

Mein Trump



Sophie Leininger
Opinion Columnist

Donald Trump is one of the scarier things to happen to America. His exponentially growing campaign is the highlight of the year. It makes sense: the bright orange glow of his face is mesmerizing. When he's on TV you think you are watching a Saturday Night Live skit and the show has suddenly become funny again. But then you notice the CNN Live logo in the corner of the screen.

He is not joking around. The scariest part of the whole campaign is not the questionable phrases that come out of Trump's mouth or even his outrageous behavior. Rather, it is the people who so passionately stand with him.

Trump is quickly and not so quietly building a coalition of white supremacists and closet racists alike. As frightening as it sounds, it is not surprising. In fact, the support he is drawing is about the only thing in his campaign that makes sense. His slogans and ideas are capturing people's fears and prejudices.

A rich white male saunters on stage and tells the country that



Donald Trump continues to draw large crowds to his rallies. Accusations of racially charged altercations between protesters and Trump supporters have swirled around the campaign.

his one concrete proposal as president is to build a wall on the Southern border. The same man announces his intention to ban all Muslims from entering the United States. He has also proposed a national registry to identify remaining Muslims. To achieve these ends, he might as well force them to wear a star and a crescent symbol on their clothing. With proposals like

these, it is not shocking that he has attracted the support of white supremacists and closet racists.

However, this demagogic campaigning is extremely dangerous. It threatens productive conversation and actions taken to advance human rights. Trump has created a hostile environment that fosters a less civil and democratic process. At

his rallies, Trump's harassment of protesters and critics has become commonplace.

In fact, Trump has become infamous for his inability to take criticism, and for his vicious attacks and comebacks. In any other campaign and with any other candidate, a single one of these remarks would have sent a candidate packing. Trump is changing the way politics is done, but certainly not for the better.

At recent rallies, Trump supporters have acted violently and angrily towards identified protesters. In Kentucky earlier this week, many protesters were asked to leave a Trump rally. As Trump yelled for them to "get out," his naively loyal fans violently shoved and assaulted the people as they attempted to walk out of the mass.

One young black woman's walk through the sea of Trump's mini-bullies was documented on video. She is seen peacefully exiting the scene as man after man shoves her away. They yell obscenities in her face, and it is very difficult to watch.

The visceral hate on the faces of the men is despondently reminiscent of the contorted and enraged faces of the white students who were captured in famous black and white photographs yelling at the black students of the Little Rock Nine.

The side-by-side display of the two events is eye-opening. It is a dark reminder that despite the notion that we have made serious strides since the 1960s, we are still a country divided. The deeply-rooted hatred of black people has never stopped burning for many white Americans. Donald Trump's message is drawing out that ugly hatred

for people we deem as "others."

This is the scariest part of the Trump phenomenon. We can shake our heads at his outlandish behavior and his obsession with his own success. We can ignore his failed business ventures and the one million dollar head start he received from his father, while pretending he is an economic genius.

We can try to push aside the endless offensive remarks, with one exception. I do not think I can get past the part where he said he would like to date his daughter, but you can certainly try. In the end, he and his campaign feed a dark and hateful part of society that so many Americans have dedicated and given their lives to change. This is not something to laugh off. This is the real threat that Trump poses.

As the press focuses on the increasingly violent and hateful conduct at Trump rallies, his campaign has had a quick response. Trump did not condemn the assaults or the explicitly racist behavior, just like he chose to not condemn the pledged support of a former Ku Klux Klan Grand Wizard on national television. Instead, he has tightened security and cracked down on the ability of the press to document any of said behavior.

In addition to the heightened security, Trump has also unveiled a charming new campaign tactic at his rallies. He takes the stage and asks the voters for their loyalty. Trump then asks them to raise their right hand towards him and pledge their vote. However, his supporters forget their most important line: "Heil Trump!"

The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



President Bergman announced the commission of a President's Task Force on Sexual Misconduct, which will include representatives of the student body, faculty, and staff.



Expect some policy tweaks, but no radical overhaul of the way our college combats sexual misconduct.



Buckle up for the long haul: Only we can challenge our culture that normalizes rape. Fight on.

What Justice System?



