

War on bottled water



Patrick Meadows
Opinion Editor

It's been a long day of moving in. You're tired from lugging boxes up and down the stairs of Co-Ed and all you want is an ice-cold bottle of Dasani. However, lurking in that bottle is an intruder, microplastic. Microplastics are particles of plastic smaller than the eye can see and thinner than a strand of hair.

A study done by the State University of New York in tandem with Orb Media, a non-profit journalistic organization, found that over 90 percent of water bottles tested contained microplastics.

They tested popular brands like Dasani, Aquafina, Evian, and San Pellegrino. Some had zero plastic particles while others had as many as 10,000.

The study has sparked debate within the scientific community as microplastics have not been proven to have any negative effects on the human body, yet this shocking study reveals just how widespread plastic is in our daily lives.

Other scientists are quick to point out that this study has not gone through the peer review process, so it does not have a scientific

consensus. The Food and Drug Administration does not even have any regulations on microplastics in products as there has not been research done on the side effects of such particles. However, the FDA already has very relaxed rules regarding the regulation of water bottle production and distribution, so this is not much of a shock.

Surprisingly, the FDA does not monitor tap water, rather, the EPA regulates public and "municipal" water sources. The EPA has stricter regulations on water purity and demands that local water suppliers distribute a water quality report each year, but the FDA has no similar policy for bottled water.

Even if water bottles do get tested for water quality, the companies in charge of production do not have to share this information with consumers, which is a big red flag as these companies may already know that their products are contaminated.

This knowledge has led several colleges around the U.S. to ban the sale of plastic water bottles on their campuses. Gustavus is not among them. The state of Minnesota has three colleges that have instituted this ban, Bemidji State University, Macalester College, and The College of Saint Benedict.

Both Saint Benedict and Macalaster started the ban in 2011, while Bemidji State only began its ban in 2015.

The College of Saint Benedict cited environmental reasons for the ban and introduced new water bottle filling stations around campus, similar to what Gustavus has.

The ban aimed to cut down on the creation of plastic waste and reduce the negative environmental impact of the college.

Macalester College focused on education and fostering



The cooler in the Marketplace offers Dasani water, a sub set of Coca-Cola.

Abby Anderson

environmental awareness among students in order to create a widespread movement.

Bemidji State recognized the environmental impact and its Student Senate added that, "access to free water rather than commercial water" was a human right and should be given with no strings attached.

These colleges have seen success in reducing plastic waste, which begs the question: Why has Gustavus not followed suit?

Gustavus already has several of the resources needed to make the change. The water quality of Saint Peter is exceptional due to the advanced filtration systems of the town's water facility.

There are dozens of water bottle refill stations around campus and although Gustavus has recycling bins found in nearly every building, very little of those recyclable materials end up actually being recycled.

According to Coca-Cola, the beverage supplier for Gustavus, only seven percent of the plastic they use in their bottles is recycled nationwide. So even when you put your empty drink in one of those special blue bins, it might not even make it to a recycling facility.

There have been efforts in the past where students have advocated for a ban, but they were unsuccessful. The colleges of Minnesota without water bottle sales began with student organizations demanding change.

This article is not meant in any way to suggest that the college is not environmentally sustainable. Several buildings

around campus have solar panels, the Caf regularly composts, and two academic buildings have Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification.

However, why would we not use a system that has been proven to work and would be easier to carry out given the resources already available on campus?

Gustavus wants its students to tackle the greatest challenges of our time, and that starts here, by cutting down on our consumption of plastic and living healthier lives.

The Good, the Meh, and the Bad



Potentially meeting your soulmate at the square dance.



Going from home cooked meals to repetitive Caf food.



The early morning class you thought would end in high school.



A visitor uses one of the refill stations in Lund Center.

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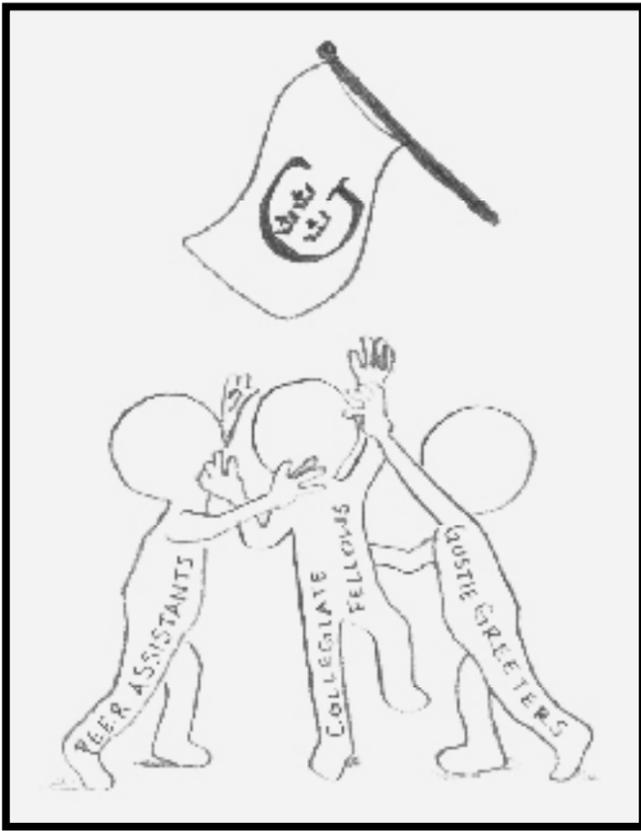
A visitor uses one of the refill stations in Lund Center.

