

Relay for Life

Gustavus will be hosting its annual relay for life Friday April, 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. in Lund. Come support groups like the American Cancer Society and Colleges Against Cancer.

Relay for Life is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society that brings together communities to remember loved ones as well as honor cancer survivors. Relay teams take turns walking a track or designated path as well as set up fundraising efforts by collecting donations. Teams usually have a particular fundraising goal.

For those who have never attended Relay for Life, there are a few things to expect. The event starts off with an opening ceremony, followed by the Survivor Lap. Those who have survived and people who are currently affected by cancer are welcomed to walk the track. Next is the Caregiver Lap, which recognizes people who provided support for those who have been diagnosed with cancer. Teams then begin the celebration. Each team member takes turns walking the track to symbolize that the fight against cancer is ongoing. When teams are not walking, there will be games and other activities for those to participate in. Luminaries are lit after sunset to remember those who have passed away from cancer as well as celebrate survivors. The event ends with the closing ceremony. Volunteers are recognized for their work to support those who have been affected by cancer.

Relay for Life is a time where participants can remember and celebrate loved ones.



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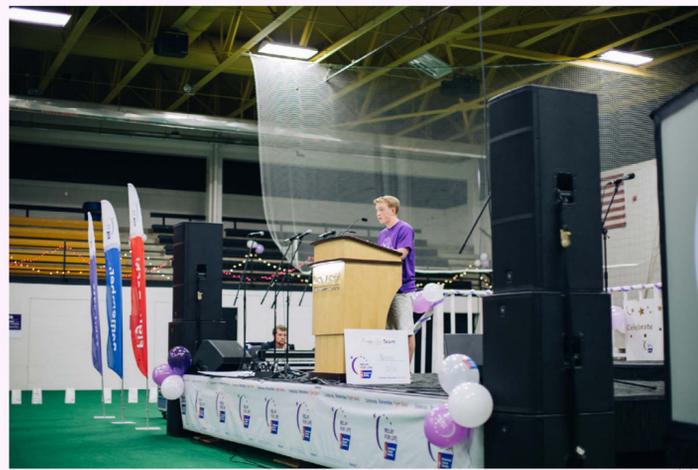
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Viva Eurovision!



Caroline Probst
Editor-in-Chief

Have you ever wondered how ABBA was discovered? Celine Dion? Or where the song Volare came from?

Look no further than Eurovision, the Eurasia wide song contest.

The most important day of the year is coming up, May 12.

You may ask yourself, why May 12?

It is not just National Brunch for Lunch Day, it's the Eurovision Song Contest finale.

I was first introduced to Eurovision while I was studying abroad in Sweden last spring.

Eurovision is very popular there and is preceded by Melodifestivalen, which is the show to determine who the singer to represent Sweden at the international contest will be.

ABBA won the contest in 1974 with their performance of "Waterloo."

The song "Volare" covered by Dean Martin and also featured in The Lizzie McGuire movie, is the most covered Eurovision song ever.

Celine Dion won the contest in 1988 as the contestant from Switzerland, with her song "Ne partez pas sans moi."

Every performance at Eurovision is extremely extravagant.

The crazier and more elabo-



A typical Eurovision stage set-up before the show.

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rate, the better.

Even Spotify has designated Eurovision as its own genre.

According to Eurovision's website, Eurovision was started 63 years ago, in 1956.

This year's competition will be hosted in Lisbon, as Portugal won the contest in Ukraine last year.

In 2006, Finland won with their performance of "Hard Rock Hallelujah."

The heavy metal band, Lordi, was dressed head to toe in monster costumes with battle axes, bat wings, and bones.

Flames and sparks shot out of the stage for added effect.

The Epic Sax man from Moldova is known by every Eurovi-

sion fan.

His saxophone solos in the middle of performances and his dance moves to accompany it is an experience to remember.

Watch "Hey Mama" by Sunstroke Project for the full effect.

Ukraine's performance in 2007 has gone down in Eurovision history.

Although they only got 2nd place, eccentric performer Verka Serdutchka, wore a giant star on his head while he performed "Dancing Lasha Tumbai."

This year's winner is predicted to be Israel, represented by artist Netta with her song "Toy."

Netta entertains her listeners by clucking like a chicken throughout the song.

In her first live performance of her song she even danced like a chicken.

Even Australia has joined the competition, despite them not being located in Eurasia.

They were such huge fans of the show that they were allowed a guest performance in 2012 but was allowed to enter the competition in 2015.

It's now time to start planning your epic Eurovision party with your Eurovision obsessed friends.