Jordan Schwakopf
Opinion Columnist

The world is full of imperfect people; humankind is a flawed species. We have lapses in judgement, irrational biases, and flawed logic used to make decisions. It is therefore inevitable that societies run by human beings will make mistakes, and that is just a fact of life with which we need to learn to cope.

One would think that in a world where no one person can claim to be perfect we would be willing to admit our mistakes in order to begin the process of correcting them. However, not all mistakes are recognized and corrected as they should be, leading to an escalation of the problems the mistakes created.

Examples of this escalation can be found through investigation into the currently multiplying problems with the police systems of America. While I am loath to generalize all police forces as having these problems, it is just easier to assume they are all the same and criticize them accordingly. And I sincerely hope you understand the satirical reference to racism in that sentence.

Many angles exist from which one can criticize the current policing and overall justice system, but I will focus on what I perceive as breach of contract with the American people. Allow me to state an opinion that was once a fact: police officers exist "to protect and serve" the people of America.

Thus, I find the "us versus them" mentality of police officers to be, putting it mildly,



Community and Black Lives Matter activists gather outside the Minneapolis Police Department's 4th precinct in Minneapolis, protesting the officer-involved shooting of Jamar Clark on November 15, 2015.

disconcerting. This mentality is detrimental to the citizenry the police force is charged with serving, yet this is not a new phenomenon. Why have we ignored the protests of the affected populations and let this issue go unaddressed for so long?

We see unnecessary police-perpetrated violence on the news with alarming frequency. This violence occurs predominantly against minorities and with horrifying death rates when one considers that not a single person should be killed by police officers, perhaps with the exception of an active shooter.

When reading news coverage of these deaths, unfathomable acts of violence by supposed keepers of peace, I fail to understand how we as a society have become so thoroughly

corrupted by fear as to allow this blatant disregard for police officers' original purpose to go unchallenged.

Fear is leading us down a dark path as a nation, and we are blindly following. This country has an unfortunate habit of ignoring the right course of action in the long run, favoring instead extreme overcompensation that creates the illusion of results and progress.

The mentality of police officers has also been warped by the introduction of military equipment and influence. Many police units are outfitted with surplus military gear, but for what? It is unclear why they need military level weaponry to protect and serve the civilian population on a day-to-day basis.

Has anyone stopped to consider that we are turning our

home into a war zone, and that these are not terrorists these weapons are being used on but fellow citizens, many of whom are still innocent when being targeted?

I guess I missed the memo that this country abandoned the concept of "innocent until proven guilty." It appears that police training has produced officers who consider themselves fit to dish out punishment, even capital punishment, without consulting a judge.

It is unclear whether these officers are trained to consider that the men, women, and children they are shooting would not receive the death penalty even if found guilty of whatever crimes the officer believes they committed.

I suppose one can sympathize with officers for succumbing to their fear in a stressful situation; however, they have an obligation as a human being to consider alternative methods of protecting themselves that is less likely to end in loss of life.

Understandably, it is not practical to contemplate possible sentences for the citizen they are trying to arrest in a high-tension situation.

Nevertheless, according to the United States Bureau of Justice compilation of state capital punishment laws a citizen can only be sentenced to the death penalty for one of the following crimes: murder, rape ending in a death, treason, lying in court that leads to someone else getting the death penalty, kidnapping ending in a death, and airplane hijacking ending in a death.

Now think of the past five cases of an unarmed civilian being shot and killed by the police. This makes the laws seem rather pointless, does it not?

And therein lies the problem with the path this country is currently on: our rights are being stripped away. Some are

blatantly violated, as was the case with the NSA programs exposed by Edward Snowden, others are restricted through legislation that prevents access, such as the anti-abortion law currently in the Supreme Court, while still others are subtly dissolved over time through gradual changes and small incidents that are not condemned.

The unsettling use of violence against civilians by police officers is the last-mentioned method of appropriating our freedom, and it needs to be stopped, reversed, and prevented from relapsing. None of the steps necessary to do so will happen, however, so long as people continue to act as if we must choose between our freedom and our protection. We do not! We can be safe without being seen as potential targets by our protectors.

