

Motherhood? Hard Pass.

Rachael Manser
Opinion Columnist

Though women have advanced monumentally in American society within the last century, there are still certain expectations we haven't been able to overcome, particularly the notion of motherhood as our life's ultimate fulfillment.

Like many other girls who grew up in twenty-first century America, I was encouraged to follow my passions, go to college, earn a degree, and pursue a successful and fulfilling career. The subtext that was never quite explicitly stated until I became a teenager was that my mother still wanted grandchildren to spoil too.

I'm only 21 years old and I can't even count the number of times that family, friends, and strangers have assumed I'm having children.

Frequent questions include: "How many children do you want?" and "When do you plan on having kids?" A personal favorite? "You'll understand once you have your own children."

I've known since I was a teenager that motherhood is not right for me and it never will be. I know this is hard to understand for many people, but it doesn't warrant patronizing or shaming comments.

The fact that it's 2017 and I still have to explain myself when I say that I don't want children is ridiculous, but here I am.

First of all, I do not like children. I have friends that can't walk through Target without pointing out and ogling at every chubby-cheeked, pig-tailed, onesie-wearing, smiling baby. While I can admire an exceptionally cute baby or toddler from afar, I prefer they stay that way — far away.

It's not that children repulse



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Not everyone is cut out for motherhood. Many women choose to pursue careers, travel, and enjoy their free time without the responsibility of raising a child.

me, though I cringe at the sound of crying babies and screaming toddlers, it's more a matter of just not connecting with them on any level.

Put me in front of a child and I will stand there anxiously waiting for the ignorant soul who left me with them to return.

I believe this discomfort around children is due in part to my lack of a motherly instinct. Whereas good mothers

are supposed to be nurturing, affectionate, and protective of children, all I feel is awkward anxiety.

It also requires a great amount of patience to raise a child, of which I have little. This isn't to say that if someone left their children with me to babysit that they would be unsafe; I am capable of taking care of children and they would survive a night with me. However, I know my-

self, and I can say that I don't think I would be a good mother, so why on earth would I purposely put a child in a parental situation that's not ideal?

Additionally, I know the kind of lifestyle I want in the future and it is far from conducive to children. I want to dedicate myself to a career that I am passionate about. I also want the financial freedom and time to further my education. I want to

travel domestically and internationally as often as possible. Of course, I'd like to have the freedom to spend my nights and weekends with friends, or alone for that matter.

Practically speaking, kids are a huge financial and time investment, and that's not an investment I wish to make and I know I'm not the only one.

Some might think many of these reasons are selfish, and maybe they are, but why would anyone bring children into this world knowing they probably won't get the devotion and patience they deserve?

Even having explained all of this, many people still try to convince me otherwise: "You'll change your mind once you meet the right guy!" and "Won't you feel unfulfilled?"

Again, I need to remind people that we are in the twenty-first century where the man does not make the woman, so a man is not going to change my personality or 'mellow me out' in any way.

And no I won't be unfulfilled. I will find fulfillment in my career, traveling, learning, friends, loved ones, and a million and one other things. A woman does not need to be a mother to have a fulfilling and happy life.

Like many other women, I know who I am. I also know I don't want kids. Period. Let's work on making an explanation unnecessary.

The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



Public pressure is mounting for an investigation into the Trump administration's connections to Russia.



Former NSA advisor Michael Flynn resigned Monday amid controversy over his communication with a Russian diplomat, and the subsequent cover up by the Trump administration.



Flynn is the third Trump team member to resign because of Russian connections. Where there's smoke there's fire, and we are literally choking on smoke right now.

New High Score: Pride



Joe Robbins
Opinion Columnist

I have never been much of a gamer. I can never stay interested long enough to get good at them, and I hate not being good at things. Generally, what happens when I try a new game is some version of the following sequence of events: Joe pays \$19.99 for game, and spends an afternoon struggling through the tutorial levels. Joe gets bored and puts the game on a shelf.

Months later, Joe sees the game on the shelf and remembers that \$19.99, so he plays it again. The game is still boring. To try and get more into the game, mostly because he paid \$19.99 for it, Joe seeks out friends to play the game with.

