Accessing education on campus



Emily Seppelt
Opinion Columnist and
Copy Editor

oing away to college is hard for any student, but students with disabilities face an even more difficult path. Able bodied people do not need to think about how they will get around campus when they go on a campus tour. When choosing where to live or who to live with, able bodied people don't need to worry about how they will access their room or getting to class on a daily basis.

As it's probably clear to most students on campus, Gustavus can be notoriously inaccessible. With so many old buildings, hills, and icy pathways, it can be dangerous even for able bodied individuals to make their way around campus. With

the recent snowstorm and slow cleanup, people with mobility issues have an even harder time than usual trying to navigate campus.

While snow is most often effectively cleared from the paths around campus, ice is left almost totally neglected. Even just my short walk from Sorenson to the Campus Center is fraught with ice, and I've seen countless people almost slip. Imagine if you already had a hard time

"Making your way up or down that hill is dangerous, and I've heard stories of people just about falling all the way down The Hill."



A student walking in front of the Jackson Campus Center during a heavy snowfall.

Nate Habben

taking that route.

Another risky spot on campus is the path down to Rundstrom (which is also very inaccessible). Making your way up or down that hill is dangerous, and I've heard stories of people just about falling all the way down the hill. If there are so many dangerous places on campus for people with full mobility, can you imagine what it would be like if you had physical dif-

ficulties?

While I understand that the campus has lots of ground to cover when recovering from a weather event, leaving ice to build up is unfair to everyone, and especially to people with mobility issues. Leaving the campus in such a bad state all winter could even possibly rule out the school for people who want to come here but find the

situation simply too difficult.

Besides weather related inaccessibility, we also have an abundance of narrow hallways, doorknobs (in contrast to door handles), entire buildings without elevators, and in some buildings, sad excuses for accessible bathrooms. While there is an Accessibility Office here at Gustavus, I am surprised to find that there is no student organization to support or represent students with any kind of dis-

"While there is an Accessibility Office here at Gustavus, I am surprised to find that there is no student organization to support or represent students with any kind of disability, physical or mental."

ability, physical or mental.

Having such as organization could benefit not only those students, but all those who support accessibility and ending ablebodied privilege. After visiting organizations at other schools that focus on accessibility, organizations like this did things like approve campus events and events put on by other student organizations as accessible to everyone, hold informational events, and create a space for people with disabilities to find comradery.

Creating an organization like that here at Gustavus would clearly be beneficial and could possibly work in concert with other organizations of that nature to promote intersection-

Making Gustavus a place that is more accepting and accommodating of people who need aid in any sort of way could only strengthen the campus's commitment to diversity and inclusion. Both in public conversation and here on campus, people who are disabled are too often left out of the conversation about making our community more inclusive.

Even if a group wasn't formed, I believe it would be beneficial to all of us, students, faculty, and administrators alike to educate ourselves on how our practices and institutions uphold able-bodied privilege. This could be done either on our own time or together as a community in the form of informational sessions, consciousness raising sessions, or a campaign by the college to spread awareness and knowledge of how we can all be more inclusive.

By leaving people with disabilities out of the conversation, we are leaving an entire part of our own community out of our thoughts and considerations. The inaccessible nature of our campus clearly shows that we have been keeping the subject out of our thoughts for quite a long time. There is no better time than now to take the steps to make our campus for acces-

time than now to take the steps to make our campus for accessible and inclusive both physically by making plans to modify buildings and residence halls, and by tackling the mental and communal challenge of checking our able bodied privilege, if we possess it and changing

our behavior.

The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



The euphoria of getting new school supplies with the start of the semester.



Even your mom's Valentine's card is gonna be late.



There's a Valentine's Day bouquet of breadsticks at Olive Garden.

