

Greek Life is a necessary part of campus



Dan McCrackin
Opinion Columnist

Greek life and its affiliates are a system of organizations that are popular across collegiate campuses not only in the United States, but in other countries as well. For many students Greek life provides a strong social basis in a new community and a leaping point to get involved in service and activism, as well as offering contacts after college. So why would a community wish to remove such a system that can be a great boon to its students? There are a number of reasons, such as Greek organizations being viewed as exclusive, incidents of hazing, as well as a reputation for distracting from studies with things such as excessive alcohol, parties, and other such activities. However, despite many of the misgivings that exist around them, Greek life organizations are a necessary part of campus and campus life.

Greek organizations, when they are prominent on a campus, work hard to promote life on that campus for its students. For students who are incoming or still deciding on a school and are interested in Greek life, prominent campus participation creates an appeal and a draw that makes the school competitive when trying to garner new students. For the community as a whole, Greek life is consistently dedicated to service and philanthropy, raising money for organizations such as Relay for Life and Children's Miracle Network. Greek life provides a basis for other student organizations to build off of as well, as many students involved in it are also involved in other organizations and will promote these other organizations through their activities with their fraternity, sorority, or consanguinity.

Greek life is also healthy for a school post-graduation, as it provides an extensive network of alumni for their members to connect with, and these alumni in turn often work together to help raise money for their alma mater because they wish to see the school, and thus their Greek organization, prosper. However, if a school goes to extensive lengths to remove its Greek life organizations around campus,



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Attorney General Jeff Sessions recused himself from all Justice Department investigations pertaining to the Trump campaign's ties to Russia. Sessions' recusal came after it was revealed that despite his testimony to the contrary, he met with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak during the 2016 campaign.

it in turn loses the support of the alumni who that were part of those organizations. Thus the elimination of Greek life causes financial problems for an institution, especially a private one, by alienating part of their alumni base. This cuts off short term monetary income, and makes the institution less appealing to factions of students who decide not to attend, and thus the school brings in a lower amount of funds through tuition.

Additionally, Greek life is necessary because it gives opportunities to students who struggle with making personal connections. Shy students who are accepted into Greek organizations suddenly have a large network of people with whom they share a connection, a starting point to build friendships and confidence so that they can further build relationships outside of the organization. For many who pose this point however, they are met with the contention of the hazing incidents that have been reported across the United States from various organizations. It is not the place of this author to define what is and what is not hazing, nor to deny that there are many organizations that have crossed a line that never should be. But Greek life provides a great deal of benefits to its members and society, and to judge an entire system based on the actions of a few is folly. Taking away

Greek life takes away from students a tool they could have used to build their confidence and personal connections with a community, something that would have been a great aid to them in their lives after college.

Greek life is a powerful organization, one that has fingers in

organizations all across campus, support in a community in which they are active, and a strong post-graduate alumni base. To eliminate Greek life is to alienate all of these connections that exist with it, and ultimately aid in the downfall of a campus's standing nation-

ally and financially. Its removal eliminates a resource for students who both are and are not members to build connections on campus. Greek life is useful, so why would anyone wish to remove that?



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Fake news is creating a dangerous climate online



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With “fake news” on the rise, be sure to check your sources. Some are bias, some are inaccurate, and some are just flat out lies that want your clicks to earn ad revenue. Be cautious out there.



Sean Hinnenkamp
Opinion Columnist

Scrolling through social media these days is a chore of abject curiosity. From the random game posts asking for quest items, to the ranting relative talking about an issue from 30 years ago, navigating Facebook, twitter, snapchat, etc. can be quite the daunting task. However, nothing is more frustrating and nonsensical than a random friend from high school or college sighting a source they both haven't read and haven't verified its credibility.

Usually these posts involve all caps and quite a few spelling and grammatical errors. Along those same lines, trying to make

some sort of point under the guise of some slipshod article from someone's personal blog or from a non-news source like BuzzFeed, is like building a house on sand. It doesn't work and makes you look ridiculous.

But there is something else to this, isn't there? Why is it troublesome to share misguided or non-credible information besides personal irritation? People believe it! They eat it up with a spoon and share the article that they too haven't considered, allowing some other gullible sport to pick it up after them. Information, or the lack thereof, spreads like wildfire. If bad information can infect our thought processes, then two things tend to develop: group think and frustration.