First and foremost, we have to alter whatever training practices contribute to the irrational "us versus them" mentality seen in the unnecessarily harsh treatment of civilians, especially regarding biased targeting and implicit biases towards minorities. De-escalation training programs should be implemented as a replacement or supplement.

Simultaneously, we must remind the police forces of America that their individual judgements are not a substitute for a fair trial in determining guilt and punishment. I understand that police officers selflessly risk their lives everyday, and I know that not all officers have neglected their duties.

However, recent events have revealed a pattern of power abuse and negligence of the laws to which these officers are bound. If we do not start holding the police accountable, and if we fail to demand that our rights remain unviolated, then we shall lose our right to a justice system entirely.

Have something to say?
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How To Love What Climate Can't Change



Ally Hosman
Opinion Columnist

Four years ago, when I came to Gustavus Adolphus College to pursue an undergraduate degree, I would not have been able to tell you what a caucus was for the life of me. Coming from a small town in South Dakota, political engagement among my peers was nonexistent. When I came to Minnesota, I was amazed at how many young people participate in the state's democratic processes.

As a kid I grew up hearing the words global warming, climate change, mass extinction, and rising ocean levels while watching the news with my parents at night. Nearly fifteen years have passed, but it has become abundantly clear that my generation and those alive today are the first to grasp what is at stake for the future of our planet. We are the last group of people who can do anything to stop our climate crisis.

This past fall, global leaders met in Paris during the Council of Parties 21st summit (also known as COP21) to discuss an agreement on what action should be taken to combat climate change. This meeting happened just as reports suggested that 2015 was the hottest year in recorded history.

The words "climate crisis" might sound like I'm blowing things out of proportion, but believe me, our reality is even more extreme than you might think. All around our planet,



Delegates gathered at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, France this past year. The European Union and 185 nations participated in the event, which culminated in the striking of the global Paris Agreement to reduce emissions.

flooding, extreme storms, longer winters, excessive droughts, and heavier snowfalls have occurred at an unprecedented rate. Due to rising sea levels, the French-speaking Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw tribe have been forced from the lands they have called home on Louisiana's gulf coast. They are the first North American climate refugees. But wait, there's more! Climate change has had a profound effect on food production and potable water supply. Our

ability to effectively grow fruits and vegetables is declining at an alarming rate.

Though the Earth goes through cycles of warming and cooling, the presence of human civilization, industrialization, and development has accelerated the process. The Earth does not need saving. We, the humans, need to be saved from our impending extinction and no one can do it but ourselves.

It is clear that our generation and those alive today are the

first group of people to grasp what is at stake for the future of our planet. We are also the last group of people who can do anything to curtail our climate crisis.