The Complexities of Caf Credit



Grace Worwa Opinion Columnist

ow that J-Term is over, Gustavus students are returning to campus and getting back into their semester routines, including eating daily meals in the caf and tracking their dining expenses. It's around this time that students who've been off-campus over J-Term, such as myself, take a peek at their caf accounts and have a mini heart attack. The large figure sitting star-ing back at me had me reeling in disbelief. How in the world was I going to spend that much on food in just one month? However, as it turns out, my situation was not as dire as it seemed.

"However, because the college's two billing periods demand that J-Term meal expenses be split in half, the winter months are bundled together so that stu-dents receive one allocation for all of December, January, and February, with up to \$40 rolling over into March."

According to Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services Steve Kjellgren, Gustavus stunormally allocated a set amount of dining money each month, with a roll over of up to \$20. However, because the college's two billing periods demand that J-Term meal expenses be split in half, the winter months are bundled together so that students receive one allocation for all of December, January, and February, with up to \$40 rolling over into March. As a result, a student who spends J-Term offcampus returns in February to an account overflowing with unused caf money.

My initial reaction was frus-



A student checking out at The Marketplace.

tration, worry, and a little bit of indignation. I immediately blamed the system for what I assumed was a personal loss of \$400, however it turns out that my reaction was unwarranted and uninformed. In actuality, the Gustavus J-Term meal plan system is reasonable and flexible, and it represents a vast im-provement from the previous system. Through a historical lens, the current J-Term meal plan is an aspect of the school's overall á la carte system, adopted in academic year 1999-2000 as a step forward from the previous system where students were billed for a set number of meals each day regardless of whether or not they ate them. According to Kjell-gren, the costs for J-Term meals were incorporated into the fees for fall and spring semester, so, since students weren't charged for them directly, the rationale was: "you didn't get charged for that, so we don't have anything to give you back."

Through the current J-Term meal system, not only are January dining costs fully accounted for, but students are even given the opportunity to be credited back for that money if

they aren't on-campus to use it. According to Kjellgren, the rationale behind this change is both ethical and practical.

"What you pay as a student, you should be able to get value from, and the college isn't going into the hole because of it," he said.

Another advantage to the J-Term meal plan system is its flexibility, meaning that stu-dents don't have to lose that money if they don't utilize the caf over J-Term. All it takes is a brief visit with the dining service office staff to find out if you are eligible to receive that money back as credit.

"Student circumstances and plans over J-Term vary widely, from classes, to internships, to athletic commitments, and this way, all of them are taken into account, and nobody goes hungry."

Student circumstances and plans over J-Term vary widely, from classes, to internships, to athletic commitments, and this way, all of them are taken into account and nobody goes hungry. Lastly, the current J-Term meal plan should be appreciated because, frankly, a better alternative hasn't been presented. According to Kjellgren,

one proposed option is billing J-Term meal costs separately from semester expenses to students who will be using the caf, however this would underestimate the overall cost of attendance at Gustavus, hurting students' ability to receive the financial aid and loans they'd need to pay those expenses.

In sum, every system is flawed, but the J-Term student meal plan should be appreciated by students for the systemic improvement it rep-resents within the college's history, and the lexibility it allows for all the different meal situations students might find themselves in over J-Term.

However, every system can be improved, and student anxiety over how much money they think they might be losing is a valid dilemma. Students have enough to deal with over the semester, and they shouldn't have to deal with the added burden of financial worries in regards to their meal plan.

In the absence of a better, alternative plan, I'd propose that increased awareness is the answer. In my case, I found that lack of knowledge of how the meal plan works and of how to request credit back for uneaten I-Term meals led to the majority of my anxiety. If dining service reminded students to take a look at their meal account come end of February and inform them of their options

if they have a large amount leftover, stress levels among students would be massively reduced because an immediate solution to their problem would be on hand. This can be done through mass emails or posters hung outside the cafe.

If you are like me and are staring down a huge amount in your meal plan account, it's okay, don't stress out, because there is an easy answer. By the end of February, just make sure you make a brief visit with the Dining Service Office, tell them your situation and why you were unable to eat in the caf over J-Term, and they will tell you if you are eligible to be credited for the money you did not use.

