

# An American Reichstag Fire



**Amy Leininger**  
Opinion Editor

On Feb. 28, 1933, Germans awoke to an emergency decree revoking civil liberties. Overnight, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly and association were abolished. The decree suspended federated state autonomy, and legalized phone-tapping and the interception of correspondence.

The night before, the Reichstag was set on fire. Arriving on the scene of the burning government debate chamber, newly-appointed Chancellor Adolf Hitler immediately declared the fire to be a Communist plot.

The next morning, the non-Nazi majority cabinet drafted the Reichstag Fire Decree, and President Hindenburg signed it that day.

Hitler and the Nazis justified the emergency decree through a wave of propaganda that convinced terrified Germans that the Communists were plotting civil war, and that more "acts of terrorism" were to come. As a result of the Reichstag Fire Decree, in only a matter of months, all opposition to the Nazi party was crushed.

In truth, according to leading historians of the period, the Reichstag fire was no Communist plot. It was the act of a lone Dutchman, Marinus van der Lubbe.

However, facts didn't matter to Hitler. By capitalizing on fear of Communists, Hitler and the Nazis were able to swiftly institute martial law and crush democracy, before moving on to their Final Solution.

In 2017, there are lessons to be learned from the Reichstag fire. Following a rough transition, Trump entered the presidency with historically low approval ratings. In just two weeks of poorly enacted executive orders, his approval rating now hovers around 43 percent, with 50 percent of Americans disapproving of the job Trump is doing.

A flashpoint for public disapproval is the recent executive order that banned travelers from seven Muslim-majority countries. Protests erupted across the United States and around the world, and several federal courts have put a hold on the executive order.

Last Friday, U.S. District Judge James Robart blocked the entirety of the executive order from taking effect.



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Protests erupted nationwide in response to President Trump's so called "Muslim Ban." Protesters gathered in airports across the nation, where travelers from the seven majority-Muslim countries were being held by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.

This did not please Trump. He tweeted, "Just cannot believe a judge would put our country in such peril. If something happens blame him and court system. People pouring in. Bad!"

At a time when Trump has alienated our allies and energized terrorist recruitment efforts, it is reprehensible that he is directing the American people to blame the judicial branch for future terror attacks. This dangerous rhetoric is an explicit threat to our democratic system of government.

Make no mistake, terrorists will strike again in the United States. Trump's Muslim ban only increases this likelihood. On Sunday, a group of national security officials who worked under Obama, Bush, and Clinton filed a legal brief against Trump's executive order, arguing that it undermines the national security of the United States.

These officials assert that not only is the ban unconstitutional, it will also "aid ISIL's propaganda effort and serve its recruitment message by feeding into the narrative that the United

States is at war with Islam."

This means nothing to Trump. Rather, he will continue to hold the judicial branch responsible for endangering the nation. On a two-day Twitter rant, Trump repeatedly denigrated "so-called" Judge Robart and the courts. His transparent rage and frustration with the judiciary should not be taken lightly.

Historically, authoritarian-minded leaders attack institutions that are a check to their power. In the United States, these institutions include the judicial and legislative branches and the press.

Authoritarians first attempt to delegitimize through rhetoric, before taking incremental steps to actively dismantle these institutions. Predictably, they cite "national security" as their reason for doing so.

To be clear, Trump is not Hitler, and engaging in that sort of alarmist rhetoric is unhelpful and unproductive. However, we cannot ignore the very real possibility that the Trump administration may respond in illiberal ways following an attack on U.S. soil.

By recognizing patterns in history, we can steel ourselves against the rising challenges to our democracy.

In the weeks following the Reichstag Fire, Marinus van der Lubbe, along with four Communists, were arrested for their alleged roles in the attack. Van der Lubbe was sentenced to death.

Luckily for the four Communists, the German courts operated independently of the Nazi party and the men were released due to lack of evidence.

This infuriated Hitler. He needed a judiciary that would deliver the verdicts he wanted. So he made one. Hitler immediately installed a new system of special courts to bypass the traditional legal system.

By capitalizing on fear, Hitler was able to entrench the dictatorship of the Third Reich.

After the 9/11 terror attacks, President Bush's approval rating was 90 percent, the highest of any president. He used this newfound political capital to start two wars and enact the Patriot Act, which shredded civil liberties while greatly expand-

ing the powers of the executive branch.