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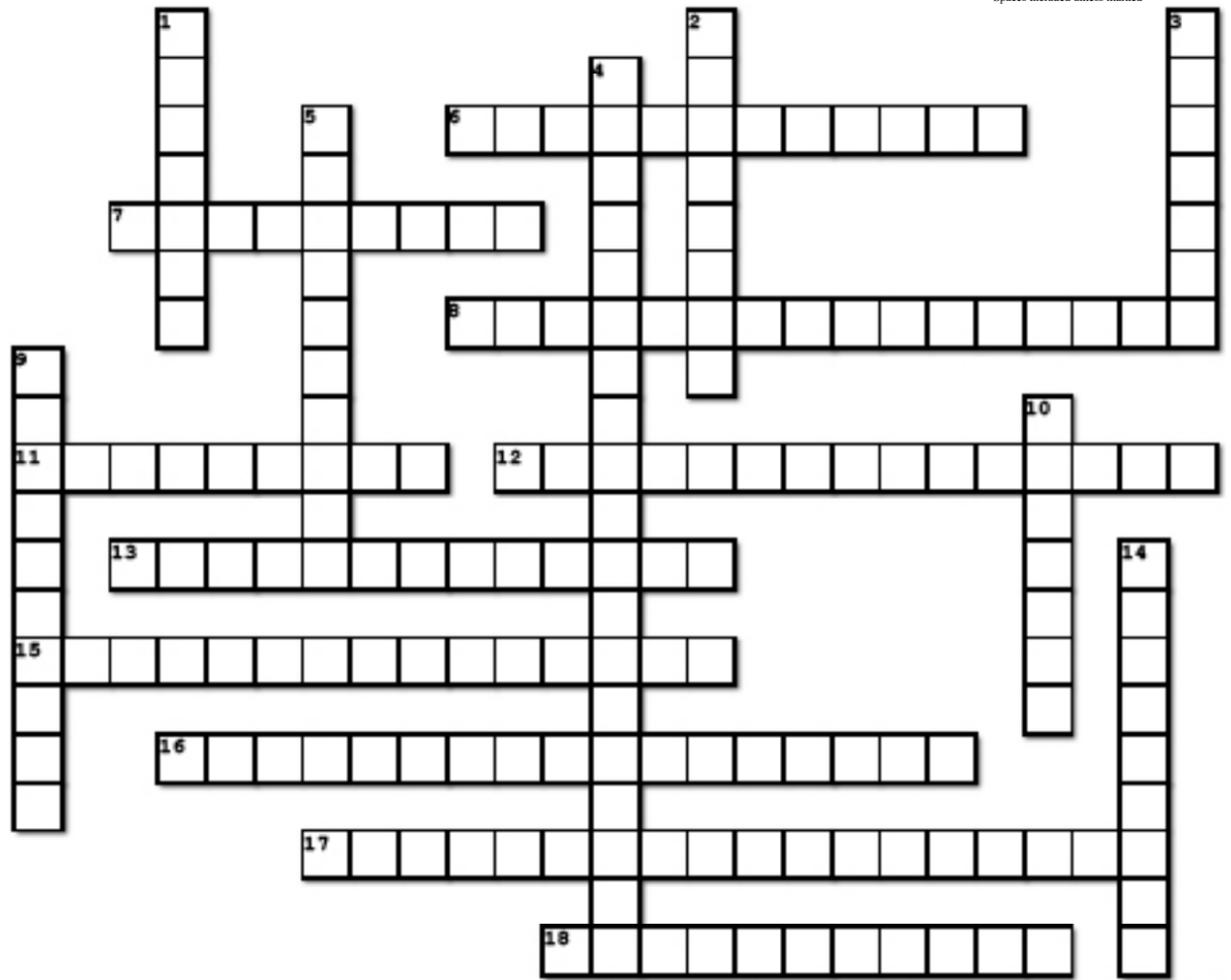
Orientation crossword