Joe loses horribly and throws controller because he hates losing. He then has to buy his friends a new controller and apologize for being too competitive.

So, you see, in the past video games have meant financial strain and needing to apologize for things, the latter of which I hate more than I hate losing.

Recently, however, I discov-



Pinball is the game of choice for the lead character in Japanese author Haruki Murakami's 1980 novel.

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ered the Fallout series. The games are set in a post-apocalyptic universe, where nuclear fallout has produced a futuristic Wild West, complete with robots, genetically mutated monsters, and pearl-handled revolvers.

The games are beautifully animated and brilliantly designed, with the developers opting to give the player a large plethora

of optional missions and story arcs rather than the traditional structured plot. I am a very achievement-oriented person, and something about the way achievement was earned in that game just hooked me. When I discovered the series in high school, I wasted an entire summer playing it.

I never nailed down exactly why this game sucked me in,

until I had an epiphany while reading the novel *Pinball, 1973*, by Haruki Murakami (whom I highly recommend) a few days ago.

Murakami writes about a man's addiction to a playing a retro pinball machine, saying "Almost nothing can be gained from pinball. The only payoff is a numerical substitution for pride."

This made me stop and think. People take pride in what they see as their identity; athletic dress like athletic people, talk about athletics, and spend lots of time practicing and participating in athletics.

It's the same with smart people, attractive people, good speakers, good students, the compassionate and the pious. They are proud of and identify with what they do.

I had only ever really played one game, but what drew me into it was that it was hard work, it took a lot of time and a certain level of skill, and I actually had a lot of pride in what I had done.

While Fallout is much more complex than pinball, the result is the same: in the end, you get a score, of sorts, that defines your performance within the framework of the game.

For a pinball player, their goal is to get a high score. For someone who was addicted to the game like Murakami's protagonist, his pride is based on his performance in this game.

How he ever himself and

how he constructed his identity was predicated off of his high score. He was 411,970, and that number is substituted for his pride.

Other people may not look at him and think "411,970", the same way as they might look at a good student and think "good student", but the key is that he thinks of himself as 411,970. His pride is based upon his performance within these parameters; he defines himself through the criterion of this game.

Of course, many readers' gut reaction may be, "Wow that's so sad, a guy who wastes his life trying to achieve these fake goals." Well, how you define yourself? What do you take pride in? Do you get good grades? Do you score a lot of touchdowns? Are you successful socioeconomically?

When you get your paycheck or report card, or when you score that touchdown you are getting a number designed to give you some measure of pride on your performance within a manmade, artificial construct.

This is not to say that these achievements are worthless, but rather that every one of us sometimes forgets what we should take pride in, and construct our identities around.

When you finish doing something, look at what you have created. You are not the score you are handed after you act, but you are what you create, and that is what your pride and your identity should be built upon.

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Cartoons: Not Just for Kids



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"Up", the 2009 Pixar film captured the hearts and minds of millions of children and adults. Pixar is celebrated for its ability to create animated films that appeal to audiences of all ages.



Daniel McCrackin
Opinion Columnist

Cartoons, anime, and claymation: these are all mediums of animated storytelling used in the modern media.

For many, animated shows or movies are associated with children, and when they aren't created for children, such as "The Simpsons" or "Family Guy", they are considered crude

or unintelligent.

These assumptions cause many to believe that animated films and shows are not intellectually stimulating. However, this does not need to be the case.

Many animated features are specifically created to target those in the age range of eighteen to thirty-five without using crude humor, and often appeal to many outside of the targeted age group.

Cartoons are no longer filled with the buffoonery we once pictured. To assume otherwise insults not only the people who enjoy them, but also the animators who put a lot of work into their creation.

In fact, they are intricate works of art that employ elements of dramatic storytelling coupled with moral dilemma, artistic style, and intelligent humor.

Take the popular series "Wallace and Gromit." The show, a popular cartoon for children featuring many hilarious and wacky hi-jinks, also contains

jokes meant to appeal to any adults who may be watching.