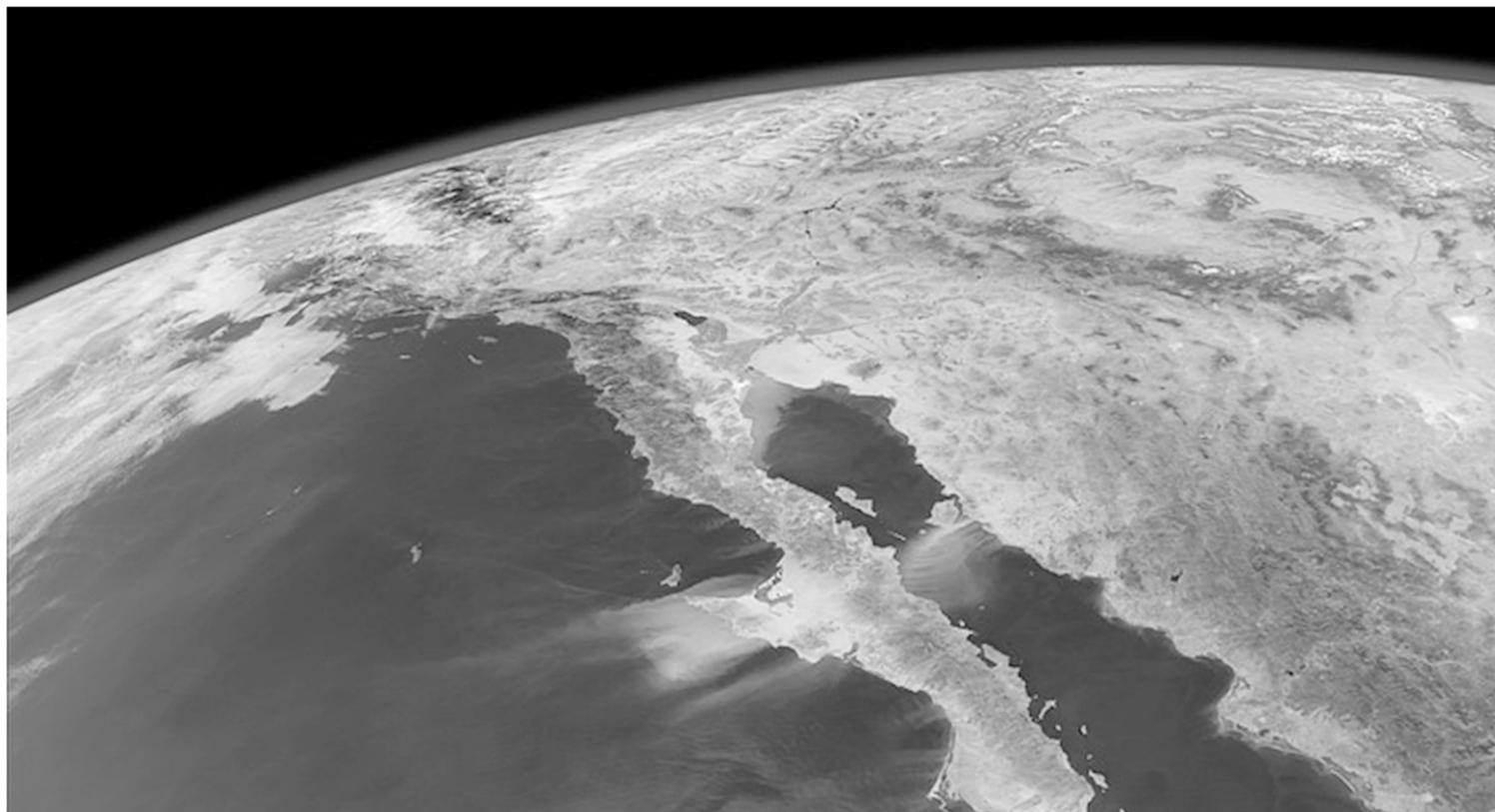
Even then, we cannot let anything extinguish the one thing climate cannot change: our hope and love for one another, our planet, and the future we can achieve when we work together to solve the issues facing humanity today. And that's why I love that I can vote.

It's that same hope which brings me to the voting booth and excited to participate in our democracy. It may not be convenient, fun, or even something that you feel super passionate about, but voting plays an important role in our ability to shape our future. It may not feel like one vote can do anything to change the world but that isn't the point - it's the collective action that people can take to make the world a better place through voting that makes a difference.

The same goes for combatting climate change. You cannot really see any change when you are the only one adjusting your lifestyle to be more environmentally and climate conscious but it is going to take the voices and hands of every person living on the planet today to bring forth visible and noticeable change.

I want leaders that consistently take action on adapting to our current global climate. I want leaders who do not simply look for easy solutions to energy woes for a quick buck. We need leaders who look at the looming future that their children and grandchildren will inherit as a result of their decision-making. We need leaders who address long-term goals before favoring short-term easy fixes.

It is important for me and my generation to increase our political involvement. We must hold our leaders accountable to the agreements reached during the COP21 summit, and to uphold any future policy that will create a livable future for all people.



Time is running out for combatting climate change. The impact of the climate crisis on our planet is already underway.

Creative Commons

BENEATH THE CROWN



Is there something you would change about your life? If so, why?

“All throughout my life, I’ve been moving around a lot. I’ve been through at least, from what I can remember, seven or eight schools. So, with that in mind, I’m always meeting new people, anywhere and everywhere. It hasn’t always been because I wanted to but more because I didn’t really have a choice, you know? It can be lonely, especially if you move around a ton. What I learned from that experience is that I can be very shy when I first meet people. So if I could change anything about my life, I would want to be more comfortable with myself so that I can talk to people about anything and meet new people in a friendly and nice way.”