The quickest way to get the country behind you is to unite against an enemy. Allegiance is patriotic, dissent is not. Bush said it best: "You're either with us, or you're against us."

Trump has already primed the public to blame the judiciary for a terror attack. He has also manipulated Americans to fear their Muslim neighbors.

If terrorists strike again, be wary of the Trump administration's response. Bannon and company lie in wait to enact far more stringent executive orders. Never forget that Trump promised to create a Muslim registry.

Following the Blitzkrieg attack of executive orders in his first days in office, it is foolish to not take him at his word.

We cannot let our own American Reichstag Fire be our undoing. Do not let your fear be co-opted by con men.

Never surrender your rights for the illusion of safety.

# The Final Stage of Grief: Acceptance



**Jessica Hastings Erth**  
Opinion Columnist

Gustavus is a college that I deeply admire for so many reasons. The inclusion of all students and diversity of thought makes Gustavus a college that is rich with compassion. Gustavus is a safe college, and is not afraid to support its students.

During this year's presidential election, students felt passion to "get out the vote," by using signs, going door to door, and openly expressing their opinions. This is good, as colleges and universities are supposed to be places of free thought and exchange of ideas. This country does, after all, cherish freedom of speech.

One of the presidential candidates that many students had issues with was Donald Trump. He is now president of the United States and it has been three months since the election, and almost three weeks since the inauguration. There is a fair amount of students on this campus, and throughout the United States, who are protesting.

Protests broke out throughout

the country, and even world-wide people are expressing their disgust for our newly elected president.

As the election grew closer, and people started taking Trump's campaign more seriously, more and more protests and riots started occurring. In 2016, before the election in November, over thirty substantial protests occurred.

This includes the beginning of the slogan "Love Trumps Hate" which was said to have started on May 7 in Washington. The protesters made a point to speak out against his policy stances regarding women, Hispanics, and Muslims.

During this protest on May 7 the authorities announced that "a small number of arrests" were made. Although many of the protests have been relatively civil, many have also turned into violent riots. Injuries and property damage were reported.

One of the first reported violent protests was in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where protesters started throwing rocks and bottles at police officers, where they smashed a glass door at the convention center, and then burned a number of Trump signs and flags, which then filled the street with smoke.

After this it seemed much more common for protests to turn to riots, where people routinely were on top of police cars, throwing rocks, and harassing of Trump supporters. The most severe riots and protests happened after he won the election on Tuesday, November 8.

One of the largest protests was The Women's March, which took place on Jan. 21. There were a total of 637 of these same protests worldwide. In Minnesota alone there were over 100,000 protesters, which was almost 5 times the anticipated number.



*The Women's March on Washington was attended by over 500,000. An estimated 4.2 million people gathered in over 600 U.S. cities.*

The point of these protests was to protect legislation and policies regarding human rights and other issues, which included women's rights, immigration reform, healthcare reform, the environment, LGBTQ+ rights and racial equality. Although the Minnesota protest stayed relatively calm many of these protests led to rioting and violence.

Traditionally the losing side of the election tends to be bitter towards the ending results. Throughout history there have

been shocking election results, including Bush vs. Gore. However, by far the most protested was this past election between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.

Both of these elections, although very different, happen to have one thing in common: acceptance. Accepting what has happened is something we must do in order to move on.

Think about America's future, your families and your life in ten years from now, and think about what you can do before

the next election.

With all the protests and riots happening around us, you may feel discouraged to share your opinion, especially if your opinion is contrary to the majority. When conservatives voice their opinion on campus they are often shut down immediately.

Unfortunately there seems to be a social stigma attached to being a Republican and a Trump supporter. Being a Republican doesn't make you racist, homophobic, or fascist. We base everything on the content of one's character.

Being open to others opinions is important, but what is more important is being true to yourself, and understanding what is going on around you.

Empathy is the ability to understand how someone else is feeling, and you can handle anything in life if you know what defines you. If you do not understand something, learn about it, even if it is not your ideology.

I encourage you to go out of your comfort zone and try and see life from the perspective of a conservative you know, or if you are conservative try and step in the shoes of a liberal friend. There is no right or wrong answer in politics, it is all opinion based.

Being able to express free speech is an amazing thing that not everyone gets the opportunity to have, but that doesn't mean you should abuse such a power.

Take a deep breath and accept the things around you.