Hope for Heart Day



Lauren Casey
Opinion Columnist

alentine's Day hasn't always been seen by the **V** majority of people as either you are in a relationship or a single Pringle. Think back to when you were in elementary school and made decorated shoeboxes for the Valentine's Day exchange. Those were still the days where the opposite gender had cooties, revealing that the motive for this day isn't purely about romantic relationships. Back in the day, I purely was in it for the Hannah Montana valentine with a Dum Dum taped on it and giving my best friend the best flavor of Jolly Rancher out of my

"I loved opening my note from my parents the morning of Valentine's Day with a tiny box of chocolates, reading the little notes from my second grade friends, and loved to give them back."

love for her.

i ioved opening my note from my parents the morning of Valentine's Day with a tiny box of chocolates, reading the little notes from my second grade friends, and loved to give them back. Somewhere along the way, we have developed the idea that Valentine's Day is about posting a picture with your significant other with more heart emojis than usual, and while that may be part of this day's importance, it isn't only for romantic relation-

Valentine's Day is not overrated because it isn't just about



One of the Valentine's Day pizzas from The Marketplace.

celebrating a significant other, although it is a great day to show them extra appreciation, too. This holiday is about celebrating who you love in your life and getting the chance to express that. There is a reason the term "Galentines Day" exists, and Valentine's Day is the perfect day to get together with the girls to just appreciate each other's presence while doing something you all love.

"Using the day to value your friendships is good, even

"Using the day to value your friendships is good, even though the commercialization isn't the best. It gives you a reason to celebrate with friends, which is why we are going to the Cheesecake Factory on Valentine's Day," Senior Megan Bean said. This day isn't just for the girls, it's a day to celebrate all the bromances, teammates, and Fortnite partners. Love can be shown in many ways, and even if that's giving a bro the last slice of pizza, or refraining from roasting them for a day, it counts.

Self-love has been a growing topic of this year, and there is no rule stating Valentine's Day can't be spent showing a little love to yourself by doing all the things you enjoy doing but never have the time to do.

"It's not an overrated day because it is whatever you make it out to be, and therefore, you can get out of it what you want," Senior Christiana Nelson said. That being said, go on a nice date with your significant other, have a girl's night and watch a sappy Nicholas Sparks movie, make a Chipotle run with the guys and splurge on extra guacamole, take a bath with too many bath bombs, or even show some extra love to your plant babies in your dorm. February 14 is a day of nothing but positive vibes if

"Another reason Valentine's Day is worth the hype is because it gives people the chance to do things they otherwise wouldn't, and would be deemed odd on any average day."

that's what you make it to be.

Another reason Valentine's Day is worth the hype is because it gives people the chance to do things they otherwise wouldn't, and would be deemed odd on any average

day.

"Valentine's Day allows people to become creative in areas they wouldn't be otherwise, and gets them thinking about friendship, love, and

compassion," Senior Lucio Gonzalez said. Our own caf is taking part in this creativity, as they are serving heart shaped pizzas to students if they pre order them by February 12 including the pizza, salad, and frost-your-owns. It's basically the Lady and the Tramp dinner of Gustavus, minus the candles since those are a fire hazard.

On any other day, it may seem a bit weird to eat a heart shaped pizza, but that's the great thing about this holiday; it justifies things that wouldn't be the norm on any given Friday. Some more examples include writing someone a cheesy poem, sending a secret admirer note through the P.O.s, picking up a bouquet of flowers and a card to finally tell your crush you like them, buying a human sized teddy bear at Walmart, or getting customized boxers with your face on them for your significant other (they turned out great by the way). Any of that would be most likely borderline creepy on any other day.