Groupthink tends to develop in the light of fallacious information because usually, information that is not credible is quite juicy or world altering. Information from bad sources often have engaging titles meant to draw the reader in and click on the link. Titles like “15 things about (blank) that will blow you away” or “5 things (insert group of people) need to stop doing” capture many peoples' interest and almost requires a click on

the link.

Perhaps this is the intention of the title, so the readers will actually read the story, but more often I believe it is because they can draw you into their website so their advertisers can get some views.

“Groupthink tends to develop in the light of fallacious information because usually, information that is not credible is quite juicy or world altering.”

Those stories are often a series of pictures that you have to individually click through that takes forever as you are trying to get that add for a mobile app to go away. But after one is done angrily clicking and questioning their very existence, this is where the groupthink happens, they are prepared to defend it and join a community of other people who are taking this information as fact.

As I said before, this information is awe-inspiring, and is

likely to be fun and a great conversation starter. Why bother questioning legitimacy or credibility when you can try to tell someone that the grass is actually chartreuse? Perhaps this is also partially because it took so long to read through the article and one feels like they need to make that experience worth it, but a large part of it is that critical reading skills are severely lacking.

With this group centered mindset natural frustration, especially for those who oppose the group. For example, let us imagine a scenario in which Person A reposts a shocking article from BuzzFeed over how horrible water is for you. Some more people have followed suit and are buying into this idea that water is indeed bad for you. Person B, however, disagrees and uses an academic journal article to show how water is beneficial. Yet, the group with Person A still disagree and are now talking in unison over how bad water is.

This is frustrating for Person B, as they clearly have the better argument, but are being drowned out by a million wrong voices. Inside the group it can be frustrating because the only

group answer is basically that everyone else is wrong even if a few members of the group would argue that everyone else may have a point.

“Information, or the lack thereof, spreads like wildfire. If bad information can infect our thought processes, then two things tend to develop: groupthink and frustration.”

This all happened because we don't check who is posting and don't consider if what they said is fundamentally wrong by quick, simple research.

Thus, why are bad articles or poorly read articles hurtful? They can build a movement off a rotten apple, it seems fine but it is rotten at the core. We must be careful about what we are reading and passing along to our friends, for ease of reading on Facebook, but also for the sake of good discord so we don't have a war between a straw and stone house.

Anarchism for the anxious



Joe Robbins
Opinion Columnist

Anarchism is the great liberator of man from the phantoms that have held him captive; it is the arbiter and pacifier of the two forces for individual and social harmony." -Emma Goldman

Yes, that was a quote from a late nineteenth-century terrorist about how anarchy is great. No, I am not about to try to convince people to start throwing Molotov cocktails into Walmarts.

What I would really like to do is talk about anxiety. People tend to throw around this term a lot nowadays, so let me briefly clarify what I mean when I use that term. Anxiety is the unpleasant feeling of dread over anticipated events, generally out of one's control.

Everyone feels some degree of anxiety during their life, and almost everyone reacts to it differently. Some people actually have an anxiety disorder that requires medical treatment, while some may experience severe anxiety for an acute period of their life, and still others might simply have sporadic moments of anxiety throughout their lives.

Regardless of what one's individual experience with anxiety may be, I think I can confidently say that the worst thing about



Sometimes the best way to deal with anxiety is to defy the rules that make you anxious.

Submitted

anxiety, for me at least, is the spiral. We have all been there: you get a bad grade on a test. It may not even be very important, especially in the grand scheme of things; but regardless, it rattles you. You cannot stop thinking about it, and all of a sudden your imagination runs away with you. You begin to wonder: "What if I get a bad grade in this class? What are my parents going to say? Did I get a bad grade because I'm dumb?" And boom, it bothers you all day. The worse thing is, when you are in a state of existential worry like this, it actually makes you perform more poorly in other aspects of your life by distracting you and making you focus on your failures.

