growing around our campus: that of leaving cafeteria dishes around, and sometimes even throwing them away.

While I have myself been guilty of the occasional sneaky dish-discard, where I leave my dish in an academic building out of pure laziness hoping someone else will take it back, I think it is time that we no longer place the responsibility on someone else. We are all grown-ups here and, as such, we must make ourselves accountable for our actions. We wonder why campus food prices are sometimes higher here than elsewhere, but with dishes being left around camp- us and sometimes thrown away, it seems obvious to me that there must be a monetary loss to Dining Services. In addi-tion to the economic loss and aesthetic ugliness, we should consider the energy used and lost because of prematurely discarded dishes and the eco- logical damage that places on the environment.

I was drawn to this school almost exclusively by two things: its community and its beauty. I think I have pre-sented an instance where we certainly resolve problems collective-ly but, ultimately, I wish to appeal to the Gustavus community to make change here. We must work differently on the silent days of our campus: that of leaving dishes around, and cafeterias empty. I am sure that the continued hard-hitting emotions, weeping conversations involving serious, logical damage that places on the environment.

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The Gustavian Weekly

May 16, 2008

* The Calendar Page is considered editorial. The opinions expressed herein are not the opinions of THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY, but the expressions and opinions of an immature mind. Readers are advised that none of these rants are to be taken seriously.

**Calendar**

Friday, May 16

Children’s Book Sale
9:00 a.m.
If they’re not selling Goosebumps and The Babysitter’s Club, the Pickle may have to choke a’b’ch.

Student Senate Rockathon
5:00 p.m.
They claim they are open for twenty-four hours. I want to see what they do when the Dive crowd stumbles out around 1:00 a.m. and starts giving Student Senate “suggestions,” laced with hiccupups and vomit.

ILS Block Party
6:00 p.m.
Knowing the Peterson House, Larissa Beregenzer will be busting out the quesadillas around 2:00 a.m.

On-Campus Film, Vantage Point
7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
It looks depressing; just go to LineUs.

Last LineUs Show of the Year
7:30 p.m.
Be there or be an equilateral rhombus. Oh, and

Rachel Braband Senior Clarinet Recital
7:30 p.m.
Rachel, I never realized it but your last name could be pronounced “Bra” and “Band”; “Bra-band.” Hehehe.

Britta Peterson’s Senior Dance Concert -- What We Are
8:00 p.m.
I know what YOU are, but what are WE?

Saturday, May 17

Permanent? Senior Art Show 2008
1:00 p.m.
As permanent as Robert Downey Jr.’s rehab.

SHIFT Banquet
1:00 p.m.
Free food from the Co-Op? HOLY SHIFT!

Kathryn D. Patterson, Senior Horn Recital
1:30 p.m.
In such situations it is difficult to not be big-headed and blow your own horn.

Samuel Eckberg, Senior Voice Recital
3:30 p.m.
To be fair, Sam, it’s more like a “Super Senior” Voice Recital, isn’t it?

Anime Club
6:00 p.m.
The French students, meanwhile, enjoy Amélie Club.

Sunday, May 18

Science Fiction/Comic Book Sale
All Day

Final Days Fiesta Sale at the Bookmark
8:30 a.m.
If I’m getting up for an 8:30 a.m. fiesta, I’m going to need a 9:00 a.m. siesta.

Monday, May 19

On-Campus Film, Vantage Point
7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
The biggest paycheck for Sigourney Weaver since she narrated Planet Earth.

21+ Night at the Dive
10:00 p.m.
So . . . 22 people at the Dive?

Britta Peterson’s Senior Dance Concert -- What We Are
2:00 p.m.
If I was socially just, I’d say that I Am, We Are.

Tuesday, May 20

Science Fiction/Comic Book Sale
All Day
Coming soon, The Adventures of Androgynous Grandpa Joe and his sidekick, Sexually Confused Leslie.

The Secret Love Life of Ophelia
7:00 p.m.
My unmatch’d form and feature of blown youth expects to be blasted with ecstasy in this show. Do not disappoint.

Advanced Acting Monologues
8:30 p.m.
Come watch Tasha Carlson defy gravity.

Proclaim
9:00 p.m.
As edgy as Hannah Montana sans the nudy shot.

