

Fake News: An Alternative Bias Incident



Tanner Sparrow
Managing Editor

On Monday, March 20, factions of The Gustavus Diversity Leadership Council and Bystander Intervention Committee, in cahoots with the theatre group I Am We Are, decided to pull an invisible theatre stunt.

They hung up white supremacist posters on campus and then waited in secret to gauge students' responses to the signs. When the students got upset at the signs, ripping them down, the committee members jumped out of the bushes to reveal that it was, in fact, a fake project intended to raise campus awareness on how to intervene during bias incidents.

Oh wait, no they didn't. They just hung up the white supremacist posters and went about their day. This made the experience less like an invisible theater stunt, and more like, you know, hate speech.

Eventually, ten and a half hours after the posters were hung up, the Diversity Leadership Council sent out an email essentially saying "sike, haha we got you! That was us! Now you're aware of racism!" I'm



The Gustavus community was rattled by a bias incident event planned by a student working group and sanctioned by the administration, with the intent of sparking conversation about bystander intervention techniques.

paraphrasing here, but that was the overall message.

Now, first of all, horrible job guys. Awful. Anyone familiar with invisible theatre, or the ABC series *What Would You Do?*, knows it utilizes hidden cameras, then has an actor do something bad, racist, sexist,

rude, etc. to another actor or actors. Then they see how the bystanders react. Immediately after that, and this is the key part here, the host comes out and lets the bystanders know it wasn't real.

If you don't do that - and stay with me here - people will think

it was real. Shocker.

The second issue with this "invisible theater" stunt is that it didn't target actors, it targeted real Gustavus students. It made real students of color uncomfortable. As a straight, white male, I am unable to understand how that felt. My guess is, not fantastic.

The original explanation email, in addition to being far too late, was a fumble. The Diversity Leadership Council Action Piece Committee encouraged students to "utilize campus resources (i.e. Counseling Center, Dean of Students, Residential Life, and the Diversity Center) to help get through these difficult times," while largely standing by their stunt that had already been labeled as astonishingly idiotic by pretty much everyone.

Now, everybody makes mistakes, and this stunt came from good intentions, so that can't be left out. However, it unfortunately got Gustavus some bad press. It went viral very quickly, and even inspired a post from "alt-right" bigot and apparent pedophilia enthusiast Milo Yiannopoulos.

This is a dangerous game, because with the rise of fake news, some dumb people out there are

going to claim that every real bias incident out there is some sort of über-liberal propaganda.

Although I can forgive the guilty parties on behalf of their good intentions (disclaimer: my white privilege), I find it less forgivable that Dean of Students JoNes VanHecke went on Fox 9 News and expressed essentially no remorse or apology for the stunt.

When asked if anything would be done differently, she said "I think a message to students earlier in the day would have been a good move in retrospect." Really? That's it? My family and friends watched that expecting simply an admission of guilt and professionalism from the administration that "okayed" the experiment, and got nothing.

Since then, I think the DLC, I Am We Are and the college have made better steps in addressing the incident, but the awful first 48 hours overshadowed it. It's too bad they didn't wait for Kendall Jenner to end racism with a cold can of Pepsi before they hung the posters.

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Maintaining Your Brain



Rachael Manser
Opinion Columnist

College is hard. To any college student, that is the most obvious statement of the century.

Whether it's the organic chemistry midterm that you're pretty sure decimated your already barely passing grade, the research essay that you didn't actually realize was a research essay until the night before it was due, or the one ten-point busy work assignment that you forgot to do that could've erased the minus from that B. We all have our battle scars.

Our minds automatically assume that academics are the hardest part of college because we've been taught they're the most important part by a society that prizes overachievement and competition over personal wellbeing.

From kindergarten to college, we are conditioned to believe that our grades define us. I remember coming home from school with my report card in elementary school where we were rated by a number system: 1 for unsatisfactory and needs



Submitted for students.
Students at Gustavus work hard to maintain a balance between academic rigor and mental wellbeing. It's not always easy, but many resources are available for students.

improvement to 4 for exceeds expectations.