Looking forward, what is something that you’re aiming to change?

“I’ve found that, sometimes, I’m not the one at the table who makes conversation or starts it. So what I want to do is learn more about...anything,



Alan Gutierrez

Cameron MacDonald

really! If you want to talk to someone who enjoys engineering then you can learn about cars, robotics, and other similar things. If you want to talk to someone about the arts, you can talk about music or the things you enjoy in that area. So I’ve been trying to do new things! I’ve been playing the piano lately, I’m playing golf, and I’ve been watching more sports. I’ve also been reading more, trying to get recommendations on different books

so I can start reading something different that can lead me to a conversation with someone new.”

If you could go back and give your younger self any advice, what would it be?

“I would say ‘Don’t do something to impress someone else.’ Like everything that I’m doing right now and trying to learn. Don’t do it to try and

impress someone and or look cool, do it for yourself. There’s nothing more important than investing time in yourself.”

- Alan Gutierrez

Beneath The Crown was created by Nick Theisen ('15). It is inspired by Humans of New York (HONY) and aims to bring the community of Gustavus Adolphus College closer together by providing the perspectives of the many different people who live and work at the school.

True or False?

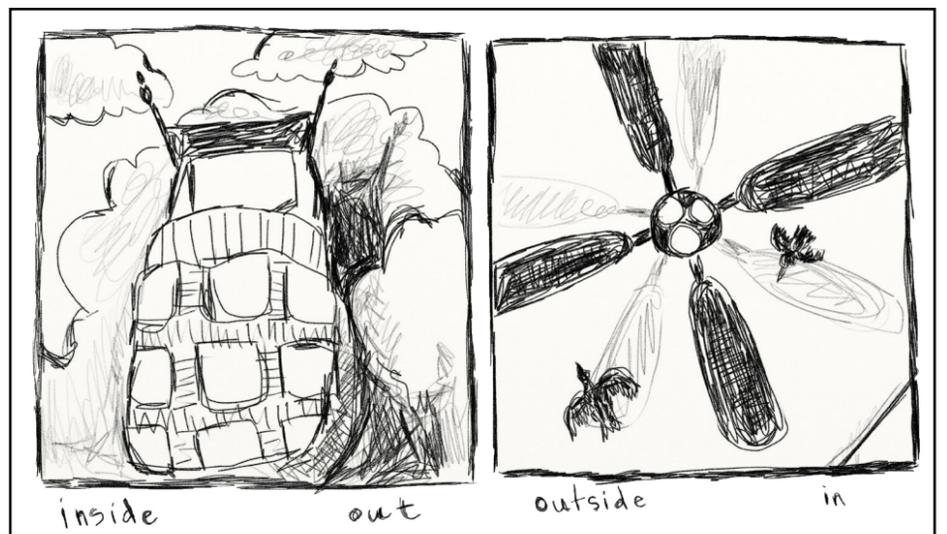
These are all actual news story titles - but which ones are satire and which ones are real?

1. Lion nearly killed prophet after botched miracle
2. Biscuit filled Boeing 777s land in Doncaster to ease national cookie shortage crisis
3. 'I couldn't be more sorry': Canadian thief turns himself in after his victim friends him on Facebook
4. Seating Mix-Up Puts Tony Bennett In Middle Of Slipknot
5. Tourist kills swan by dragging it to take selfie

1. Real! Source: Adom Online
 2. Real! Source: Doncaster Free Press
 3. Real! Source: The Washington Post
 4. Fake! Source: The Onion
 5. Real! Source: Kicker Daily News

Comic

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Women's Golf teeing off into spring



From left: Senior Emilie Anderson tees off; Junior Mae Meierhenry lines up a putt; Sophomore McKenzie Swenson hits balls into the snow in the Drenttel Golf Facility. The Gusties hope to bounce back from a disappointing fall season when they play at the George Fox Invitational in Arizona on March 12.

Tanner Sparrow Sports & Fitness Editor

The spring season for Women's Golf has arrived, with the Gusties flying out to Peoria, Arizona to compete in the George Fox Invitational at Westbrook Village Golf Club with eight other schools on March 12 and 13.