While most of these jokes are subtle enough to go over the heads of the children, adults should be warned that they may end up on the floor laughing. "Wallace and Gromit" is just one example of the clever employ of humor within animation, rather than appealing to simple slapstick antics and crude farce.

However, rather than comedy many adults prefer to watch a drama, where the stakes are high and the watcher is hanging on the edge of their seat waiting for the next moment.

While many may think this cannot be found in an animated film or television, there is a whole studio that has made a career out of doing just that.

Pixar Studios is famous for its family-friendly films that offer compelling characters, masterful storytelling, heart-wrenching twists, and lessons on morality.

The studio creates stories and characters that are meant to appeal to a variety of viewers, young and old. From the sarcastic and grumpy Carl in "Up", to the struggling and inventive Hiro in "Big Hero Six", fans of Pixar easily find characters who inspire them.

Pixar films also teach important life lessons, such as bouncing back from tragedy, or understanding that one person can inspire a revolution of thinking and ideas. Pixar has made its fortunes off of its ability to appeal to people from all walks of life. Luckily, they aren't the only one!

Japanese animation, or anime, has long been used to portray more than just childlike themes. Indeed many modern anime that have found western audiences such as "Attack on Titan", "Bleach", and "One Piece" were originally designed to appeal to people ages eighteen to thirty-five.

These animations feature more violence and modern

problems than most would see in a typical western cartoon, and are not usually considered appropriate for youngsters, though children are the typical audience for animated television.

At the same time, they also bring up intelligent discussion and moral quandaries not seen in comedic animated shows.

More often than western animation, Japanese animation also tends to employ a wider variety of artistic palettes and styles, something that is only now being utilized in more western styles of cartoon.

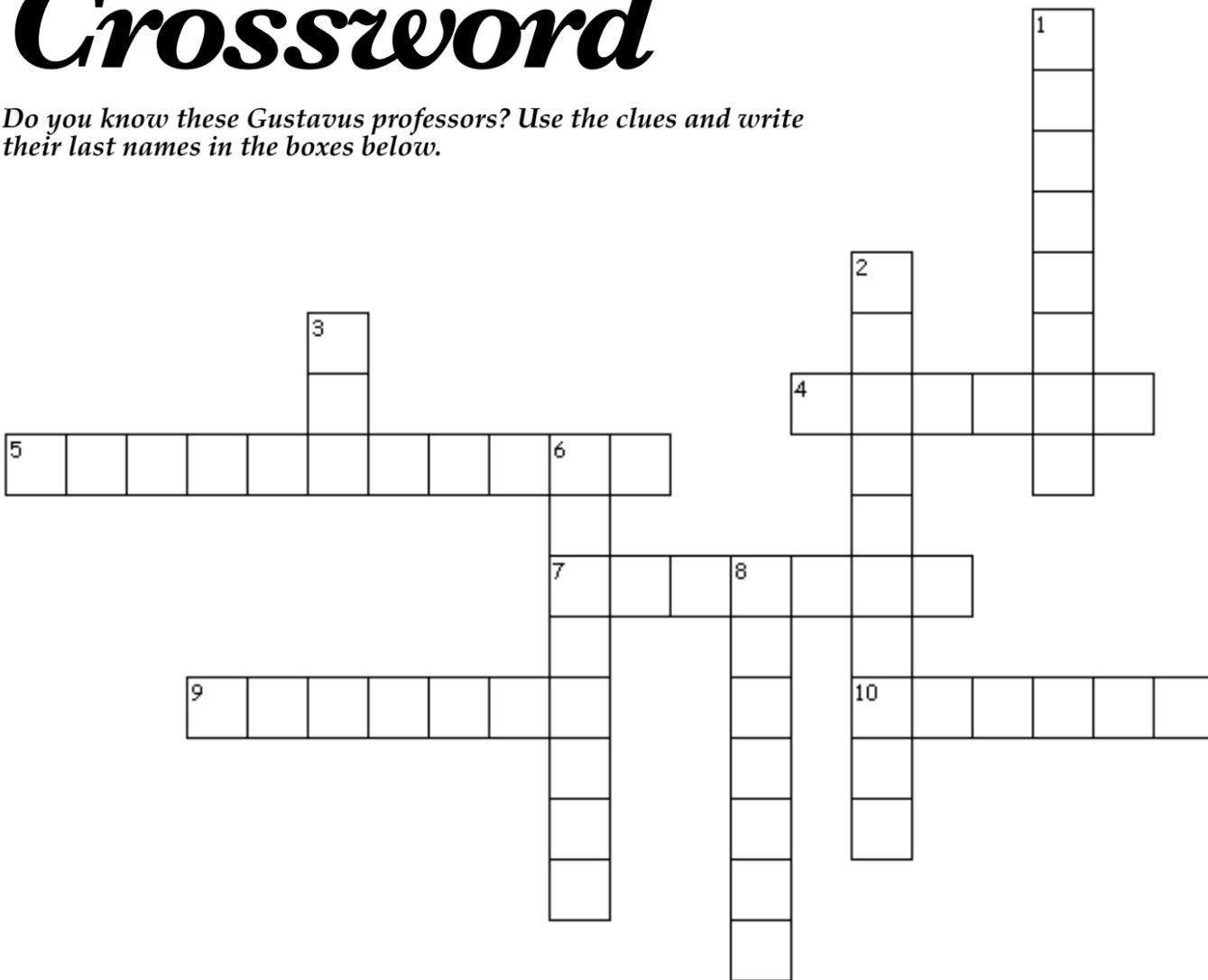
While there are still many cartoon films and shows that are tailored to younger viewers, animation is no longer restricted to this narrow demographic.