I was an overachieving child used to getting all 4s and when I came home with one 3, I took it personally. I didn't see it as room for improvement or con-

structive criticism; I viewed it as a reflection of my worth.

It seems dramatic and childish now, but I realized after struggling through midterms this past couple of weeks that I still do it. I am willing to push

myself to the edge of a nervous breakdown just to maintain my GPA.

Like many other students I have forgone any semblance of quality sleep, I have forgotten to eat meals, I have neglected my physical health for lack of time, and I have allowed personal relationships to suffer – all for letters on a piece of paper.

Based on the number of people I see napping in the library and I hear crying in their dorms, I know I'm not the only one.

School teaches us how to solve an equation for x , how to format an essay, how to read classic authors, how to make chemical reactions, and how to memorize countries on a map.

We learn about how ancient civilizations used animal bones to make instruments, how Henry VIII killed all of his wives, how the mitochondria works as the powerhouse of the plant cell, and how geometry will definitely serve us well in the future when we find a broken plate on the ground and just have to know exactly what angle it was chipped at.

Our brains can retain an incredible amount of knowledge, yet little importance is placed on maintaining the health of that vital organ.

Small lessons are given occasionally about practicing self-care when rainy days force the

gym class to be held inside, but the information is stored only for the pop quiz at the end of the class and then sinks into the dark recesses of our brains until we retrieve it again a few years later for more-or-less the same lesson in high school.

What is stored inside our brains is prized above how it functions in our daily lives.

None of this is to say that the knowledge we gain isn't valuable nor that there are no teachers or faculty that genuinely care, but we are conditioned to make our own wellbeing last priority by an education system where grades are king and a society where anything short of millionaire status is failure.

So, college is hard and not only for academic reasons.

College is hard because it's often the first time in our lives where we're alone and faced with the task of trying to find a balance between real life concerns of mental, physical, and relational health and the academics we've been taught define us by an educational system that has left us woefully underprepared.

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Creating Habitat for Humanity



Ben Michalick
Opinion Columnist

When the words “Habitat for Humanity” are mentioned many thoughts spring to mind like “free houses”, “decreasing homelessness”, or maybe even “fun spring break trips”.

The reality is that many myths surround both the organization and the Spring Break trips, and the true value of the organization exists not in providing free houses (which it doesn’t) or in a fun experience for a week.

Habitat serves people both future homeowners and collegiate students by helping them serve themselves, living by the tagline “A hand up, not a hand out”.

Every potential homeowner for Habitat goes through a screening process because all of them are required to be able to pay off and sustain their new houses. The point of this is not to decrease homelessness, it’s to better the quality of life.



Submitted

Gustavus students embarked on the annual Habitat for Humanity Spring Break trip to build houses. This group worked in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

In the fall of 2015 Gustavus students went to Alexandria and built a home for a family that included a girl named Kira who had Spina Bifida. Kira’s condition limited her ability to walk without a walker and previous to their new home they lived in the second story of an apartment building which had no elevator. In her new home Kira had wide doors built,

ramps that made the outside accessible, and children around her she could play with.

Homelessness is an issue, but Habitat’s specialty is tackling affordable housing dilemmas. The current housing market is suffering. Home loan interest rates can be drowning and can prevent families from reaching the highest potential of their homes.

Construction companies and banks have too much red tape to offer uplifting opportunities for families. So Habitat functions as both bank and construction company. Habitat builds the home specifically for the family and funds the house, but an interest free mortgage comes with the home that the homeowners will have to pay off.

Habitat empowers homeown-

ers by cutting through the red tape to give families the ability to have their own home.

The bread and butter of Habitat though is teaching people to help themselves. Not only do homeowners pay for their houses, they also go through hours and hours of “sweat equity”.

Typically, this entails about 500 hours of volunteering their time on both build sites and in financial classes. Many sites won’t even break ground until the family volunteers a certain number of hours. This gives the homeowners a strong connection to their home and more personal responsibility for its upkeep, as well as preparing them to make sustainably fiscal decisions.