Wednesday, May 21

Washington, D.C., Gathering for Alumni
All Day
Considering that 55 percent of our students are from the Twin Cities area, wouldn’t it be easier to gather in Minneapolis?

The Fringe World Premiere
7:00 p.m.
The Fringe? Isn’t that the stuff that stays on notebook paper after you rip it out by the binder?

Swing Night
9:00 p.m.
One of the few places where women love a Cherry Poppin’ Daddy . . . the band, that is.

Thursday, May 22

This Day in History
1960 - An earthquake measuring 9.5 on the moment magnitude scale, now known as the Great Chilean Earthquake, hits southern Chile. It is the most powerful earthquake ever recorded. So basically the folks in China should just suck it up; they were only a 7.9, quit whining!

READING DAY:
A whole day of reading . . . and sleeping in . . . and then cramming . . . and desperately scrambling to spend your Caf money . . . then partying hard at night and starting all over the next day.

Book Buy Back
8:30 a.m.
Isn’t it cool how your Psychology textbook and a gallon of gas go for about the same price these days?

Midnight Express
8:00 p.m.
Given my grades, this is not the first time I will have been “served” by a prof.

Quotes of the Week:

Brady Skaff: “Oh, that’s not a lamb, isn’t it a sheep?”

Radonna Gasior: “A lamb is a sheep, you dumbass!”

Elizabeth Olson: “Have you ever tried to wash milk out of an umbrella? It’s hard!”

Noemi Lopez: “You never quoted me in the Weekly!”

Hey readers! Thanks for making this a great year, and we hope you tune in next fall as the Reign of The Pickle continues! Have a fun summer and don’t do anything I wouldn’t do.
Five years ago, Jim Peterson was the president of the Minnesota Science Museum, presiding over dinosaur bones and promoting laboratory experiments on a daily basis. Then, one day, he received a call from former Gustavus president, John Kendall, who asked him to consider coming to St. Peter to take over as Gustavus' fifteenth president. “I ultimately decided to make the move, assuming there were some things the college needed that I could contribute, and since I’m an alum of the college, I really cared about this place,” said Peterson.

It will have been five years since the start of Peterson’s tenure as president when he leaves the college in July. “I suggested to the Board when I took this job that five or six years would be about right for me. I am 65 and I have a lot of things I would like yet to do, and I’ve accomplished most of what I set out to do here. I think it is time now for someone else to pick up the ball,” said Peterson.

As president, Peterson has accomplished many things and hopes people will remember him for his positive contributions to the college. “I hope that I can be remembered as contributing to an understanding ... an acceptance and a focus on our mission and core values,” said Peterson. Peterson also hopes his commitment to diversity and community building will remain a staple of the college when future president Jack Ohle takes over.

Peterson is confident that the next president will be successful, but he did admit to one concern. “I must say, everyone likes to remind me of the fact that we’ll be having an Ohle lead Gustavus, and that’s a pretty strange coincidence.”

On a more serious note, when asked what advice he would give to Ohle, Peterson said, “He knows this college really well and he’s going to do a great job. I would just encourage him to continue to gather the community together to keep it moving and take it to the next step.” For Peterson, the next step is to enjoy some of the things he hasn’t had time for due to his busy schedule as president.

Continued on Page 4
The Gustavian Weekly

Name: Andrew Offerman
Year: Senior
Major: Management and Criminal Justice
Hometown: Medina, MN
What are you doing next year? Hopefully attending grad school

Laura Groenjes ~ Managing Editor

The Gustavian Weekly

Name: Laura Groenjes
Year: Junior
Major: English
Hometown: Inver Grove Heights, MN
Hidden Talent: I can read at the speed of light.

The Gustavian Weekly

Name: Ben Smith
Year: Senior
Major: Political Science
Hometown: Richfield, MN
What are your plans for next year? Work for a non-profit organization

Ben Smith ~ Ad Manager

The Gustavian Weekly

Name: Andy Keenan
Year: Sophomore
Major: English
Hometown: Le Sueur, MN
Who is your office crush? Chelsea Becker... yowza

Weekly Editor ~ Sports Editor

The Gustavian Weekly

Name: Danielle Harms
Year: Junior
Major: English & Political Science
Hometown: Sun Prairie, WI
What else are you involved in? Swim Team

Danielle Harms ~ Features Editor

The Gustavian Weekly

Name: Chelsea Becker
Year: Senior
Major: Political Science
Hometown: Maple Grove, MN
What are you doing next year? Law School at the U of M

Chelsea Becker ~ Commentary Editor

The Gustavian Weekly

Name: Alex Messenger
Year: Sophomore
Major: Studio Art
Hometown: Minnetonka, MN
Your most memorable encounter? Getting mauled by a bear.