"This is a trip we take annually and it always offers us a chance to play some golf when Minnesota courses are still closed. In Arizona, we play against non-MIAC teams from California, Arizona, Illinois, and other states. It is always fun to play with new people and get outside in warm weather," Senior Captain Emilie Anderson said.

The Gusties are setting out on a mission this spring to improve on their fall season, where they felt they left a lot out on the course.

"This fall we struggled tremendously. Our team has a lot of talent but we continuously get caught in our heads. We are working on bettering our mental games and having more fun out on the course..." Anderson said.

"This fall, we struggled to put together solid rounds for team scores and did not reach our goals. Conference especially, we underperformed and allowed other teams to step ahead of us," Junior Captain Mae Meierhenry said.

The fall was not entirely a disappointment however, and showed what great potential the team has for the spring season.

"One highlight of the season came at the Georgiana Invitational at UW-Eau Claire where we finished in first and second in team standings and swept all the top five individual finishes," Meierhenry said.

A winter of training has left the team refocused to tear up courses in the spring.

"For the spring season we are hoping to improve on our mental game. Our team has always struggled with this and that certainly showed this fall. By improving this aspect of our games, we are hoping that our scores will improve and we can end this year on a high note," Anderson said.

Anyone who plays golf knows just how much you can get stuck in your head, or down on yourself, so for this spring the women are really focusing on positivity.

"We all need to individually work on our mental games. Out on the course, we all get caught up in score and focus on all the mistakes we have already made. We need to improve on being positive and taking it one shot at a time, which is easier said than done," Anderson said.

Goal-setting is another big part of the battle against the mental game for the Gusties.

"We want to lower our individual averages by one stroke or

more, and therefore lower our team average and move up in national rankings," Meierhenry

"Our team has a lot of talent but we continuously get caught in our heads. We are working on bettering our mental game and having more fun out on the course."

—Emilie Anderson

said.

Outside of the mental game, the team is also working on specific areas of their game to lower their stroke count.

"A major area of growth we are focusing on is accuracy on approach shots that will allow us to have easier pars and more birdies," Meierhenry said.

Gustavus' state of the art golf facility allowed the team to improve these technical aspects of their game, even with snow covering all the courses in the state.

"With the Drenttel Golf Facility we have been able to play throughout the winter. The facility is a great asset to have and has undoubtedly helped our team improve. The facility offers a great space to stay on top of our games while also using

technology to further improve our swings," Anderson said.

"Specifically [we] tracked shot statistics on our flight scopes to maximize consistencies," Meierhenry said.

The team also took part in a strength program to work on getting more distance on their drives.

When they're not on the course together, you can probably find the team hanging out.

"Team bonding is a huge part of our team. I can honestly say we all get along extremely well and hanging out is always fun. During the season we are able to bond a lot during practice sessions or playing a few holes, but we are also close out of season. On occasion we do homework together in the library, go out to dinner, or do other random

activities together. I would say we are all pretty close," Anderson said.

Because golf can be very individually challenging, it is nice to be out on the course with a group of supportive teammates. In this aspect, it would appear the Gusties have a large advantage.

"This close bond is important because although we are on the course individually, we have to compete for our teammates and remember that each stroke affects our team score," Meierhenry said.

After this weekend trip to Arizona, the women will fly down south again to compete against Flagler College in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Here's to hoping they soak up the sun and bask in their low scores!



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Gustavus Sports Information

Gustavus Women's Tennis went 2-1 on Saturday, March 5 with wins over Morningside and UM-Duluth, but losing against D1 Drake. Clockwise from upper left: Sophomore Katie Aney; Junior Cal Carlson; Sophomore Lauren Ihle.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, March 11

Men's Tennis at Pomona-Pitzer
9 a.m.

Men's Track and Field at NCAA Indoor Championships
10 a.m.

Men's Tennis vs. TBD (Stag-Hen Invite Second Round)
2:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 12

Women's Golf at George Fox Invitational
All Day

Women's Tennis vs. University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
10 a.m.

Men's Tennis vs. TBD (Stag-Hen Invite Third Round)
10 a.m.

Women's Track and Field at NCAA Indoor Championships
1:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 13

Women's Tennis vs. East Texas Baptist University
10 a.m.