On that same note, Habitat’s purpose is not to prepare a fun trip for volunteering students. Of course, each trip is fun. Students come back with friends, inside jokes, and memories of their trip.

More importantly though, students come back having experienced a week’s worth of service. This experience is like touching a toe to water before diving in, each student comes back with the tools to serve their community further.

These tools are not limited to Habitat for Humanity. Students on the trips come back humbled by experiencing a taste of a social difficulty that they helped to solve. Students don’t come back from Habitat having saved the world, but they do come back realizing they can make a difference.

The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



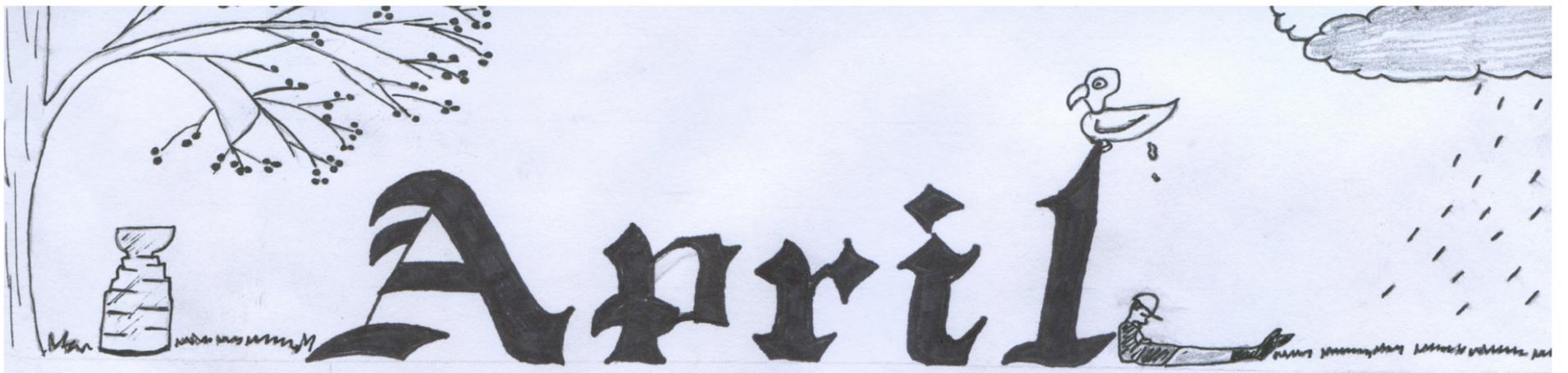
The United States is flexing its muscles abroad this week: “North Korea launched yet another intermediate range ballistic missile. The United States has spoken enough about North Korea. We have no further comment.”



An unhinged, freakishly coiffed lunatic with daddy issues loves nukes. So does Kim Jong Un.



Senior week in a nuclear bunker sounds dope.



Crossword

Golf is in the air! In late March, Gustie Alum Neil Johnson made his PGA Tour debut at the Puerto Rico Open. This weekend, The Masters are live from Augusta and the tournament marks the beginning of Spring for many golfers. What do you know the biggest golfing event of the year? Use the clues and answer in the boxes below!

Across

- 5. Name of the famous drive leading up to the Augusta National clubhouse.
- 6. This magenta-colored flower beautifully covers many parts of the Augusta National Golf Course.
- 9. Last name of the amateur who surprised everyone last year by playing with same-length clubs.
- 10. The winner receive this piece of clothing.

Down

- 1. Last year's winner, born and raised in Yorkshire, United Kingdom.
- 2. Favorite to win this years edition of The Masters, also current World No. 1.
- 3. The man with most wins at Augusta.
- 4. Young golfer who recently matched Tiger Woods' record-breaking score of 270.
- 7. Famous corner at Augusta National G.C., marking the holes 11, 12 and 13.
- 8. Color of the traditional jumpsuits that all caddies wear at The Masters.

