

“You Can’t Be Neutral on a Moving Train”



Amy Leininger
Opinion Editor

This is my last column with The Gustavian Weekly. It has been my greatest joy to contribute to our humble college paper. I am so grateful to our loyal readers (hi Mom and Dad), and to Gustavus for providing a platform for student expression. How wonderful it is to take part, in some small way, in the proud tradition of a free press!

In times like these, a free press matters. The First Amendment matters. Your free speech matters. Words matter. And the truth matters, perhaps more than ever.

It’s going to get weird out there, even weirder than it is now. Every single day, we must reaffirm our commitment to the truth, to freedom, to our country, and to each other. It’s going to be so easy to slip into apathy. When we are bombarded daily with attacks on our democratic norms and institutions, and on our shared understanding of reality, we may become overwhelmed. It will be tempting to give up, and it will be easy to give in.

When it gets hard and I get scared, I think of what my dad used to tell me when I was a little kid, frustrated and on the brink of tears. He used to squeeze my hand, look me in the eye, and say, “Never give up.”

We can’t afford to, not now. There’s too much at stake.

Sometimes it’s going to be lonely to be the only passionate voice in the room. Don’t let anyone tell you you’re crazy for caring about this country. Don’t ever back down in your defense



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The Trump administration has faced fierce resistance from a wide coalition of protest movements. Pictured above is the 2017 Women’s March on Washington.

of freedom and the truth.

The best way to combat weariness is to go out and take a stand with other patriots. Never underestimate the power in numbers. Protests aren’t just a way to send a message, they’re a way to strengthen resolve. Nationwide, people from all backgrounds have united in a movement of resistance: the Women’s March, the Climate March, the Tax March, the March for Science, and the upcoming March for

Truth, all executed in the four months since the inauguration.

Across the country, lawmakers are nervous. That’s why they’ve responded to the growing unrest with legislation that erodes the people’s First Amendment right to peaceably assemble. Since the election, Republican lawmakers in at least 18 states have pushed for legislation that threatens protesters with punitive measures. This is designed to have a chilling

effect on mass protests, because Republicans are scared right now. They remember who won the popular vote.

We must use our rights to protect our rights. Our Constitution is only as good as the people defending it. This is no time for apathy or despair. Things are happening, and they’re happening fast. American historian Howard Zinn said it best: “You can’t be neutral on a moving train.” That means

it’s time to take a stand. There’s no room for neutrality. Either you believe in the rule of law, or you don’t. You believe this country is worth defending, or you don’t. You will fight for your rights, or you won’t. It’s time to step up.

It’s time to make America brave again.

James Bork



We are exceptionally proud of your hard work, persistence, and successes throughout these years. Know that we will continue to be there as you move forward into life’s new adventures. The best is yet to come! Your journey ahead is one of promise, accomplishment, and great things. We all love you so much!

Mom, Krystyna, Rakel, and Dwyre.

Madeline Jentink



We are so proud of your accomplishments in academics and your commitment to serve others! You will go far as you continue your dream of becoming a physician.

We love you!

Mom, Dad, and the entire family

Maddie Johnson



Congratulations Maddie!

We’re proud of your accomplishments and who you are as a person, We love you so much!

Mom and Dad

Madeline Aberg



Congratulations, Madeline!

We are so impressed with the woman you have become, and we couldn’t be more proud to be your parents. Always believe in yourself.

We love being your Mom and Dad.

Beth and Michael



You guys are amazing!

I am so proud of both of you. You have endured so many obstacles to earn these accomplishments. The best part of this journey is yet to come. I love you both.

Your Mom and friend, Andi

Let's figure out our crap and move to Mars



Philip Evans
Editor in Chief



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There are currently two active rovers on Mars. NASA scientists have trained their eyes on further exploration of our neighboring red planet.

I am not a Star Wars guy. I like the movies, don't get me wrong, but for me (trigger warning advised) they are nothing more than action-packed hours of splish-splash with laser infused swords.