Make sure to wear anything in your closet with sequins and sparkles, because that's the only way to watch, in classic Eurovision style.

Listen to the Eurovision 2018 playlist on Spotify over and over again so you can sing along during the performances.

Prepare classic dishes from your favorite country performing and have your friends do the same.

Decorate your dorm with flags, glitter, and a disco ball to dance under.

During the voting, make sure to gasp in horror if the Denmark

doesn't give twelve points to Sweden or the Netherlands doesn't give twelve points to Belgium.

Eurovision can get political. For a Political Science major, it gets good.

Although voting can be political, Eurovision is also a symbol of unity as countries come together to showcase their best performances.

Some of which are culturally significant, like Armenia in 2015 and Ukraine's winning performance in 2016 with their songs about genocide.

Since 2004, Eurovision debuts a new motto every year that

always is based on inclusivity. This years motto: *All Board!*

Previous mottos have included: *Share the Moment*, *We are One*, *#JoinUs*, *Building Bridges*, *Come Together*, and *Celebrate Diversity*.

Sweden is known for dominating the competition.

After all, they are the third largest country of pop hits after the United States and the UK.

They've won six times and it has become popular for a Swede to write songs for performers.

Songs are usually sung in English and since the beginning of the contest, most songs that have won had english lyrics.

In preparation for Eurovision this year, make sure to check out these classic songs:

1. *Euphoria* by Loreen
2. *Heroes* by Måns Zelmerlöw
3. *Only Teardrops* by Emmelie de Forest
4. *I Can't Go On* by Robin Bengtsson
5. *Toy* by Netta
6. *Icebreaker* by Agnete
7. *Monsters* by Sarah Aalto
8. *Dance You Off* by Benjamin Ingrosso
9. *Rise Like A Phoenix* by Conchita Wurst
10. *Waterloo* by Abba



Verka Serdutchka from Ukraine, the 2nd place winner in 2007.

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Students deserve creative freedom



Ella Napton
Opinion Columnist

Ever since I was a child I have thrived in academic situations that involved using creativity.

I looked forward to Art Class (that came twice a week for less than an hour); I lived for the days in English that we got to do creative writing rather than simply analyzing why a character's shirt was red on page 146.

I was fortunate enough to attend a "Choice School" in Rochester, Minnesota.

Essentially this means that students came from all over the city, and sometimes neighboring towns, to attend the school.

It was/is not private, just simply a mix of students from different areas in contrast to other schools that students attended because of their zip code.

But the fact that we had students from all parts of Rochester was not the only unique part of my elementary and middle school experience (it is a K-8

school that I attended for all nine years), we also got to spend our days being creative with people of different age levels.

See, we had mixed age classrooms.

For example, my mother teaches at this school and taught fourth and fifth grade for the entirety of my studental career there (she now teaches just fourth grade because of shifts in the school district) and in middle school all my classes, except math, had 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in them.

This system of setting up the "homerooms" as we called them was ideal for developing our creative ideas and fostering the growth of our critical thinking.

We had the opportunity to learn from those older than us and, eventually, fill their shoes for younger students.

And we didn't just take the normal classes such as "math", "science", and "English"--we also took classes like "mural painting" and "business development".

I did not realize at the time that it was not normal for students to spend a good chunk of their day painting on the walls of their school, but I certainly have this creative freedom to thank for my success in various creative endeavors.

I was allowed to be creative as a child--not as much as I would have liked--but to a much higher degree than students today do.

I believe that schools should shift from a memorize and repeat focus to one in which students are encouraged to grow academically by pursuing things that interest them.



A young student expressing herself through painting.

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Of course, these pursuits would be in relation to the topic of the lesson, but it would give students much more freedom

and foster their interest for the subject.

Not only does creativity and intellectual freedom create more engaged students, but it also develop critical thinking and analyzing skills.

And there are plenty of studies out there that these skills and abilities are what employers are looking for in today's candidates.

Students simply do not develop these skills to their highest ability by listening to a teacher spew out facts and memorizing them for tests.

Because I was allowed to spend my time expressing myself in various innovative scenarios, I became astute in critical thinking and conversation.

When I switched from aforementioned Choice school to a large public high school my developed abilities became alarmingly clear.

When high school teachers introduced "fishbowl" activities in which students led and participated in discussion instead of simply answering the teacher's questions, my classmates froze, not knowing how to express themselves.

But I was able to ask "deeper" questions and answer ones prompted by the teachers. Now, I am not saying that students who did not go to an alternative school, of sorts, received a poor education.

I am saying that they simply received a different education.

And they were equipped

with different skills.