Sudoku

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Track and Field outdoor season begins

Gustie athletes show strong individual performances



Gustavus Sports Information

Sophomore Michael Hensch competes in javelin during a meet last season. Hensch placed third in javelin at the Hamline Invitational with a throw of 170-10.

Michael O'Neil Staff Writer

The Gustavus Track and Field team kicked off their 2017 outdoor season over Spring Break as Gusties traveled to the Point Loma Nazarene University Invitational on March 25 in San Diego, California.

Then, on April 1, a number of Gusties competed at the Hamline Invitational meet, marking the Gusties' first outdoor competition in Minnesota for the year.

The field in San Diego was full of top Division I, II, and III talent from Tufts, Cal Poly Pomona, Williams, Middlebury, La Verne, Yale, Concordia (CA), Cal Tech, Cal State-- San Bernardino, and Pomona-Pitzer. The field also featured unaffiliated athletes that recorded many of the top times of the day.

Nine Gustie men competed in seven different events, while

eleven Gustie women competed in eight different events. First year jumper Matthew Montplaisir was the lone competitor in field events, finishing 10th in the long jump and 13th in the triple jump. Senior Sam Remine added two more good performances for the Gusties in the 400-meter and 800-meter sprints, finishing 37th and 12th respectively. In the 800-meter, junior Ryley Sandberg took 9th place out of a field of 47 runners with a time of 1:57.10. Andrew Wischnack, Jack Schugel, and Connor Sandok also competed in the 800-meter race. In the 1500-meter race, brothers Andrew and Alex Wischnack finished right next to each other and were the first Gusties to cross the finish line. Following the Wischnacks were Jack Schugel and Connor Sandok with impressive times of 4:25.74 and 4:33.90 respectively. Finally, in the 5k, sophomore Robert Nelson competed for the Gusties and notched a

16th place finish to round out the meet for the Gustie men.

On the women's side, First year Katie Keelin was a standout in the field events. Keelin took 1st place in the hammer throw and 11th in the shot put. Freshmen Courtney Erickson and Madison Carlson also competed in the hammer throw, finishing 7th and 8th respectively. In the discus, Carlon led the way for the Gusties, finishing 9th, followed by a 13th place finish from Erickson and a 17th place finish from Keelin.

On the track, sophomore McKayla Stowell led the Gusties, earning a 7th place finish in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.61 seconds. A trio of freshmen followed: Lindsey Schmidt, Adonya Gray, and Ester Archer all competed well and finished 20th, 23rd, and 26th respectively. Another freshman finished as the top Gustie in the 200-meter dash. Lily Anderson earned 24th place

with a time of 26.98 seconds and was followed closely by senior Kristen Mertens in 31st place, Adonya Gray in 31st, Ester Archer in 38th, and freshman Elizabeth Uribe in 39th. In the 400-meter dash, Anderson finished in 8th place as the fastest Gustie once again, followed closely by Mertens in 11th place. Junior Jordan Schwakopf was the lone hurdler, and earned a 12th place finish in the 100-meter hurdles. In the women's long distance events, freshman Haley Anderson finished 43rd in the 1500-meter race with a time of 5:14.62.

At the conclusion of a successful trip to San Diego, the Gusties returned home, and geared up for their first outdoor meet in Minnesota. Luckily, Saturday was a beautiful spring day, not too much colder than it was a week before in sunny San Diego. The Hamline Invitational featured a large field of competitors from 21 different

Division II and III Universities. The two Gustie standouts of the day were Kayla Stowell who took 2nd place out of 49 in the 100-meter dash, and sophomore Michael Hensch who took 3rd in the javelin throw with a distance of 170-10 and 12th in both the shot put and discus.

Other top performers on the women's side include sophomore Bailey Van Den Heuvel, who took 11th in the hammer throw and 21st in the shot put.

On the men's side, sophomore Nelson Finne took 12th place in the high jump with a height of 5-7, and senior Sean O'Connell also earned a top-20 finish with a 23.44 second finish in the 200-meter dash.

Overall, it was a very productive break for the Gustie track and field team and they will continue their spring outdoor season this Saturday, April 8th at the St. John's Invitational in Collegeville, MN. The meet will begin at 11:30 am.