## The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



Alec Baldwin to host Saturday Night Live on Feb. 11:  
Will Melissa McCarthy reprise her role as neurotic Press Secretary Sean Spicer?



Trump reportedly HATES that Spicer was played by a woman. The misogyny is strong with this one.



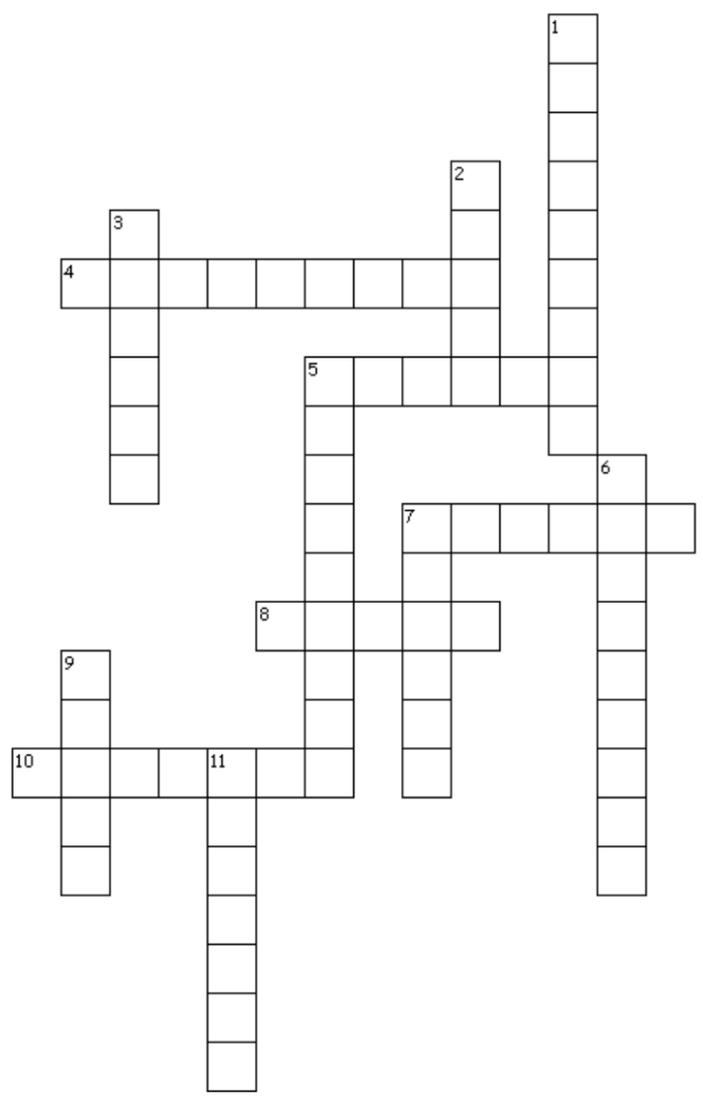
Hopefully 30 Rockefeller Plaza has a fallout shelter for the nuclear strike headed their way.



Courtesy of Kevin Pajor '15

# The Weekly Crossword

Do you know the last names of these athletic personalities?



Across

- 4. Legendary tennis coach, founder of the Tennis and Life camps, with 929 wins for Gustavus overall
- 5. 6'9" former goaltender, invited to the Canucks development camp, currently playing for the Pensacola Ice Flyers
- 7. As a pitcher for Gustavus, this three time all-conference will begin her final season on February 25
- 8. Recently notched her 300th career win, after her team took down Hamline University by 106-63
- 10. Multi-sport athlete, playing an integral role on the soccer team's offense, and the hockey team's defense

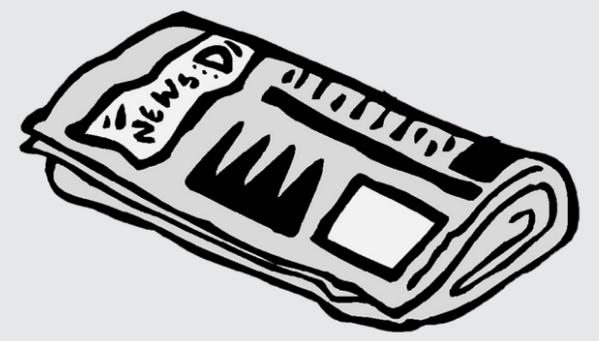
Down

- 1. Besides coaching, this person teaches a popular philosophy course
- 2. A proud Hawkeye, this man heads a team of students and employees dedicated to keep our athletes in the best of shape
- 3. Current athlete who recently reached the 1,000 point mark in her collegiate career
- 5. Our only foreign head coach, who boasts an impressive record of 10 conference titles in 14 seasons as a DIII soccer coach
- 6. After passing away with leukemia in 2013, the Gustavus Swim and Dive team honored this athlete with her own invitational meet
- 7. All-American who assisted for 1,255 kills during the 2016 season
- 9. The boss of bosses, with a last name usually found on color palettes
- 11. Gustie alum, currently the Sports Information Director