Some argue that Valentine's Day is a great marketing scheme, and "a holiday made up by Hallmark to sell cards," Senior Emily Scroggins said. While that may be true and we are conscious of the fact, the overflow of Valentine's treats turns any bitter thoughts to sweet. Without this holiday hype, we would be missing out on the upcoming Valentine's Day Frost Your Own Contest on the 12 that provides the chance to win movie tickets for two, or a \$50 gift card to Bon-

fire in Mankato.

Every year, I make Valentine's Day "buttons" (pretzel + melted Hershey Hug + M&M) for my friends simply because it gives me a reason to do something nice for them and gives me an excuse to eat them at the same time. Eating too much chocolate is not a thing on Valentine's Day, especially when it comes to the heart shaped Reese's that look more like lumps than hearts, and the red and pink M&Ms that taste better than the original ones even though they are exactly the same.

This could be a whole other opinion article in itself, but Valentine's candy that comes in those heart shaped boxes is the best as Forrest Gump fa-mously said "life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get." It's the little elements of surprise that can bring joy such as biting into your favorite flavor when you least expect it. So maybe vou don't have a Valentine this year, your best friend is out of state, your plant child died, or the other half of your bromance graduated. But the one thing that is a constant is chocolate, especially when it's half off once this day has run its course.

February Word Search



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VALENTINE HEART MONTH BLACK HISTORY

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BLACK HISTORY AQUARIUS BIRD FEEDING MONTH LEAP YEAR

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SPRING SEMESTER

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Virgo
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Aries (March
21-April 19)
Raven

Libra (Sep. 23-October 22) Adore Delano

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Taurus (April 20-May 20) Valentina \mathfrak{M}

Scorpio (October 23-Nov. 21) RuPaul

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Gemini (May 21-June 20) Violet Chachki



Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Shangela

69

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Bianca del Rio no

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Alyssa Edwards

1. Total mess
2. Paint by numbers
3. Four-part harmony
4. Poison ivy
5. Tilt-A-Whirl
6. Internet site

Men's Basketball pushes for postseason

Gusties fight to break five game losing streak



Sophomore Marten Morem catches the Augsburg defese off guard and pulls up for a jumper. The team is hoping for a strong final three games in order to make a playoff push.

Eli Dotson Staff Writer

¬he Gustavus men's basketball team charged energrtically into the new year, starting off 2020 with a 5-2 record. Since then, the squad has lost five straight games to bring them to 8-14 overall and 8-9 in the MIAC conference.

February has not been kind to the Gusties, as a tough stretch of their schedule, a close loss, and a roster plagued by injury and sickness have eroded the team's positive momentum.

"The main contributor to our five-game skid has been the overall health of our players, which is unfortunate as this has been a pivotal point in our season," said Senior Captain Leif Engen.
On Feb. 1, Gustavus hosted

St. Thomas in what could be the last time the Gusties face off against the Tommies on the basketball court.

The contest was a lopsided affair from the tip, as Gustavus looked sluggish and St. Thomas jumped out to an early 16-2

The Tommies led 53-21 at halftime and ended up breaking triple digits, with a final score of 106-67. St. Thomas played an excellent game, shooting 57% from the floor while making 17 three pointers, while turning the ball over just four times. The Tommies currently sit in second place in the MIAC and are ranked fourth nationally.

Junior Kaleb Feahn showed his explosive offensive potential, providing a bright spot in an otherwise brutal game for

the Gusties. He finished with a game-high 25 points on 8-of-9 shooting, and went 4-of-4 from deep. Juniors Logan Rezac and Pete Lundquist added 9 points and 8 points, respectively.

On Feb. 5, Gustavus travelled to Northfield to take on the Carloton Knights. It was

the Carleton Knights. It was a hard-fought game, as both teams traded buckets and withstood runs throughout.
Gustavus led 36-33 at half-time, but the Knights caught

fire for the first four minutes of the second half and went on a 13-2 run to give them a 46-38 lead with 16 minutes left. Gustavus settled in and played a solid six minutes of basketball, regaining the lead 52-51 with 10:36 remaining.