Gusties place ninth at Wynlakes Invite

Men's golf tested by high level competition

Joseph Brandel
Sports Editor

The Men's golf team began its spring season on March 27, traveling to Montgomery, Alabama to compete in the Wynlakes intercollegiate invite. The invite presented challenging competition for the Gusties, including five top-ten ranked teams. Some of the main standouts were No. 1 ranked Huntingdon College and No. 2 ranked University of Texas at Tyler.

"We played a little tight which is not unusual this time of year, but we need to make more out of our misses and take advantage of some good shots."

—Coach Moe

The Wynlakes course proved to be challenging for the team, as after day one of the invite, the Gusties held 11th place out

of 15 teams. The golfers who competed at this invite included Seniors Alex Koopmeiners and Sam Majka, Juniors Alec Aunan and Chris Captain, Sophomore Max Savini, and Freshman Ben Hauge.

"I thought we would have been a little sharper than we were today," Head Coach Scott Moe said. "It is certainly a different feel from practice to competition. We played a little tight which is not unusual this time of year, but we need to make more out of our misses and take advantage of some good shots."

The team was pleased however with some standout golfers who scored well individually. Par was set at 72 for the 36-hole Wynlakes Country Club course. Aunan hit a team low of 73, leaving him tied for 10th place overall. Captain and Koopmeiners tied for 23rd place with a score of 75.

"I saw some good things," Moe said. "Alec played really solid, Chris and Koopmeiners put together good scores, but overall we need to be better tomorrow, and I know we will be."

This confidence from Moe was

backed up in the second day of competition as the Gusties improved in the standings from 11th to 9th place.

"I saw some good things out there but we were not as sharp as we have to be. We battled hard and the effort was there, it just didn't come together."

—Coach Moe

"We got after the start I was looking for," Moe said. "We were under par through five or six holes. Then on hole 18 we played 11 over par which derailed us for the rest of the round."

Despite the strong start from the team on the second day, it wasn't enough to catch up to the leading teams at the invite. Coach Moe and the team are hoping to learn and improve from their experience at this invite.

"I saw some good things out

there but we were not as sharp as we have to be. We battled hard and the effort was there, it just didn't come together," Moe said.

After a second place finish at the MIAC Championships

during the fall season, the team looks to build on its skill in invites leading up to the NCAA tournament. The Gusties have a long break before they are back in action April 23-24 at the Bobby Krig Invite.



Gustavus Sports Information

Senior Sam Majka prepares for a put by scoping out the green during day one of the Wynlakes Intercollegiate Invite.