Women's Tennis vs. Texas Lutheran University
2 p.m.

Monday, March 13

Women's Tennis vs. Trinity University
10 a.m.

Thursday, March 16

Women's Swimming and Diving at NCAA Championship
All Day

Jeremy Pastir Photography Editor

The Gustavus Women's Tennis team has roared into the 2015-2016 season with the similar success as it has for its stellar past few decades. After a short hiccup in its 20 years reign atop the conference, Gustavus saw its remarkable run end in 2012. However, 2015 signaled the return to the top of the standings for Head Coach Jon Carlson and the Gusties, as they reclaimed the crown with a dominant 10-0 MIAC record (16-13 overall) to capture the program's 27th regular season conference title in school history (21 of which have come under Carlson's lead).

Gustavus' hopes for a repeat title are quite high, as they return all but one significant contributor in St. Peter this season. Junior Michaela Schulz is back atop of the Gusties lineup

"We played very well against a very tough Drake team... The scores in the matches that we lost don't reflect how well our team competed or the improvements they made."

—Coach Heidi Carlson

after receiving the accolades of All-MIAC singles and doubles honors last season, and Seniors Lizzy Stanczyk and Sid Dirks are also back to lead Gustavus again after earning All-Conference honors as juniors. The 2016 Women's Tennis Preseason Coaches' Polls put the Gusties a mere two points behind St. Thomas, who beat them in the MIAC playoff final in 2015.

Only a few weeks into the season, Gustavus sits comfortably at second in the conference with a currently undefeated record in the MIAC at 3-0 and an overall record of 6-3. Ranked third in the MIAC in Preseason polls, Carleton sits atop the conference due to their undefeated record in both the MIAC and overall.

Gustavus opened the season on Feb. 13, going 1-2 on the day, beginning with a 0-9 loss at Northern Iowa, and returning to St. Peter to host Southwest Minnesota State who they overcame 6-3, and finally falling to University of Sioux Falls 4-5.

Despite the relatively slow start, the Black and Gold crushed all three of their MIAC opponents on Feb. 27, completing the dominant trifecta over Hamline, Concordia and Bethel all by a score of 9-0.

This success for the most part carried over into the past weekend, in which Gustavus went 2-1 against their greatest competition of the season. The Gusties started the day

with a hard fought 6-3 win over Morningside College in St. Peter, and finished at home with momentum over Division II UM-Duluth, earning an 8-1 win. Katie Aney (So., Rochester, Minn.), Cal Carlson (Jr. St. Peter, Minn.), and Sheila Sullivan (St. Paul, Minn.) each earned singles and doubles victories on the evening, while Caitlin Steffen (Fy., Baxter, Minn.), Riley Abeyesekera (Jr., Brooklyn Park, Minn.), and Kaity Johnson (Sr., Litchfield, Minn.) took home singles wins at positions 4-6, respectively, to help the Gusties to a singles sweep. Johnson highlighted the evening with a come-from-behind 2-6, 7-6 (7-1), 10-6 marathon.

Meanwhile, the Black and Gold had a separate squad playing in Des Moines, Iowa, to compete with Division I Drake. Ally Baker (So., Rosemount, Minn.) and Bri Hartmann (Fy. Owatonna, Minn.) played with vigor, beating two of Drake's top players 6-1 in No. 3 doubles. Unfortunately for Gustavus, DI rules dictate that the overall winner of all doubles matches only counts as one point as opposed to each match individually, therefore giving Drake the edge as they won the No. 1 and No. 2 matches, awarding them the sole point.

"We played very well against an incredibly tough Drake team," Assistant Coach Heidi Carlson said. "The scores in the matches that we lost don't

reflect how well our team competed or the improvements they made from playings against such good competition, especially in doubles. Unfortunately with Division I rules being a little different, we weren't able to see how some of the matches would have played out, but I'm so proud of our team."

Despite the loss to Drake, there were numerous positives on the day. "Our home team pulled out some great wins today," Jon Carlson said. "We played smarter as the day went on and made some major improvements. I'm proud of the team for their overall mental toughness and fighting through some tough matches today."