I believe that, while a simply unrealistic political goal, anarchy is good for the soul. Ok, ok, I know that was dramatic, but hear me out. Anarchy is the idea that no person has the right to tell another person what to do. Period. When edgy college professors need to get published and write fancy, pseudo-intellectual treatises on things like "anarcho-syndicalism", they are just beating around the proverbial bush. Anarchy is the idea that I am smart enough to figure out what I should do with myself and my time. That is it. When I experience a period of anxiety, it is almost always because I feel like I have let someone down. Getting a bad grade, getting chewed out at

work, or performing poorly in athletics, these are all instances of failing expectations.

Sometimes, other people's expectations are necessary to push somebody to their full potential, and, regardless of how you feel about expectations in general, we live in a world that does not allow us to decide whether or not we want to follow the rules. It's when we lose ourselves in these rules, or begin to define ourselves by our meeting/failing of expectations, that we begin to truly suffer from anxiety.

So what do we do? How do we live in this world of expectations without sacrificing ourselves to anxiety? The solution I offer is this: next time you are in the bathroom in the library, and

you have been panic-studying for eight hours because you cannot afford to do poorly on this test because then you might get a bad grade in the class and then you won't go to grad school and it might mean you're lazy or dumb and your parents might be disappointed and- Just stop. Wash your hands (you did just go to the bathroom, you filthy animal) and go to the towel dispenser. See that picture on it? The one that no one ever looks at; the one that shows a picture of someone pulling the towel down from the middle with one hand? It's the picture that is circled and crossed out? And next to it, that other picture of someone pulling the towel out with both hands, and that picture is just circled? Remember that? Yeah.

Pull that towel out with one hand. Look at that rule; that tiny, small, inconsequential rule, and break it for no other reason than to establish that you are a real thing that matters, and that rule is not a real thing. The only real thing about rules is the reality you give it when it aligns with one of your personal values. It is you that gives rules their power, and it is you that takes it away when you decide they are not worth following. It's just someone's opinion about something that got written down. Now, please do not all go do terrible things like drink and drive or cut people in line in the caf during Chapel break, and tell everyone that the Weekly said to. But the next time you are falling into the spiral of anxiety, commit a little act of anarchy. Break a rule, and watch what happens to you. Usually, you will be fine, and the same is true of whatever situation in making you anxious. You will be fine.

The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



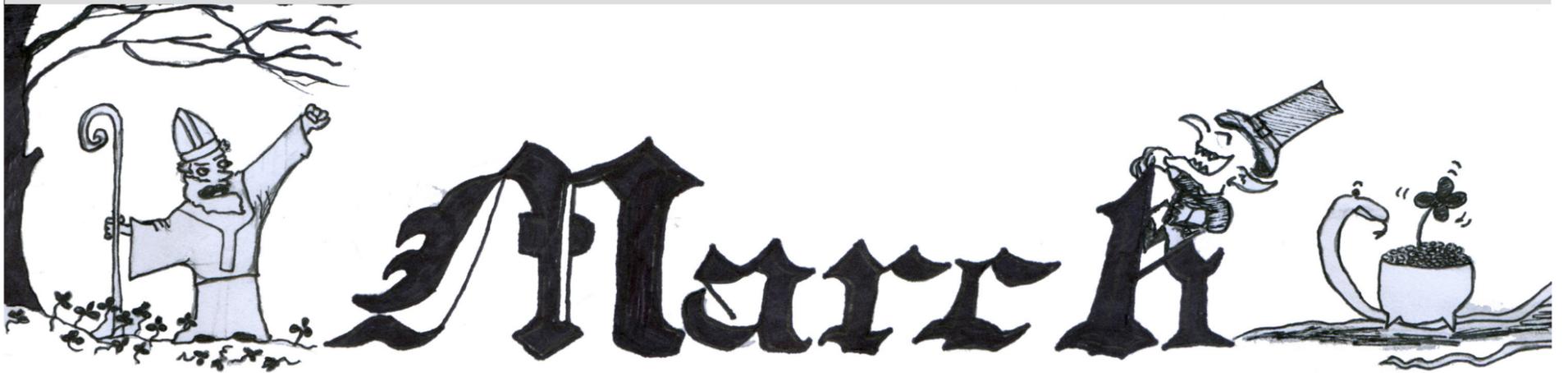
There's only one week until spring break!



There's still a whole week before spring break.