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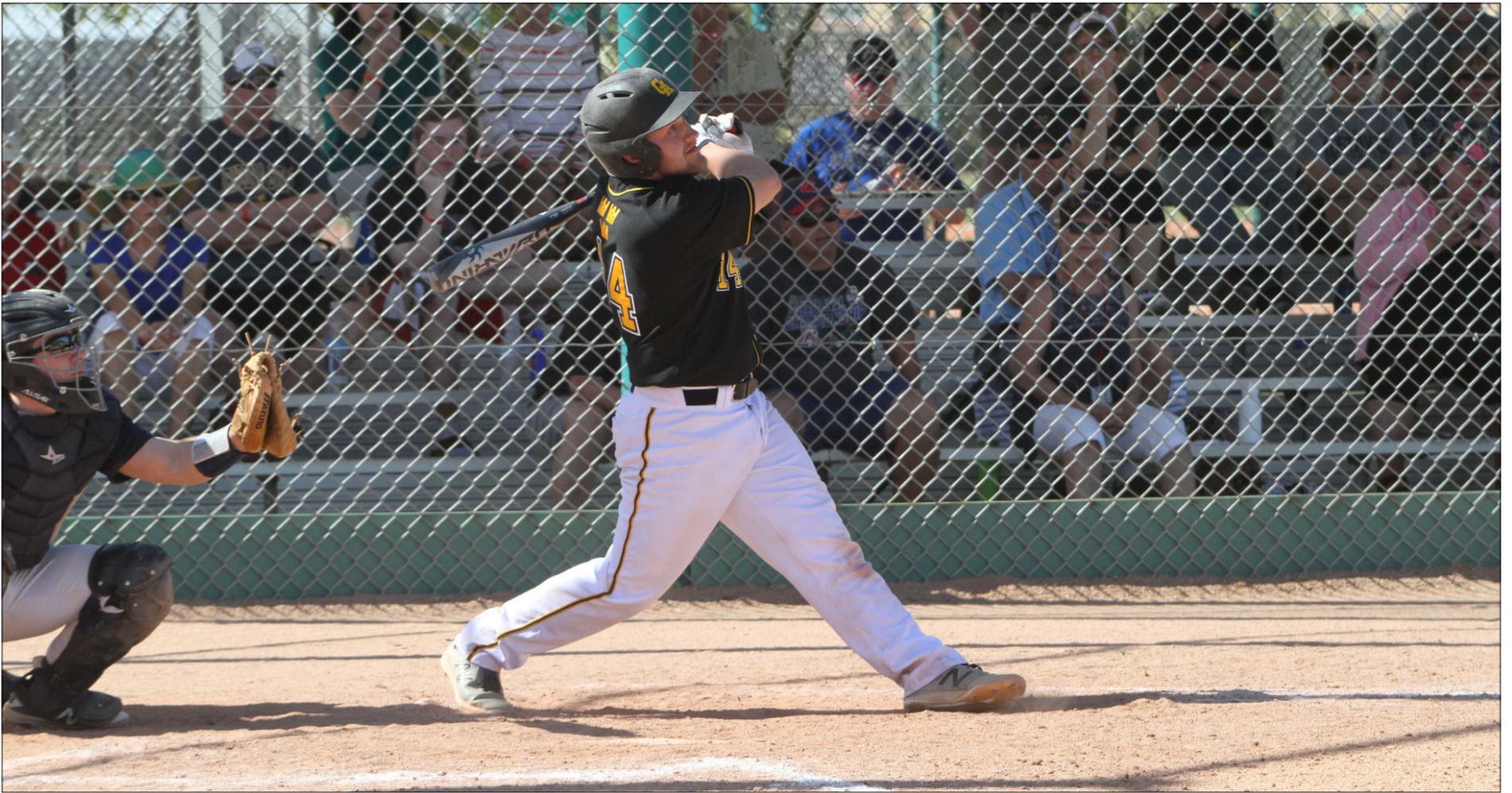
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Men's Baseball season starts strongly

Gusties improve to 2-0 in MIAC play



Gustavus Sports Information

Junior Nolan Jepel competes in a game against Middlebury College on March 26. The Gusties won the game with a score of 10-8. The Gusties currently hold an overall record of 10-6.

Jake Woodrich Staff Writer

As springtime rolls around, so does America's Favorite Pastime. For Gustavus, the beginning of the baseball season has been a great one. The Gustavus baseball squad currently boasts an overall record of ten wins and six losses. After a sweep of Carleton College last Saturday, the team is 2-0 against MIAC opponents as conference play gets underway.

"We have played well in most of our games thus far and we are excited to get deeper into our conference season. We have a good group of core players back from last year's team and some really good new players," Senior Pitcher Connor Kern said. Optimism about the season is common amongst the players and coaches.

"As the season goes, so far so good. We have a number of upperclassmen who are very talented ballplayers and awesome leaders. I believe we have enough talent to have a very good year, providing we can get in the right mindset to win more of the small battles every game presents. We really just care about conference play and got off to a good start by sweeping Carleton on Saturday," Head Coach Brad Baker said. Coach Baker, who was once a

Gustavus student and baseball player himself, is in his second consecutive year as head coach for Gustavus.

"Being in the second year of our rebuilding process, we certainly expect improvement this year," Head Coach Baker said. Baker, along with the remainder of the coaching staff, which includes his brother and co-head coach Jeff Baker, are regarded very highly by the athletes on the team.