When it came to memorizing Spanish vocab I struggled because I had not had to do that type of learning in my education journey thus far, but they thrived.

But in the long run, students need to be able to develop their own thoughts and questions: not regurgitate what they've been told.

But how can teachers, and even parents, foster creativity in their child?

It really only comes down to tweaking lessons and activities already planned to have a more inventive focus.

For example, say a history teacher is giving a lesson about the Gold Rush.

Instead of creating timelines of events that happened and handing them in, students could write a play or story that is historically accurate to demonstrate their knowledge of the topic.

And if the students need more guidance the teacher can provide a list of terms that should be used and defined in their story.

It really is as simple as that in most cases.

As an education major I know that redoing lesson plans is a tedious and strenuous task, but in the end making these changes is certainly worth the time it takes to make these changes.

The Good, the Good, and the Good



Wooden ramps have been built over the puddles around campus.



Most classes are cancelled for the *MayDay!* Conference next Wednesday.



Only two more weeks until the Eurovision finale!

Attend local cultural events



Emily Pratt
Opinion Columnist

For a Swedish Lutheran college in the Midwest, Gustavus has a pretty impressive variety of cultural events on campus.

Our student body may not be as diverse as our mission statement likes to claim, but those students who are from a variety of ethnic backgrounds still manage to have a strong voice when it comes to their student organizations.

As a frequent attendee of events like Africa Night, Lunar New Year, and Latinx Night, I am rather proud of how supportive Gusties are of their classmates who hail from places all over the world.

The number of seats filled at these events is really telling of our want to have better understanding of other traditions and people.

But I can't help but worry if this motivation to attend such cultural events will continue after graduation.

It's easy to slip into the mindset of "It's free, so I might as

well go" during college, because there are so many things that the saying applies to with the amount of activities put on year round to encourage student participation.

But this is also a difficult mindset to get out of.

Going to an event just because it's free loses the value of what that event represents and what each person could be getting out of attending it.

This doesn't mean Gustavus and other colleges should start putting price tags on every event for students - please don't, we're in enough debt as it is - but it's important to be aware that the majority of the world is not free and people have to be pickier about where they choose to spend their spare time.

After graduation, most will have to cut down on the number of events they attend, but local cultural events should not be one of them.

"Why spend money to hang out with strangers when you could relax with a few drinks at a local bar," you might ask.

The most obvious answer is that it's educational.

Like it or not, we never stop learning after school, so it might as well be by doing something completely out of the norms of personal daily life.

These cultural events help broaden people's minds of what "normal" really is, because that word carries different meanings depending on what part of the world someone is in.

Learning about different customs helps form better understanding between different peoples and cultures.

Even if someone is highly



Star children and the Lucia court celebrating the Swedish celebration of light.

Submitted

educated on a particular area of the world, it is likely they will still find something new to ad-

pire at an event representing it.

For those interested in traveling abroad sometime in the future, cultural events provide a great opportunity to get a taste of different parts of the world.

They certainly can't accurately represent every aspect of a country or even city, but it can still be helpful in deciding where you'd like to further explore.

Everyone should set foot in another country at some point in their life and it can be helpful to have something like a local celebration to spark the curiosity of your inner traveler.

These cultural events are an opportunity for immigrants and exchange students to feel closer to home and sharing it with them will only help them feel more welcome.

I spent half a semester on the island of Malta with my family when I was twelve and the change from my quiet Minnesota life was very disorienting.

While it was exciting to meet people from the other side of the world and learn about their culture, after months abroad it became inevitable that I missed certain parts of home.

While it's not the same as what most out-of-country people experience in America, since I was with my family the whole time and knew I would be returning home eventually, I do know that a whole new culture is a lot to take on when you're not accustomed to it.

Bonding over cultural simi-

larities and discussing differences helps the world feel a bit smaller and much less intimidating.

Most of all, these cultural events are meant to be fun.

Every summer in my hometown I attended the local Scandinavian Festival and there was always plenty of dancing, games, and music to keep my sister and me occupied.

The hosts of these events want guests to enjoy their culture as much as they do, so there is almost always activities and performances for people of all ages.

Even more amazing is the food.

It may not be free, but there is nothing that visualizes a country quite like the smell and taste of ethnic cooking.

Of course, to experience any of this, one does have to be on the lookout for local events because they usually aren't advertised as well as the ones on campus.

Drop the tv remote and cancel that restaurant reservation because there's a whole world to be explored by just heading across town or even down the street.

America, like Gustavus, is more than its Western-European surface and we should celebrate that.



Students performing at the Lunar New Year celebration.

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