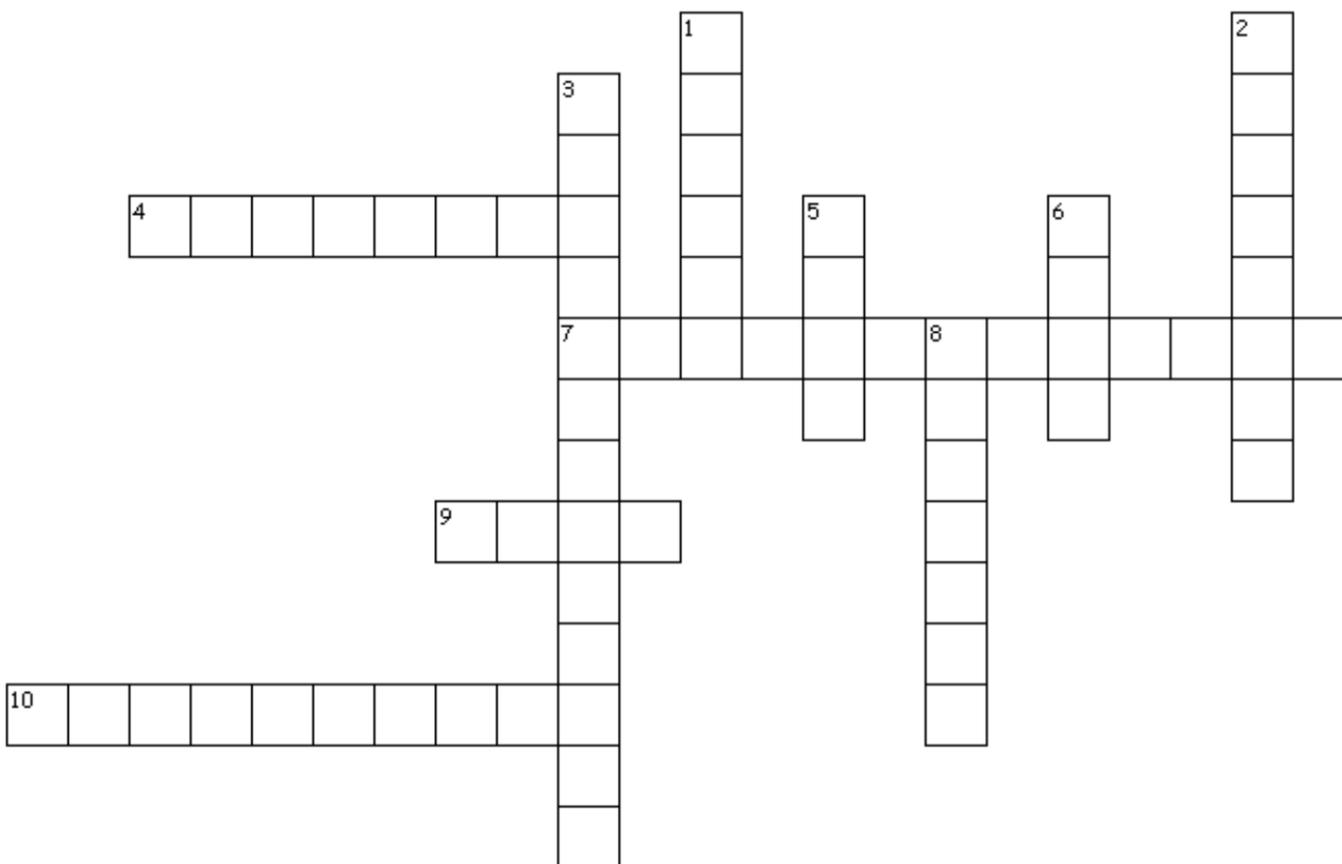


They probably aren't making a *National Treasure 3*.



Crossword

Friday, March 17 marks the celebration of Saint Patrick's Day and is a cultural and religious celebration of the foremost patron saint of Ireland. Test what you know about Ireland in the crossword below!