Weekly Editor ~ Senior Photographer

The Gustavian Weekly

Name: Peter Muellerille
Year: Senior
Major: Political Science
Hometown: Mahtomedi, MN
What are you doing next year? Hopping boxcars...

Peter Muellerille ~ Copy Editor

The Gustavian Weekly

Name: Laura Oftad
Year: Junior
Major: English
Hometown: Coon Rapids, MN
Who would you like to meet? Toni Morrison

Laura Oftad ~ Copy Editor

The Gustavian Weekly

Name: Jenna Seal
Year: Senior
Major: Communication Studies
Hometown: Falcon Heights, MN
Who is your office crush? In love with the 1982 clip-art

Galen Mitchell ~ Web/Graphic Designer

The Gustavian Weekly

Name: Galen Mitchell
Year: Junior
Major: Political Science and Japanese Studies
Hometown: Littleton, CO
What is the meaning of life?: 42

Hannah Wunsche and Eliza Swedenborg

The Gustavian Weekly

Left: Hannah Wunsche
Year: Junior
Fall Semester Managing Editor

Right: Eliza Swedenborg
Year: Junior
Fall Semester Features Editor
Believe it or not, when he’s not on the road talking to alumni or donors, meeting with college personnel, welcoming guests to special events or signing letters for the college, Peterson is a normal guy.

“I don’t have much free time in this world right here, but when I do, I love to build wood-boat models. I love to row, I love to paddle. I just really love spending time in the water,” said Peterson. When he’s not in the office or on the water, Peterson also enjoys cycling, spending time with his grandchildren and relaxing with his wife, Susan.

Susan, who works as a full time pastor in St. Paul, can be just as busy as her husband. Peterson said of his relationship with Susan, “Our arrangement was that when I moved down here was that I would come up to the Twin Cities to support her and her husband, but I would also be about, but also that she’d come down, especially for special events. We have these two very busy lives that we try to join together when we can.”

Peterson will surely see Susan and other family more often since he leaves Gustavus, but before he retires this July to enjoy his newly-found free time, he can’t help but reflect on the memories he has made with the Gustavus community during his time here.

“The Nobel Conference and Christmas in Christ Chapel are two very special things to me. They say a lot about who we are, what is important to the college, and it speaks to our wonderful hospitality and how well we do things,” said Peterson.

Although he is leaving and making room for a new president, Peterson said he won’t be a complete stranger to Gustavus. “I will be back at the invitation of the new president whenever he would like me to come. He knows I’m available to help, but I will not come down and hang around campus,” said Peterson.

“I think when a president leaves they ought to leave, and that is important, but I’ll certainly come down for Nobel and Christmas in Christ Chapel and sit in the back with Susan.”

Peterson admits that it will be bittersweet leaving a place in which he has invested so much time and energy. “When you have to announce a year ahead of time that you’re leaving, to allow for the search process, it’s a long time, and that’s been kind of difficult,” he said.

Peterson thinks that he will read about, when the time comes. “After commencement it will start to wind down. I have a bunch of things I want to do before I leave and people I want to spend time with, including students. Students are my favorite part about being here. They are the ones that really bring me joy and give me the great pleasure of doing this job. They are what has made this job so special to me and they all need to know that.”

While Peterson will surely miss those here at Gustavus, it is safe to say that those here will miss him too.

Letter from the Editor

After all is said and done...

Andrew Offerman
Editor-in-Chief

Nine months ago, I presided over my first Gustavian Weekly meeting as the Editor-in-Chief. Today, I write this in preparation for my final issue at the helm of this enormously rewarding responsibility.

I’m convinced that there aren’t a lot of things that can prepare you for this job. Although I’ve never written to try pass along their knowledge, certain things always come up that have never been seen before. In terms of a short course in business, this is the best education I could have asked for.