Today we live in a world with cartoons that are more targeted towards college-aged audiences, such as "Gravity Falls", because artists know that these cartoons are a medium which they can still use to teach and inspire.



Crossword

Do you know these Gustavus professors? Use the clues and write their last names in the boxes below.



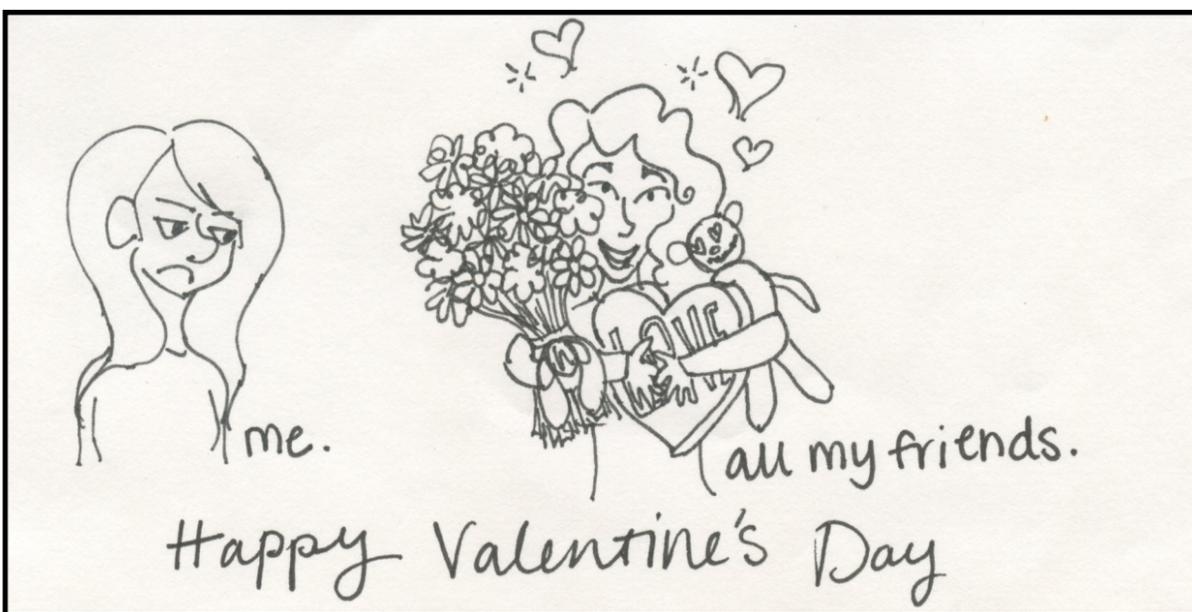
Across

- 4. Taught the class "Analyzing Japan" during J-Term. Notorious for his long e-mails.
- 5. Physics-Chuck.
- 7. This successful businesswoman and professor is an influential force in the Management department.
- 9. Last year's winner of the Edgar M. Carlson Award for Distinguished Teaching.
- 10. Co-chair of the English Department. Author of two young adult novels.