Looking forward, the Gusties will be in San Antonio from Friday, March 11-Tuesday, March 15 to take on nationally ranked East Texas Baptist, Trinity, Texas-Lutheran, and Mary Hardin-Baylor.



Gustavus Sports Information

Sophomore Laura Martin

Intro to the Tourney

Gusties from out-of-state experience Minnesota's biggest event



photo courtesy of Edina Zephyrus

The Edina Hornets celebrate their 2014 state championship in front of a sold out crowd at the Xcel Energy center. This year, the Wayzata Trojans defeated the Eden Prairie Eagles to take home the trophy for class 2A, and Hermantown defeated Breck to win the 1A hardware.

Tanner Sparrow
Sports & Fitness Editor

Few things are more Minnesota than the High School Hockey Tournament. It's special. A crowd of 23,000 is rarely present for an NHL team, but that's the record-breaking crowd that came out to watch two boy's high school semi-final games on March 4 at the Xcel Energy Center. The atmosphere isn't the only renowned aspect of the tournament; the player's hair at the tourney has even garnered national attention with the "All-Hockey Hair Team."

Growing up in Edina, I got to experience the tournament throughout my youth, and learned pretty fast that everyone there hates us. You also learn that people shut up pretty fast when your team wins two state titles in a row. Regardless of winning and losing however, it was a staple of growing up in Minnesota.

However, not all Gustavus

students share my experience. I caught up with some freshmen from out of state, to learn what their initial impressions of this great Minnesota tradition were.

Freshman Jason Alper came to Gustavus from Agoura Hills, California, and watched his first tourney on TV.

"We don't even high school hockey in California, so it's a totally different culture in Minnesota," Alper said.

What stood out to Alper the most about the tourney was just how invested everyone was in a high school sport, especially if their team was playing.

"People are pretty obsessed with it. It was crazy that if someone's high school wasn't in it they still watched it," Alper said.

Even if their high school was in it, Alper still noted that the loyalty to a high school after graduation wasn't present out west.

"The community of hockey definitely seems like a Minnesota thing...everyone here seems

to know everything about their high school and people care about their high school teams more after they graduate than they do in California," Alper said.

Minnesota hockey is often compared to Indiana basketball, and the Friday Night Lights of Texas Football. Freshman Josh Curtis comes to Gustavus by way of Houston, and experienced Texas football firsthand. But last week Curtis drove up to the cities and got his first taste of Minnesota hockey.

"I thought that the tourney was a totally new experience, it was a good time, I met a lot of new people, and watched a lot of good hockey even though I didn't quite know what was going on," Curtis said.

Everything may be bigger in Texas, but as far as the Texas football vs. Minnesota hockey debate goes, that may be false.

"I would say they are both evenly matched because you can tell the pride of Minnesota is it's hockey, and Texas's is its

football," Curtis said.

As far as high school sports in California goes, Alper couldn't find a comparison.

"Nothing in California compares to the tourney here, the closest thing that compares is the high school basketball tournament I guess, but it's just nowhere close to as big," Alper said.

Alper noticed first hand how invested Gustavus students were in the games.

"It is the state of hockey, and that definitely showed during the tournament, kids were more concerned with watching it on their laptops in lectures than taking notes," Alper said.

The large student sections at the tournament, and their school spirit struck Curtis the most.

"The dedication of each high school, having their whole student body coming out to watch their team in state, and it kind of reminded me of back home for football," Curtis said.

As far as the hair goes, Alper

was impressed.

"Watching the Tourney and the All-Hockey Hair videos, I thought it was really cool. We did some fun stuff for baseball playoffs in California, but it was more along the lines of kids bleaching their hair. The crazy mullets and mustaches here take the cake for sure though," Alper said.

Curtis noted the hair culture also reminded him of back home.

"The hockey hair was nothing that new, we would dye our Mohawks blonde, or get 'the boz' [modeled after former Oklahoma Sooner and Seattle Seahawk Brian Bosworth] back in Texas for state," Curtis said.

As special as the Hockey tournament is, it would appear that the true power of Minnesota is its ability to make hockey fans out of Californians.

"I watched a little bit of Hockey in California, but I've definitely gotten way more into it since I've gotten here," Alper said.