I am, however, truly fascinated by outer space. Part of the interest is owed to my brother, Gareth, who graduated from college with degrees in physics and astronomy. He graduated when I was still a little kid (there's a 16 year difference between us) and his stories of how the universe worked were mind-blowing for a young boy's mind who indulged anything it was exposed to. It gave me a

nihilistic perspective on life that is still with me today.

It is not the most joyful perspective. People have told me that it's outright sad. Despite that, and while I agree that it can be tough to wake up in the morning knowing that everything around you only means something because our (un?) complex minds make it out to be that way, I am sincere when I say that I wouldn't want it any other way. For me, that is the ultimate freedom. If inspected in detail, a pile of dog shit and the rainbow are extremely similar in the fact that they are just combinations

of atoms, one not more significant than the other.

So how does that all relate to Mars? I think we should go. In a world without purpose, our two options are to either shut down all activity on Earth, or to explore our horizons further and expand our world. Nourishing the status quo on Earth makes no sense, doesn't take us anywhere and humans need a common goal, something that drives and challenges our minds to be greater. Paraphrasing President John F. Kennedy, we went to the moon not because it was easy, but because it was hard. It was a

goal that served to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, and a challenge we were unwilling to accept.

It's hard to justify spendings on space exploration when 1 in 9 people on Earth are starving and I understand the argument that we shouldn't attempt to habitat another planet when we barely take care of our own. However, we possess all the resources necessary to solve world-wide problems and we still struggle, meaning that spendings on space doesn't have to mean less focus towards global issues.

The technology to put a civi-

lization on Mars already exist. NASA has invented the MOXIE, a machine that chops down CO2 molecules and generates oxygen from the Martian atmosphere. The radiation issue will be tackled by building caves and houses made by bricks from the soil on Mars. Water will be extracted and detoxicated from the ice-filled poles. Elon Musk and Richard Branson are paving the way with SpaceX and Virgin Galactic, reducing the cost of regular space travel.

Mars One is almost there. In 2025, the mission hopes to land four astronauts on the Red Planet, which will be the starting point for human civilization. The vision is to create an epicenter for space research, a hub that will help us reach farther into the universe.

As a kid, my brother would recite a quote from Arthur C. Clarke, a British science-fiction writer most famous for writing the novel that *2001: A Space Odyssey* was based on. He said, "two possibilities exist: either we are alone in the universe or we are not. Both are equally terrifying".

Sooner or later, the sun is going to explode and the Earth will be nothing but a memory. When that happens, it would be beneficial if we could pack up and travel somewhere safe.

All we have to do is to figure out our crap and put our minds to it.

The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



The Justice Department appointed Special Counselor Robert Mueller to take over the Trump-Russia investigation.



A top Trump aide said earlier this week: "I don't know how Trump isn't completely f**ked."



Can't wait to binge-watch the final season of "House of Trump."

Awushie Fayose



Congratulations Awushie,

We have been blessed to be a part of your journey, it hasn't been easy but by the grace of God, you did it! God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11 awaits you, we can't wait to see what your future holds.

Love Mom, Dad, Nukunu, Nalikem, & Sedinam

Kathryn Dudley



Congratulations Kate,

You have worked so hard, stretched out of your comfort zone, and accomplished amazing things during your journey at Gustavus, including being awarded as the Distinguished Dance Student 2017. We are so proud of you and can't wait to see where life takes you.

Love, Mom and Kevan

Britta Riggs



Britta,

We are very proud of you on this exciting day! What a great accomplishment and we love you very much!

Mom, Dad, and Tessa

Lauren Schrader

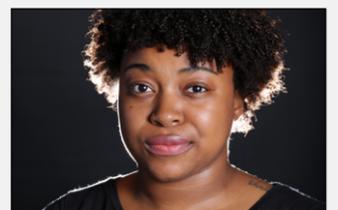


Congratulations Lauren!

May be the force always be with you and may you always be that you are infinitely loved! I'm so very proud of you!