Across

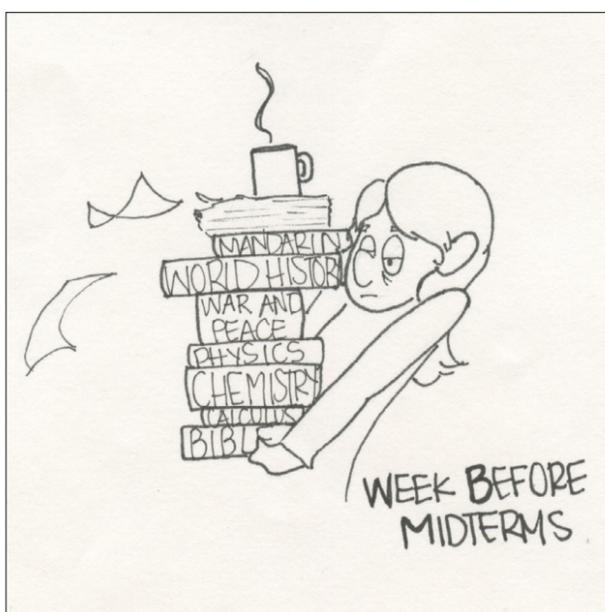
- 4. This Irish boyband are known for their hit singles "My Love" and "If I Let You Go".
- 7. This Irish fighter is supposedly going up to box against five-division world champion Floyd Mayweather.
- 9. Official currency of Ireland.
- 10. A type of fairy in Irish folklore.

Down

- 1. Capital and largest city of Ireland.
- 2. This green plant is supposed to represent the Holy Trinity.
- 3. This man portrayed James Bond in four movies, including "Die Another Day".
- 5. "Ireland" in Irish.
- 6. The national instrument of Ireland, also the logo of famous dry stout Guinness.
- 8. This American city colors its river green in honor of Saint Patrick's Day.

1. Dublin, 2. Shamrock, 3. Pierce Brosnan, 4. Westlife, 5. Eire, 6. Harp, 7. Conor McGregor, 8. Chicago, 9. Euro, 10. Leprechaun.

Comic by Kate Holman **Sudoku**



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Gusties head to National Championship

Swimming sends six to Shenandoah, Texas to compete



Gustavus Sports Information

Senior Nicole Lohman, Juniors Kate Reilly and Kennedy Holwerda, Sophomore Tanner Sonnek, and First-year Matt Allison compete at nationals March 15 through March 18.

Michael O'Neil
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Swimming and Diving team is sending six Gusties to Shenandoah, Texas to compete at the Division III NCAA National Championships. First-year Matt Allison and Sophomore Tanner Sonnek are representing Gustavus on the men's side, while Sophomore Maggie Webster, Juniors Kate Reilly and Kennedy Holwerda, and Senior Nicole Lohman qualified for the women's tournament. The meet began on Wednesday, March 15 and goes until Saturday, March 18. This marks the first trip to Nationals for Sonnek and Allison and Holwerda, but Webster, Reilly, and Lohman have all experienced the championships before. "We treat nationals like it's a celebration of the season. We're excited to go there, swim our hearts out and have fun," Head Coach John Carlson said.

Both male swimmers had strong showings at the MIAC Championships, and are excited to compete against the top DIII swimmers in the country. Sonnek had an outstanding sopho-

more season, and was named MIAC Swimmer of the Year. At the conference championships, Sonnek won the 100-meter and 200-meter breaststroke as well as the 200-meter individual medley. He will compete in all three events at Nationals, and is the No. 8 seed in the 100-meter breaststroke and the No. 14 seed in the 200-meter breaststroke. His time of 55.10 was a MIAC championship record. "It is fun to see Tanner progress as a swimmer," Carlson said. "He does everything right. The fact that he is at nationals is no surprise to any of the coaches or his teammates. He is a hard worker and works diligently on his technique and that is why he is one of the top breaststrokers in the nation. We look forward to his swims."

Matt Allison also had an impressive First-year season, posting three all-conference times at the MIAC meet. He finished first in the 50-meter freestyle with a time of 20.72, which gave him the 15-seed at Nationals. He finished second in both the 200-meter and 100-meter freestyle. He will compete in the 50-meter at Nationals, and

his 100-meter time at the MIAC meet was good enough for an NCAA B-cut time. Carlson was very pleased with Allison's First-year season. "Matt Allison is having an amazing freshman year," Carlson said. "We are very excited that he got into nationals and we like his chances both in the 50 and the 100."