Down

- 1. Also in the English Department, Gustavus' most popular professor (according to ratemyprofessor.com).
- 2. Although he is known to give endless readings, he has a strong ability to convert students into History majors through his passionate teaching.
- 3. Known to many as the Chemistry Department's toughest grader.
- 6. Econ/Management professor who also runs a barbeque business.
- 8. As the hub of Anatomy and Physiology lectures and labs, this teaching couple is expecting their third child.

Comic by Kate Holman



Sudoku

	5			8				
9				1		5		
			4		5	7		8
4					3	8		
8	6	1				3	5	9
		9	1					4
5		2	6		1			
		6		7				2
				9			6	

Bring out the brooms

Women's Hockey sweeps Bethel to move atop the MIAC



Gustavus Sports Information

Junior Kaitlyn Klein netted a team-leading 10th goal against the Bethel Royals on Saturday. The Gusties beat the Royals 4-2 and 3-0 which was enough to make them the sole leaders of the MIAC with a 11-2-3 conference record and a record of 15-5-3 overall.

Tanner Sparrow
Sports & Fitness Editor

Women's Hockey brought out their brooms again after their second straight weekend sweep, this time over Bethel University. The wins were enough to push the Gusties (11-2-3 MIAC) to the top spot in the MIAC Standings.

"It was a pretty gritty game today and the kids did a lot of good things in tough spaces. It was a good team win and sweep."
—Coach Mike Carroll

On Friday, the Gusties conceded the first goal before going on to beat the Royals 4-2. Junior Kaitlyn Klein assisted to Senior Emily Gustafson around the 12 minute mark of the first period, then Senior Courtney Bethune tallied a goal before intermission. Junior Diana Draayer added goals in the second and

third periods in the win.

Sophomore Amanda DiNella recorded 14 saves in the win as the Gusties outshot the Royals 38-16.

"We got off to a little bit of a slow start, Bethel had some good pace," Head Coach Mike Carroll said. "It was good to see the girls adjust to that and come back to finish the period off well. That really helped us continue to play well throughout the game."

On Saturday the Gusties skated through a scoreless first period before Klein was able to find the net in the second period off an assist from Sophomore Laine Fischer. The goal was Klein's team-leading 10th of the season.

Six minutes later, Junior Erica Power skated up the ice and centered a pass to Junior Rachel Skoglund who buried to secure a 2-0 lead.

The Gusties held on to the lead in the third period, shutting down three Royal power plays. First-year Kristen Cash scored on an empty net with less than a minute remaining to make the final score 3-0.

"Similar to yesterday, we

didn't have to best start but we really buckled down in the second period and continued to play well as the game progressed," Carroll said.

The Gusties outshot the Royals 27-20, and Amanda DiNella tallied 20 saves for her 10th win and MIAC leading 7th shutout.

"The one big difference was we scored first and we kept them off the board. It was a pretty gritty game today and the kids did a lot of good things in tough spaces. It was a good team win and sweep," Carroll said.

"I think our team has slowly matured and bought in to trust in their teammates."
—Coach Mike Carroll

The Gusties look to close out their season on top of the MIAC next weekend with 2 games against Hamline. The Gusties host the Pipers on Friday night, then head to Saint Paul on Friday night.

"I think our team has slowly

matured and bought in to trust in their teammates," Carroll said. "Earlier in the season, we kind of looked and waited for someone to do the work and

were a second too slow to react here and there. We're hoping we can have a great practice Monday, take it day by day and have another good weekend."



Junior Diana Drayer scored twice for the Gusties in their first win over Bethel on Friday.

Women's Tennis swings into spring

Michael O'Neil
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Women's Tennis team began their 2017 campaign at the Swanson Tennis Center last Saturday with two wins over Hamline and Northwestern-St. Paul respectively.