Love, Mom

Deb Witherspoon



"All great achievements require time."

- Maya Angelou
Deb, congratulations on this great achievement! As you close this remarkable chapter and embark on a new and exciting journey, your unique capabilities will compel you to accomplish anything you desire. The best is yet to come.

Love always, Your family

Track and Field competes at MIAC Championships

Five Gusties earn All-Conference honors



Gustavus Sports Information

A pack of Gusties compete at the Drake Alternaticve meet, hosted at Gustavus. At the MIAC Championships, strong distance performances were shown from Seniors Evan Jones and Thomas Knobbe.

Joseph Brandel
Sports Editor

Track and field took to the track for the final meet of the season, the MIAC Outdoor Championships. After placing ninth in the Indoor MIAC Championships earlier this season, the men's team turned things around dramatically, finishing third out of the 11 teams. On the women's side, the team finished eleventh but had many impressive individual performances.

The men's team scored 87 points in the two-day meet. Senior thrower Michael Hensch and Senior distance runners Evan Jones and Thomas Knobbe led the charge on day one of the meet, earning points and All-Conference finishes in their respective events.

Hensch was the top per-

former on the team, finishing first in both javelin and hammer throws. Hensch earned the school record for javelin with a throw of 206-08, finishing over 20 feet ahead of the runner-up for the event.

"I definitely couldn't be more proud of the men's performance. After taking ninth at Indoors, the guys came back and proved that they are a much better team than that."

—Coach Bahr

Head Coach Dale Bahr praised Hensch's ability to step up and motivate his team through his

strong performances.

"He stepped up, unleashed one and it just kept climbing," Bahr said. "It was a picture throw and the whole place went crazy. It kind of set the tone for the whole team."

In day two of the meet, five other Gusties and two relay teams earned points with top eight finishes. Two more All-Conference titles were earned on this day as well. Jones claimed his second award with a runner-up finish in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 15:28.3 and Senior Ed ReMine earned one with a runner-up finish in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 54.35.

"I definitely couldn't be more proud of the men's performance," Bahr said. "After taking ninth at Indoors, the guys came back and proved that they are a much better team than that. Our guys showed up

to compete and that was fun to be a part of and fun to watch."

"All in all, I thought it was a good day. I definitely didn't think it was a lack of effort. I know our ladies went out and competed hard, and that is what matters."

—Coach Bahr

On the women's side, many other impressive finishes were also recorded. Five Gusties scored points in the meet with top-eight finishes. First-year Katie Keelin lead the team with a runner-up finish in the hammer throw with a distance of 158-2.

Keelin earned All-Conference in this event for her performance at the meet. Other points came from multiple seventh place finishes. First-year Alex Anderson recorded one of these finishes in high jump, finishing at a height of 5-0.25. Sophomore McKayla Stowell finished the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.65 and First-year Gabriela Passmore finished the 5,000-meter run with a time of 19:03.25. Sophomore Bailey Van Den Heuvel also recorded points with an eighth place finish in hammer throw with a distance of 142-9.

Despite placing low in the meet, Bahr was proud of the team's accomplishments.

"All in all, I thought it was a good day," Bahr said. "I definitely didn't think it was a lack of effort. I know our ladies went out and competed hard, and that is what matters."

Kaitlin and Sarah

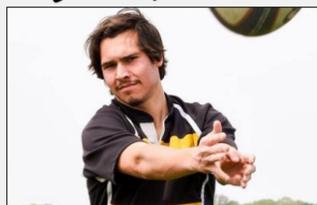


Congratulations Kaitlin and Sarah!

We are very proud of both of you, and all that you have accomplished thus far! We know you will do many more great things as you continue your journey through life as graduates of Gustavus Adolphus!

Love,
Mom, Dad, and Brian

Zach Gardner



WAY TO GO ZACH!

You have learned so much about life, both in and out of the classroom, during your 4 years at Gustavus. Your hard work, determination and perseverance has paid off. Never give up on your goals and dreams! We are so proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Emily, and Abby

David Anderson



CONGRATULATIONS, David!