Across: 4. Wilkinson 5. McClean 7. Heacox 8. Kelly 10. Johnson  
 Down: 1. Valentini 2. Banse 3. Miller 5. Middleton 6. Gohlirsch 7. Holman 9. Brown 11. Siewert

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# Close losses plague Men's Basketball

**Jake Woodrich**  
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Men's Basketball squad has had its share of tightly contested games this season but unfortunately has come out on the losing end more times than not. Most recently, the team has fallen by scores of 68-63 to Hamline and 59-57 to the MIAC leader, St. Thomas. In their up-and-down season, the Gusties currently hold a 5-15 overall record, with a record of 5-10 in

*"Though it often looks as though it's a game winning shot at play at the end that causes us to lose or win, it's the little things throughout that have an effect."*

—Kelsey Thomas

conference play.

"[When] measured with wins and losses, this season has not been as successful as we would've liked. We have certainly been competitive, but [we] haven't come out on the right end of the scoreboard," Head Coach Mark Hanson said.

The Gusties have learned that every play and possession holds great importance in games, especially when they come down to the final seconds.

"Games can turn on a possession or two. We need to make more of those possessions go our way with a defensive stop or an important offensive possession," Coach Hanson said. In such meaningful possessions, the team wants to focus on doing the little things better. By doing the little things better, close losses could turn into wins.

"We have had a fair amount of close losses against good



Gustavus Sports Information

Junior Kelsey Thomas jumps over a Hamline defender to lay in a basket. The Gusties struggled to come back from a season low 20 point outing in the first quarter, but kept the game close, eventually losing 68-63.

teams. In order for us to turn those defeats into victories it will come down to doing the little [things] better. Though it often looks as though it's a game winning shot or play at the end that causes us to lose or win, it's the little things throughout the game that have an effect," Junior Kelsey Thomas said.

"Ultimately, sticking together as a team and battling will turn the narrow defeats into victories," Thomas said.

Outside of the handful of heartbreakers mentioned above, the Gusties have also had multiple positive experiences this season including a trip to Las Vegas in late December to par-

ticipate in the D3hoops.com Classic. While in Vegas, the Gusties faced stiff competition squaring off against two nationally ranked teams. Despite finishing 0-2 at the tournament, the team had a great time both

because we played really well against both teams and showed that we had the talent and ability to compete with anyone across the country," Thomas said.

When the team wasn't playing basketball, they were bonding as a unit on their trip.

"Las Vegas was a very rewarding trip and we were extremely fortunate to be a part of it. Gustavus alumni and donors do a tremendous job of supporting us and the trip wouldn't have been possible without them. Besides playing ball, we bonded as a team by visiting 'the strip', going to the Hoover Dam, and golfing at Top Golf. We were very fortunate to be a part of a memorable experience," Senior Captain Coleman Sweeney said.

Sweeney has been battling injuries all season, however, Coach Hanson has still been very pleased with his ability to lead this season along with Senior Captain Alec Koster.

At time of print the Gusties were set to host St. Olaf for Military Appreciation night.

Following the game there are only two games left on their schedule including the senior day game against Carleton at 3:00 p.m. on Feb. 18 at home. This game will close out the regular season and be the last time this year's senior class will play on Gus Young Court.

*"Measured with wins and losses, this season has not been as successful as we would've liked. We have certainly been competitive, but haven't come out on the right end of the scoreboard."*

—Coach Mark Hanson

on and off the court.

"The trip to Las Vegas was a remarkable experience. It is always a great time to go to a D3hoops tournament and to watch all the other teams playing and seeing other talent or people you normally do not get to play against from across the country. The tournament alone was captivating, but being fortunate enough to have the chance to be in Vegas made the experience even greater. While we were in Vegas, we had the chance to play against two different nationally ranked teams and we didn't get the outcome that we hoped as far as a win. They were motivating games



Sophomore Charlie Krambeer dribbles up the court on a fast break against Hamline.