The Gustie women spent Touring Week training in Arizona, and their efforts paid off as they dropped only one match out of 18.

The day began at 11 a.m., when the Gusties welcomed the Hamline Pipers to St. Peter with a rout. The top doubles team of Senior Michaela Schulz and Junior Ally Baker won by a score of 8-1 while Sophomore Briana Hartmann and Senior Cal Carlson won 8-0 and Sophomore Sheila Sullivan and Junior Laura Martin won 8-2. The Gusties didn't slow down when it came time for singles, as they dropped only 5 games in the first three singles positions.

Senior and returning top singles player Schulz got to rest, and her doubles partner, Baker, stepped into the top spot against the Pipers. She won decisively, 6-0, 6-1. Hartman won by the same score. Junior Katie Aney won at the third singles spot 6-2, 6-1. The bottom half of the lineup wasn't much closer, as Sophomore Lily

Hartman won 6-1, 6-3 at fourth singles and Sullivan won 6-0, 6-0 at fifth singles. The Hamline sixth singles player defaulted, so Laura Martin received an automatic win to finish off the 9-0 sweep.

"The women played very well today. I was really impressed with how they stayed focused the entire match. We got up early, but we didn't let up in our play."

—Jon Carlson

After a few hours of break, the Gusties were back at it against Northwestern-St. Paul. Once again, the Gusties dominated early in doubles and that momentum carried over into the six singles matches. Schulz and Baker won by the same 8-1 scoreline as their first doubles match of the day, and were backed up by an 8-2 win from Hartmann and Cal Carlson, and an 8-1 win at third doubles from Lily Hartman and Aney.

Following the doubles sweep, the Gusties depth paid off as they won five of their six singles

matches. Schulz stepped back into first singles but ran into stiff competition and was unable to overcome the frustrating consistency of the same tough opponent who ended her run in the Fall ITA tournament last September. She fell 4-6, 1-6 in a hard-fought match.

At second singles, Baker outlasted her opponent in a tough first set, and then cruised to a 7-5, 6-1 victory. At third, fourth, and fifth, the Gusties dominated. Hartmann won 6-0, 6-0 at three. Carlson won 6-1, 6-0 at fourth, and Aney won 6-0, 6-0 at fifth. Sophomore Lily Hartman rounded out the top six with a 6-1, 6-1 win.

"The women played very well today. I was really impressed with how they stayed focused the entire match. We got up early, but we didn't let up in our play and that's really important as we move forward and the competition gets tougher," Head Coach John Carlson said.

The Gustie women just returned from Arizona, where they spent five days training and played an exhibition match against Mesa Community College on February 2nd.

Mesa proved to be tough competition, but the Gusties were able to leave with 6-3 win propelled by a doubles sweep and their great depth in the bottom half of the singles lineup.

"After a terrific five days of practices, the girls came out ready for some competition outside and in the sun. Sweeping the doubles was a huge boost going into singles," Assistant Coach Heidi Carlson said.

"Mesa's coach complimented the team on how disciplined they are and how he wants his team to learn from us."

—Heidi Carlson

Schulz and Baker overpowered their opponents and won by a score of 8-4 at first doubles. At second, Hartmann (Briana) and Carlson won 8-2, and Aney and Hartman (Lily) won 8-6 at third. As they transitioned to singles, the talent at the top of the lineup for Mesa was unable to overcome the depth of the Gusties, and the Black and Gold triumphed at the bottom three singles positions.

At first, Schulz lost a close match 3-6, 3-6, while Baker fell 0-6, 3-6 at second and Hartmann fell 1-6, 1-6 at third.

At fourth singles, the Gusties' luck turned around as Cal Carl-

son fought through a long first set and won 7-5, 6-2.

Katie Aney's graceful one-handed backhand proved too much for her opponent, and she won 6-2, 6-1 at fifth singles. Finally, Lily Hartman won 6-0, 6-3 at sixth singles to round out the top six for Gustavus.

"Mesa CC was so strong all the way down the line in singles and we had to fight hard for every point on each court. All 12 players saw action and learned a lot about what we need to work on as the season progresses," Heidi Carlson said.