*Spaces included unless marked

The Battle of Orientation



Comic by Trevon Sladek



WORD SEARCH

Electronics

I P L R E A M M B P G B X R R
 N T H R E T U P M O C I M O A
 C E R O Y J L Z B B X L O T D
 A L Q E N L X G O C B R R I I
 R E T F G E Z V Q H F E Q N O
 G V G M H R W T E H K K I O S
 A I V M V U A A G A L R K M E
 H S K P T N D H E R E M O T E
 F I E L L P P P C V G A E A V
 Y O R C H H S T Y Q Y K P D G
 C N Q O X L F K F U R W Q P J
 W S N F X B X N S T Q G H D R
 Z E P Q X G B U D T I B F Y S
 S E L A Q J F T K I Y B F Y E
 K L R X S F V K J Y M X S S G

- Charger Computer Headphones
- Monitor Phone Radio
- Remote Speaker Television

Across

- 6. Legend says you will marry the partner you meet at this event
- 7. The day before classes begin
- 8. Get involved in clubs and orgs by coming to this event
- 11. Pick up your text books, school supplies, and Gustie apparel here
- 12. If you have a medical concern, you can go here
- 13. Where Daily Sabbath is held
- 15. An event where participants listen/dance to music only they can hear
- 16. This student leader on campus lives near residents in dorms
- 17. FTS
- 18. A program of introduction for newcomers to a college

Across

- 6. Square Dance
- 7. Labor Day
- 8. Involvement Fair
- 11. Book Mark
- 12. Health Services
- 13. Christ Chapel
- 15. Headphone Disco
- 16. Collegiate Fellow
- 17. First Term Seminar
- 18. Orientation

Down

- 1. A common place on campus to go walking or hammocking
- 2. This location of most dances on campus used to be a swimming pool
- 3. This student leader organizes New Student Orientation
- *4. The cafeteria, residential life, and the post office are in this building
- 5. Freshmen are called this at Gustavus
- 9. The science hall currently under construction
- 10. A building for independent, group, or silent studying depending on what floor you're on
- 14. Gustavus athletics' fan base

Down

- 1. The Arb
- 2. The Dive
- 3. Greeter
- 4. Jackson Campus Center
- 5. Freshyears
- 9. Nobel Hall
- 10. Library
- 14. Hill Crew

Pun of the week

My friend told me how to measure electricity and I was like "Watt!"

Volleyball ranked No. 7 in the nation

Gusties look to improve on previous historic season



Gustavus Sports Information

Members of last season's volleyball team celebrates a point during a match. With many returning players, the team looks to improve on its phenomenal 26-7 record from its previous season.

Joe Brandel
Sports & Fitness Editor

As a new season approaches, the women's volleyball team has been motivated and focused to improve on their impressive record from the year before.

Last season the Gusties boasted a record of 26-7, finishing the season ranked as No. 7 in the nation.

The team also advanced as far as the NCAA National Quarterfinals, ultimately losing to Claremont-Mudd-Scripps by a score of 3-1.

"This season our focus is on staying unified and trusting each other while having fun and playing for each other."

—Ellie Anderson

This historic season was led by multiple All-American and All-Region players all returning this season.

Senior Nora Holton greatly contributed to the team's efforts last season and was awarded as the 2017 First Team All-American Setter.

Holton was also nominated as the MIAC Player of the Year for the second consecutive year.

Following in the footsteps

of her older sister, Sophomore Kate Holtan will also prove to be an integral part to the team's dynamic.

Kate had an impressive freshman season, earning awards such as the MIAC Rookie of the Year and an All-American honorable mention.

The team will also be returning Senior Brittany Luethmers, a honorable mention for the All-Region Defensive Specialist.

Along with these impressive individuals, the team is excited to be returning a strong core of six seniors who are experienced with the system and will be important to the team's success.

Volleyball kicked off their 2018 season on August 22, scrimmaging a non-conference opponent, Minnesota State-Mankato, and then quickly took off to a tournament across the country.

The Gusties are currently in San Antonio, Texas for the Trinity National Invitational. In the next two days the team will face off against opponents from across the country including UW-Stevens Point, Trinity College, Aurora College, and Cabrini College.

Sophomore Ellie Anderson said she is excited for the goals the team has set for themselves and is looking forward to the upcoming games.

"I think our team has had really strong chemistry so far this season and we've all come

in really focused to practice," Anderson said. "We have some pretty big goals this season and right now we're just taking it one practice at a time and are super excited for our first matches on Friday."

The team is going into the season ready to take on anyone with a positive attitude, despite the competitive schedule that lies ahead. The Gusties will have

a challenging season for the MIAC title, having to face difficult conference opponents such as Saint Benedict College and the University of St. Thomas.

"This season our focus is on staying unified and trusting each other while having fun and playing for each other," Anderson said.

This positive mentality the team holds will help them as

they take on their first challenge this weekend.

The first tournament game is at 3 p.m. on Friday when the Gusties will be facing UW-Stevens Point, a team they defeated last season with a score of 3-1.

Volleyball will return to campus and practice all week to prepare for their next big tournament, the Loras Invitational, on Sept 7 and 8.



Gustavus Sports Information

Sophomore Kate Holtan spikes the ball during the NCAA Regional semifinal match last season against Wartburg.