# Sweet Sixteenth

No. 16 Gustavus Women's Basketball rebounds after their first loss



Gustavus Sports Information

A Women's Basketball record 2,896 spectators watched the Gusties play the No. 3 Tommies on Feb. 1. The Gusties lost 75-69, but bounced back against Hamline on Feb. 4 with a 106-63 victory that powered the Gusties to a season high No. 16 national ranking.

## Tanner Sparrow Sports & Fitness Editor

After a record 19-0 start, Gustavus Women's Basketball finally faltered on Feb. 1 when they hosted fellow unbeaten St. Thomas 75-69.

Three consecutive three-pointers from Sophomore Brooke Lemke opened the game strong for the Gusties, who led 23-19 after a quarter of play. The No. 3 Tommies fought back in the second quarter, taking a 41-35 lead into halftime. In the final quarter the Gusties were down eight, but managed to rally to within a point around the 5 minute mark, but the Tommies held on for the six point win in front of a record 2,896 women's basketball fans.

"It was a great crowd," Head Coach Laurie Kelly said. "I can't talk enough about the environment and the community coming out, it was amazing. I really felt like that was a huge trigger for us. When we got on our run,

the crowd got into the game. It's hard to walk off the floor knowing someone had to lose, but at the same time all of these people saw a great basketball game."

Junior Mikayla Miller led the Gusties with 18 points, and three other starters tallied double digit points. Senior Hannah Howard posted her second double-double of the season with 16 points and 11 rebounds, Junior Miranda Rice went for 12, and Lemke posted 11.

Despite notching their first loss, the Gusties learned a lot and look to earn a rematch against the Tommies.

"I've said all year long, sometimes the chips go your way and sometimes they don't," Kelly said. "Today it just didn't go our way. I think we can look and see some positives and I hope our future has Gustavus and the Tommies playing again. Our goal has always been to contend for the conference championship...Knowing that if we turn the corner and play just a little

better, there's no question we can beat St. Thomas."

The Gusties remained ranked No. 17 nationally after the loss, temporarily halting their rapid ascent in the polls. A dominant 106-63 win over Hamline on Feb. 4 resumed the momentum, moving the Gusties to a season best No. 16 ranking.

Hot shooting gave the Gusties a 29-14 lead after only 10 minutes of play. Heading into half the Gusties led 54-31.

Despite their commanding lead, the Gusties still weren't content.

"The first half was different than the second half for us, particularly defensively. I wasn't happy at halftime and I don't think the team was either. Every opportunity you have to play against somebody else is an opportunity to get more and more prepared as you head into the end of the season. You want to be playing your best basketball this time of year, so each individual has to step up their game

and hopefully that will elevate us to the next level," Kelly said.

The Gusties kept their fire in the second half, pushing their lead into the 40s with 6:39 remaining.

"We're trying to prepare to do something special this season," Kelly said. "It doesn't matter who we're going to play, we are going to focus on Gustavus basketball."

All but two Gusties scored points in the victory. Rice led the Gusties with 25, and Miller tallied 18. Howard earned her second straight double-double to total three on the season.

The win was the 300th career for Laurie Kelly in her 19 seasons as a head coach. The last five of those seasons leading the Black and Gold.

It makes me reflect on how fortunate I've been over the last 19 years," Kelly said. "It makes me think all the way back to the very first team I ever coached and the very first win I ever got. It is the same journey through

all these teams and young women that have been such a positive influence in my life. It is something that we all accomplished together. If you do it long enough, milestones like this will come, but more than anything it makes me reflect on how fortunate I feel to have had the opportunity to coach at such wonderful institutions, have great staffs, and be around quality student-athletes."

To complement their No. 16 ranking, Gustavus currently sits in the top ten nationally in multiple statistical rankings.

The Gusties' 46.6 field goal percentage ranks second, the 8.1 free throw percentage ranks fourth, and the 95.0 winning percentage is tied for eighth best.

At time of print, the Gusties were set to open up a three game road streak against MIAC foe St. Olaf (7-14 Overall, 3-11 MIAC). The Gusties then travel to Saint Benedict's on Feb. 11 and Saint Catherine's on Feb. 15.