With under a minute to play, Carleton clung to a 70-66 lead when Pete Lundquist sank a short jumper to pull the

Gusties within two points.

Carleton missed several free-throws down the stretch, and the Gusties gained possession with 11 seconds left, still down by two. Kaleb Feahn broke down his defender and penetrated the lane, getting a foul call with three seconds on the clock. He missed the first and made the second, and Carleton was able to wind down the clock for a narrow 70-69 victory.

Scoring was evenly spread for the Gusties, as Sophomore Nolan Malo was the leading scorer with 16 points, Feahn finished with 15 and Lundquist had 14 to go along with seven rebounds.

Two days later the Gusties once again returned to Northfield for a match up with St.

Olaf. The Oles jumped out to an early 10-3, forcing a Gustie timeout, and maintained a seven to 15 point lead throughout the first half. They took a 37-28

lead into the locker room. The second half continued in the same vein until the Gusties had a spurt midway through the period. A pair of three pointers by Rezac and Feahn and a jumper from Marten Morem brought the score to 54-49. The Gusties didn't have enough in the tank to complete the comeback, as St. Olaf went on a 12-1 run to create separa-

tion and secure the victory.
Rezac led all scorers with
21 points on 7-of-10 shooting, including 4 for 6 from behind the arc, and chipped in six rebounds and four assists. Jake Guse, Morem, and Peter Lun-

dquist all had 10 points.

"The St. Olaf game had playoff implications, but the result was not to our liking. We didn't play to the standards of Gustavus basketball and the final score was a reflection of our actions throughout the game. With that being said, we are focused on our last three games of the regular season and playing Gustie basketball," Engen

The Gusties currently sit at sixth place in the MIAC, which would make them eligible for the postseason conference tournament if they finish strong. Their last three opponents are Bethel, this coming Saturday at home, Saint Mary's, also at home, and Augsburg. Wins in two of these games would put the team in a good spot to propel the squad into the tourna-



Junior Kaleb Feahn looks for a pass during a game against the Tommies.



Junior Logan Rezac goes up for a contested shot against an Auggie defender.

Women's Basketball clinches playoff spot

Gusties improve to 16-5 overall and 12-4 in MIAC play



The team was led by strong

performances from First-years

Caitlin Rorman, who notched

23 points, and Anna Sanders who dropped 22 of her own on a lights out 8-of-9 shooting.

This win was crucial for the

Gusties in order to turn things

around following the two loss-

es and push for a postseason

spot, according to Head Coach

Gustavus Sports Information

First-year Maddy Rice keeps the ball from a St. Thomas opponent. The Gusties are coming off back to back wins and have clinched a playoff spot on a 12-4 MIAC record.

Joe Brandel Sports & Fitness Editor

ver January term the Women's Basketball team was on a mission to extend their season and clinch one of the coveted MIAC playoff spots, and they did just that.

Since the end of first semester, the team has posted eight wins and four losses, bringing their overall record to 16-5 and 12-4 in MIAC play.

Following a three-game winning streak in January the team fell to St. Benedict Jan.

29 and to St. Thomas Feb. 1 by scores of 53-64 and 67-68, respectively.

In this crucial period of the team's season, a win against their next opponent, Carleton, was at the top of the list in order to relieve some of the pressure on the final games of the

The Black and Gold came out flying and went into the half on top with a score of 46-

The second half was a clinic for the Gustie sharpshooters as they increased on their lead and closed the game out with a final score of 90-61.



Northfield.

The game proved to be a test for the Gusties as St. Olaf kept the score close in the beginning of the game.

The team displayed dominant defensive play in the second quarter however, and held the Oles to 3-of-16 shooting while forcing five turnovers.

After a 15 point lead at the half, the third quarter began with the teams trading buckets, but the Gusties found their stride and went on a 20-7 scoring run to ensure the victory.