"We treat nationals like it's a celebration of the season. We're excited to go there, swim our hearts out and have fun."

—Coach Carlson

Kate Reilly was also a standout at the MIAC Championships, capturing three all-conference times, and participating in four all-conference relays. She finished third in the 50-yard freestyle, 100-yard freestyle, and 100-yard butterfly. Her 50-yard freestyle time was good enough for an NCAA selection, where she will be the No. 17 seed, and her 100-yard freestyle

time qualified her for an NCAA B-cut time. Her teammate Maggie Webster will also compete in the 50-yard freestyle, as he posted an NCAA B-cut time at the MIAC Championships. The Gusties combined to form a formidable relay team, and the four women will compete in the 200 and 400 freestyle and medley relays. "We are very excited to get a relay back at nationals again, on the women's side," Carlson said. "It is nice to have experience, three out of the four have been to nationals before."

Both the Men's and Women's swimming and diving teams placed second place at the MIAC championships. For the men, this was a big jump from their fourth place finish last year, and one Carlson was very proud of. "The guys were focused after being fourth place last year," Carlson said. "It has been their focus all year to get into the top two. It didn't look too promising going into the meet but they swam their hearts out and swam for each other. In a sport that is innately individual, when you swim together as a team you can do some special things as a group."

As for the women, the top of the MIAC was not new territory. They have captured eight of the eleven MIAC titles dating back to 2006-07. "The women really came together as a team and put together some outstanding performances. We talked about swimming to inspire, we had swims light a fire under the rest of the team and it would just be one swim after another, after another," Carlson said.

"We are very excited to get a relay back to nationals again on the women's side."

—Coach Carlson

In total, the Gusties earned nine all-conference individual times, and had five relay teams with all-conference performances. The team and coaches look to conclude their season on a high note with strong performances at the National Championships. The event will be live-streamed online for viewers from St. Peter and all over the world to cheer on our Gusties.

Women's Tennis remains undefeated

Gusties win 9 straight to start their season



Gustavus Sports Information

Junior Ally Baker returns a serve during a singles match against a Bethel College opponent. The team plays Minnesota State-Mankato and Southwest Minnesota State University on March 18.

Joseph Brandel Sports Editor

On Saturday, the women's tennis team added two more wins to their undefeated streak. The team shutout both St. Mary's University and Luther College to improve its overall record to 9-0.

The same six women won all their matches against the two teams in both singles and

"Today was a good step in the right direction as we start getting ready for our ranked opponents and division II teams that we have coming up in our schedule."

—Coach Carlson

doubles on Saturday. The team consisted of Seniors Cal Carlson and Michaela Schulz, Juniors Katie Aney and Ally Baker, and Sophomores Briana Hartmann

and Lilly Hartman. The doubles teams were Baker and Schulz, Carlson and Hartmann, and Aney and Hartman.

With the win against St. Mary's, the Gusties now hold the number two spot in the MIAC, tied with Carleton College, with a 4-0 record. The University of St. Thomas is in first with a 7-0 conference record.

Head Coach Jon Carlson said the team is playing well and will need to keep up this momentum for its upcoming matches. The Gusties are three games behind MIAC leader, St. Thomas, and hope to close this gap by continuing their undefeated streak.

"Today was a good step in the right direction as we start getting ready for some of our ranked opponents and Division II teams that we have coming up in our schedule," Carlson said.

The Gusties are set to play Minnesota State University-Mankato and Southwest Minnesota State University this upcoming weekend. These teams will be a bigger challenge for the Gusties compared to the games they have played so far. Both of these schools play at the D2

level, offering a larger challenge for the team.

Carlson said he is impressed with the team's mentality this season and thinks it is a large factor in the team's success.

"They are really starting to put some points together, playing well, and playing as a team. In an individual sport it is so important to feel that bond when you're playing next to someone on the court."

—Coach Carlson

"They are really starting to put some points together, playing well, and playing as a team," Carlson said. "In an individual sport it is so important to feel that bond when you're playing next to someone on the court."

The team is not only undefeated, but has yet to be challenged with a close competition

this spring season. The Gusties have won eight out of their nine games with a 9-0 shutout. The only game they have not shutout a team during their regular season was against University of Northwestern-St. Paul, when the team won with a score of 8-1.