"The future belongs to those who BELIEVE in the beauty of their dreams."

We are so proud of you!

Love,
Dad, Mom and Dylan

Tiffany Lang



Congratulations Tiffany!

We are so proud of you! We have been so blessed to be a part of your life accomplishments at GAC and are even more excited to see what your future holds!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Lindsey and the entire Family

Laura Jo Peasley



Congratulations Laura Jo!

Your ability to stay focused, work hard, persevere and remain steadfast in and outside of the classroom, while also taking time to enjoy your friends, has set the stage for an excellent ending to your college career!

Fellow Gusties, Mom & Dad

Men's Tennis moves on to Elite Eight

Gusties defeat the University of Chicago in regional final



Gustavus Sports Information

Junior Zach Ekstein competes in a singles match against a University of Chicago opponent. This match was the final one of the day and Ekstein's win pushed the score to 5-4 in the Gusties' favor.

Jacob Woodrich
Staff Writer

This past weekend was a great one for the Gustavus Men's Tennis team. The weekend went unlike the same weekend in the past two seasons for the Golden Gusties. Facing the University of Chicago for the third straight year in the

regional portion of the NCAA Tournament, the Gusties finally came out with a victory.

The Gusties went 2-0 in the Regional NCAA Tournament, which took place right here at Gustavus last weekend. By winning both of their matches, the team will head to Chattanooga, Tennessee to take part in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Team

Tournament.

The road to being one of the final eight teams in the country was by no means an easy one for the Gusties. The team earned an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament by winning their 7th consecutive MIAC Conference Playoff title in a victory against St. Thomas earlier this month. Once the Gusties learned they would be participating in the NCAA Tournament, it did not take long to find out they would be hosting a regional tournament, meaning the team would be playing their first two matches at home.

"Things get a bit crazy with hosting the event, and then winning it and moving on to the elite eight took us to another level."

—Coach Valentini

Being the #2 seed in the region, the Gusties enjoyed a first round bye last weekend. Their first national tournament action

took place on Saturday, where the team dominated University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with a score of 5-0. The Gusties then moved on to the next round to take on the University of Chicago on Sunday.

The Gusties, who are currently ranked 21st in the nation, had their work cut out for them when they found out they would be facing the 6th ranked Maroons from Chicago for the third straight year in the regional tournament. In a battle that came down to the wire, the Gusties edged out a 5-4 victory over Chicago to win the regional tournament and move on in the NCAA Tournament. Revenge may have been on the minds of the Gusties, largely due to the fact that the University of Chicago ended their two prior seasons. Overall, head coach Tommy Valentini was very happy with how the weekend went.

"Things get a bit crazy with hosting the event, and then winning it and moving on to the elite eight took us to another level," Valentini said. The Gusties are scheduled to face the top ranked team in the nation, Middlebury College on May 22

with a spot in the NCAA Tournament semifinals on the line.

In addition to the great team successes as of late, there have been some outstanding individual performances all season long that have resulted in being selected to the individual portion of the NCAA Tournament. Gustavus will be represented by Junior Mohaned Alhouni in the singles portion of the NCAA Individual Tournament, and the pair of Alhouni and Sophomore Patrick Whaling will also compete in the doubles portion of the NCAA Tournament.

"I feel very fortunate to be selected to the NCAA tournament with my partner Mo. It is a tremendous opportunity for us to face the best competition in the country, but I am not thinking about individual nationals right now and I know Mo would say the same thing. I believe we have a chance as a team do really do some damage in the team NCAA tournament," Whaling said.

The season has been a successful one for the Gustavus Men's Tennis Team, and with some great upcoming opportunities, it could go down as one of the best seasons in a long time.



Gustavus Sports Information

First-year Yassine Derbani serves in a singles match. Derbani was nominated for the Newcomer of the Year Award at the Golden Gusties Awards Banquet.