Many aspects of this job are viewed as drawbacks by others: not being able to enjoy Wednesday nights with friends, constant sleep deprivation on Thursdays, putting up with ridiculous complaints, sorting through the endless stream of e-mail and catching grief for a misspelled word, just to name a few. However, these are things that come with the territory. Surprising to some, I’m sure I’ll miss them.

Having this year, my time as editor-in-chief has allowed me to become involved in a multitude of ways and truly gave me a place on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College. For that, I’ll be eternally grateful.

All of this wouldn’t have been possible without the hard work of my co-workers. Their dedication has made my life easier and, in many cases, has been much more than I could have expected.

David: I can’t express how much I appreciate your trust in me to get the job done. You’ve been a great resource throughout the year. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to run this newspaper.

Laura: Thanks for coming in and taking the initiative. You were able to lower my level of stress, which is quite the accomplishment in itself. Your dedication to this paper for the last three years has been admirable; best of luck in the future. I’m sure that the Wixxer will be in good hands next year. Remember, it only gets easier as the year moves on!

Ben: I don’t know where this paper would be without your hard work. Selling advertising is not the easiest job, but you were able to get more accomplished than I thought possible. Your dedication and friendship allowed me to become involved in many other activities. I’m sure that you’ll succeed in whatever you do in the future.

Jake: Although we didn’t always agree on the principles of design, you’ve done a great job covering the college’s news this year. The promotion is well deserved, best of luck in the future.

Ally: I can’t tell you how much I appreciated your work ethic. It always helped knowing that you were on top of your section. Best of luck with whatever life takes you.

Eliza & Danielle: It isn’t often that two people can transition so seamlessly. Going into the year, this was my greatest concern. I’m extremely happy that you’ll both be back at the paper next year. Your experience will be a very valuable asset to next year’s staff.

Andy: Your creativity and ingenuity did not go unnoticed. You did a fantastic job adapting to a new sports section this year and I think that it will only improve as you continue to come up with good ideas. Keep up your good work and be easy on next year’s copy editors!

Chelse: Thank you for deciding to take the job. You brought your section to an entirely new level this year. Furthermore, you did an excellent job getting a wide variety of viewpoints from around campus. I’m sure that the University of Minnesota will be grateful to welcome you as a student. I’ll call you for legal advice.

Maggie: Although you liked to push the boundaries, your sense of humor was appreciated in the office as well as in the paper this year. “Through humor, you can soften some of the worst blows that life delivers. And once you find laughter, no matter how painful your situation might be, you can survive it.”- Bill Cosby.

Alex & Alex: I would like to thank both of you for your patience and persistence. We went through a lot of changes this year and both of you were willing to help out every step of the way.

Brittany: Thank you for your attention to detail. Your continuance into next year will benefit the staff a lot more than they can understand.

Copy Editors: All of you did a fantastic job adapting to a new system this year. Thank you for embracing the change and making the best out of the situation. Most of all, thank you for saving the entire staff in catching potentially embarrassing errors.

Galen: The talents you brought into the office helped in a multitude of ways. Mostly, I’d like to thank you for the dynamic change you’ve made to our website. You’ve been an extremely valuable asset this semester.

Jenna: Thank you for working well beyond your job description. You’ve put up with a lot more than I could have ever expected.

The advertising budget benefited greatly from your work. I’m sure that I’ve forgotten a few people along the way. However, believe me, your work did not go unnoticed. This production takes the cooperation of a multitude of people, each one vitally important.

Finally, I’d like to take the time to thank those who supported me through this.

My Friends: Thank you for your understanding. This job puts a strain on relationships and I appreciate those of you who stood by me and showed compassion when I wasn’t able to attend something due to a newspaper crisis or previously scheduled meeting.

Mom & Dad: Your support throughout the last 22 years has been amazing. Thank you for your endless words of encouragement and your continued push to make me a better person.

Grandma Sue: Thank you for all of your support. I am very grateful for all the things you have given me. You’ve introduced me to many things in life and I don’t know how I could ever repay you.

Next Year’s Staff: I’m sure that you’ll do a fantastic job. I urge you to take this opportunity and run with it. You’ve been given a large responsibility, but I have no doubt that you’ll go beyond the call of duty.