"We are very lucky to have the coaches we do. I'm not sure there is a better coaching staff out there. They not only do their best to help us be the best baseball players we can be, but they do their best to help us be the best person we can be," Junior infielder Brock Peterson said. Peterson currently has a batting average of .305 and has started in all 16 games this season which is a large reason behind the early season success for the Gusties.

"We are off to one of the best starts to a season Gustavus Baseball has seen in a while. Non-Conference play was full of trips to South Dakota and Arizona. The travel and playing of teams we normally don't play was great for us, but starting MIAC play is where the fun begins," Peterson said. Conference play may indeed be fun, but the fun began much earlier

this season for the Gusties.

Before taking on any MIAC opponents, the team had already played a game at U.S. Bank Stadium, the home of the Minnesota Vikings, and played a whopping seven games in Tucson, Arizona during Spring Break.

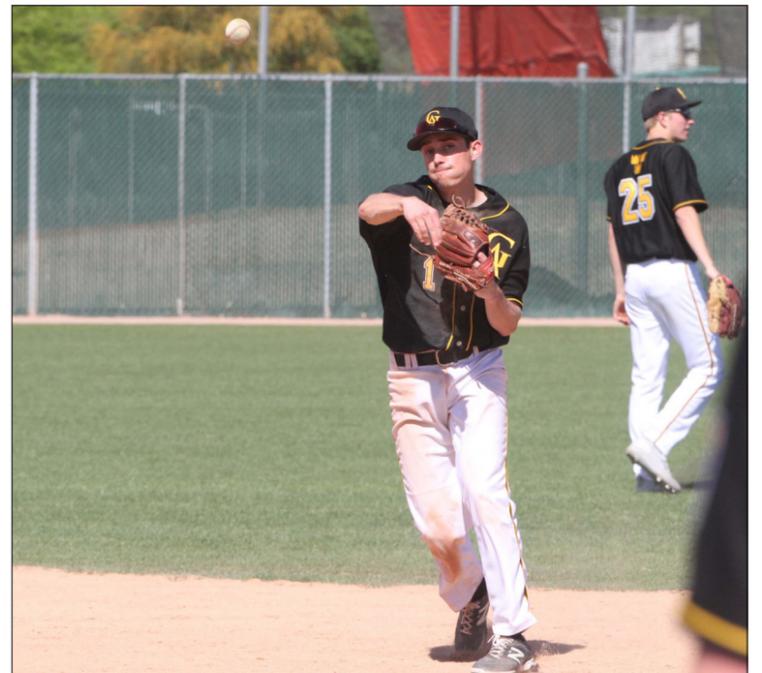
The Gusties took on Mayville State in U.S. Bank Stadium in early March, unfortunately losing the game by a score of 6-5. Even though the outcome was not ideal, the experience is one that the team will never forget.

"It was unreal for all of us to be able to play in front of 60,000 people at U.S. Bank Stadium. My parents had a hard time getting tickets, but thankfully there were a couple that were selling theirs outside the stadium before the games. Playing at U.S. Bank Stadium was something for the memory box. There were many games before and after us, so it was great to just be able to be a part of it. I'm sure everyone on the team would say that it was a great experience," Peterson said.

As for the Gusties' time down in Arizona, the team was pleased with the way things went. The Gusties played seven games in a span of only five days, winning their first four games but falling in their final three to compile a record of 4-3 in the Tucson Invitational.

"Our trip to Arizona started off great, as we won our first four games down there. Unfortunately, we ended up losing our last three, but had a couple close losses. Arizona is a great place to get the whole team some innings. We had a lot of different guys stepping up and play well for us down there," Kern said.

As the weather heats up here in Minnesota, so will the baseball season. The Gustavus Golden Gusties began the season strong and will look to continue their hot start into conference play and hopefully the postseason. The Gusties take the field next on April 5 when the team travels to Winona to take on St. Mary's University.



Gustavus Sports Information

Senior Isaiah Welckle warms up for the team's game against Middlebury College. The Gusties take on UW-Superior next on April 7.