Overall, Assistant Coach Heidi Carlson was very pleased with the way the women competed, and the work they put in while in Arizona.

"Mesa's coach complimented the team on how disciplined they are and how he wants his team to learn from us. The was the best compliment and really shows what our team is all about," Carlson said.

The Gusties pride themselves on giving full effort, maintaining a positive attitude, and showing great sportsmanship above all else.

They will be back in action this Friday and Saturday in Duluth as they play three matches against the University of Minnesota-Duluth, St. Scholastica, and the University of Minnesota-Crookston.



Senior Cal Carlson (left) and Junior Ally Baker (right) are among key components for the Gustavus Women's Tennis team, but their true weapon is their depth, which will seriously test opponents this season.

Gustavus Sports Information

Bearing down against Bethel

Gusties win first annual Teddy Bear Toss Game

Tanner Sparrow
Sports & Fitness Editor

Hundreds of fans filed into Don Roberts Ice Rink on Feb. 11 to watch Gustavus Men's Hockey take on Bethel, and so did hundreds of Teddy Bears. It was the first annual Hill Crew Teddy Bear Toss and admission was free if you brought a cuddly stuffed animal to toss on the ice for charity after the first Gustie goal.

"Patients come from all over to receive treatment for some of the most complex medical conditions. It's nice to be able to give them something warm and cuddly to brighten their day."

—Libby Utter

Around the 13 minute mark of the first period, Gustie Senior Tim Donohue scored and began to celebrate with his teammates, but a Bethel player hit the puck out of the net to his teammate, who broke away up the ice. Then the Teddy Bears took

flight. 350 Teddy Bears rained down on the ice like locusts upon Egypt.

"We are so thankful and appreciative of the support from our local community."

—Liz Zaruba

Play was whistled dead as the officials gathered to discuss the goal while dodging Teddy Bears hurled by some of the more enthusiastic Black and Gold fans. Clean-up efforts began as chants of "it's a goal" filled the student section. Finally, the referees decided it was a goal, five minutes after the Teddy Bears had.

Senior Drew Aspinwall and Junior Jake Bushey were credited on the assist on what turned out to be the game winner as the Gusties skated to a 3-0 finish over the Royals, earning their first shutout in two seasons, and first sweep since Feb 2014.

The score remained 1-0 after the first period. A power play in the second period gave Donohue the opportunity for his second goal of the night, again coming off the sticks of Aspinwall and Bushey.

A breakaway goal from Senior



Gustavus Sports Information

Senior Captain Sam Majka takes the opening puck drop in Saturday's game against Bethel. The Gusties won 3-0 and 350 Teddy Bears found new homes with Gillette Children's Hospital and Partners for Affordable Housing.

Sam Majka with 12 seconds left in the second marked the final goal of the game. The Gusties outshot the Royals 47-16 and improved to 4-15-4 Overall on the season and 3-10-1 in the

MIAC.

The Gusties conclude their season next weekend with a series against Hamline.

All of the of the 350 Teddy Bears were donated to Gillette

Children's Specialty Healthcare and Partners for Affordable Housing in Mankato.

"It [was] a fun event and [should] provide something of comfort to the kids staying at our shelters and in our Transitional Housing Program."

—Liz Zaruba

"It's no surprise how much happiness a teddy bear can bring to our children," Libby Utter, Executive Director of Gillette Children's Foundation said. "Patients come from all over to receive treatment for some of the most complex medical conditions. It's nice to be able to give them something cuddly to help brighten their stay."

"It [was] a fun event and [should] provide something of comfort to the kids staying at our shelters and in our Transitional Housing Program," Partners for Affordable Housing Communications and Volunteer Coordinator Liz Zaruba said. "We are so thankful and appreciative of the support from our local community."

While you're getting your arm warmed up year for next year's toss, donate to either Partners for Affordable Housing or Gillette Children's Hospital by visiting their websites at partnersforhousing.org or gillettechildrens.org.



Gustavus Sports Information

Gustie players gather up the Teddy Bears from the ice while waiting on the officials to decide if the puck went into the net or not. After a long talk, they signaled for what would be the game-winning goal.