The Gusties look to continue these commanding victories in their next matches against Minnesota State University-Mankato and Southwest Minnesota State University at 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., respectively, on March 18 in the bubble.



Gustavus Sports Information

Sophomore Briana Hartmann prepares for a backhand swing during her singles match against a Bethel opponent.

Women's Hockey advances to final four

Gusties upset University of Wisconsin-River Falls



Gustavus Sports Information

Junior captain Erica Power calls for the puck during the team's game against the University of St. Thomas. In the National Tournament, the Gusties upset University of Wisconsin-River Falls. The team plays its final four game against Adrian College at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 17.

Tanner Sparrow Managing Editor

A year ago the Gustavus Women's Hockey team found their season was over after finishing sixth in the MIAC. A single point in the standings kept them out of the MIAC Playoffs. This year the team netted a spot in the Frozen Four of the NCAA Division III Playoffs with an upset win over the University of Wisconsin-River Falls on March 10.

The road this year for the Gusties hasn't exactly been a smooth one for the Gusties either. Despite the winning the MIAC in the regular season, they exited the MIAC playoffs early with a semi-final loss to the University of St. Thomas. Despite failing to get an automatic bid, with a record of 18-6-3, the Gusties were a strong candidate for an at-large bid to the tournament, which they ultimately received.

"This team is different," Head

Coach Mike Carroll said. "There was no expectation that we would be here, so we're living in the moment and taking it one game at a time."

The Gusties had dropped two non-conference contests against the Falcons during the regular season but, with some help from their power play unit, won when it really mattered.

The Gusties scored first off of the stick of Senior Allie Lewis, who put home a rebound generated by Junior Erica Power. Despite being outshot in the period 12-4, they carried their one goal lead into the second.

"We didn't play particularly well in the first period overall, but we got that goal and that was sort of a sign that it might be our night if we keep hanging with it," Carroll said.

The Gusties were able to generate more shots in the second, but were still outshot 15-11 and failed to score as the Falcons got their first point on the board.

Just 32 seconds into period 3, the Falcons scored the go-ahead goal on a power play. Only four minutes later the Falcons found themselves shorthanded, and the Gusties capitalized on a shot from First-year Kristen Cash to tie things at 2-2.

Things remained neck and neck until the last four minutes of the game, when an interference penalty against the Falcons

put the Gusties effective power play unit back on the ice. Junior Kaitlyn Klein fired in her team-leading 11th goal of the year on a rebound to give the Gusties a 3-2 advantage. Klein has made a huge impact for the Gusties this year after sitting out last season with a broken neck.

The Gusties held on to the lead for the final minutes for the win.

"We all looked in the mirror after last season and have pushed ourselves to get where we are today and it has been a lot of fun seeing our hard work payoff."

—Laine Fischer

"My heart was definitely racing," Sophomore Goaltender Amanda DiNella said. "They were blocking shots and selling out for me, I don't think I saw many shots in the last couple minutes. We just had to bear down and get it done. It was awesome to see."

Despite the late defensive surge, the Gusties allowed 40 shots on goal throughout the

game, twice as many as they tallied. DiNella had a career-high 38 saves in the victory.

"Between the second and third, we had a talk and said, it's a 20 minute hockey game," Carroll commented. "It is a chance to go somewhere that you may never have an opportunity to go. I just hand it to the kids, they hung with it. We beat a heck of a hockey team and I'm really proud of everyone."

This frozen four appearance has been a long time in the making for the Gusties, who have had last season weighing heavy on their minds for a year.

"If you told us a year ago today after taking 6th in the MIAC and not even making playoffs that we'd be here today playing in the Frozen Four I don't know if everyone would believe it," Sophomore Laine Fischer said. "But we all looked in the mirror after last season and have pushed ourselves to get where we are today and it has been a lot of fun seeing our hard work payoff."

The Gusties play tournament host Adrian College (Michigan) at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 17. If they win they will play for the National Title on Saturday.

"This is a chance to go somewhere that you might never have the opportunity to go again," Carroll said. "I'm really proud of everyone."



Gustavus Sports Information

Junior captain Diana Draayer battles for the puck with a St. Thomas opponent. The Gusties lost to St. Thomas 3-2 in the MIAC playoffs.