Junior Ava Gonsorowski led the team in scoring with 17 points and six assists. The First-year duo of Rorman and Sanders was on display once again as they dropped 14 and 11 points, respectively.



First-year Anna Sanders has been a standout player in the past few games.

Junior Paige Richert cleaned up the glass for the Gusties, notching a season-high 12 rebounds to go along with eight points of her own.

"We came out of the gates strong for the second straight Kelly said. game. knocked down shots early to give us a lot of confidence, and we got scoring from a lot of different people. Our ability to knockdown open shots today started giving us really good looks inside. All around it was a solid performance, particularly on the defensive end, to get the win."

This winning stretch the team put together was enough to secure them a spot in postseason play and the team hopes to close the regular season on a strong note in order to carry some momentum into playoffs.

"We're playing well at the right time and three of our final four games are on the road so today was something good to build on for the next two weeks," Kelly said.

The team is back in action for their last regular season home game against Bethel at 3 p.m. Feb. 15 at the Gus Young



Junior Rachel Skyberg dribbles the ball up the court for the Gusties.

Women's Hockey improves to 15-3-2

Gusties reclaim No. 5 national ranking

Michael O'Neil Staff Writer

fter a difficult series against MIAC rival, No. Hamline, the Gustavus Women's Hockey Team got back on last weekend against Concordia. With their 4-0 and 3-1 wins, the Gusties reclaimed their spot at No. 5 in the national rankings.

Coming into their series with fellow MIAC heavyweight Hamline, the Gusties were 13-2-1 overall and 9-0-1 in the Conference.

The first game of the series was played in St. Paul, and Hamline got on the board first just 4:32 into the first period.

"We didn't start the game very well. All of a sudden we settled down a bit and started playing a little harder, and good things happened," Head Coach Mike Carroll said.

With under three minutes to go in the opening period, the Gusties converted a power play as First-year Hailey Holland scored her eighth goal of the season.

In the second period, the Gusties had two power plays in the first half of the period but Hamline was able to shut down both opportunities.

With 1:14 left in the period, the Pipers took the lead on a

powerplay goal.
Down 2-1 for almost the next 20 minutes, the Gusties pulled their goalie with 1:47 left in the third period. The extra skater paid off, as Sophomore Jordyn Peterson beat the Hamline goalie with just 27 seconds left to tie the game at two.

In overtime, both teams played solidly and played to a 2-2 tie. First-year Goalie Katie McCoy stopped 34 of 36 shots for the Gusties.

'It's good to go on the road and be able to get a point in the standings. Hamline plays a little



First-year Emily Olson controls the puck and looks for a pass during a game earlier this season. The Gusties most recently swept Concordia and have their sights set on playoffs.

Gustavus Sports Information

different style so we have to work through that. We should learn from tonight and give a good effort tomorrow," Carroll

The two teams traveled to St. Peter for the second game of the series, and Hamline took the lead early. In the first two minutes of play, the Pipers netted two goals and set the tone for what would be a high scoring game.

Sophomore Tina Press responded for the Gusties roughly halfway through the first period to cut the lead to 2-1. However, just over a minute later, the Pipers scored once again to extend

their lead to two goals.

The Gusties were able to respond with just under five minutes to play in the opening period as First-year Emily Olson netted her fifth goal of the season.

After an action-packed first period, the Pipers led 3-2.

Just over four minutes into the second period, First-year Molly McHugh tied the game up at 3-3 off an assist from Press.

After giving up their early lead, the Pipers reclaimed the lead with six minutes to go in the second period. Despite outshooting their opponents 17-9 in the second period, the Gusties found themselves trailing 4-3 going into the final period of

The Pipers extended their lead to two goals with just under eight minutes left in the game and skated to a 5-3 deci-

There were a lot of lessons to learn from today's game. It was an uphill battle after the start but we fought hard, and I'm very proud of the girls for their effort," Coach Carroll said.

Coming off the loss, the Gusties traveled north to Moorhead this past weekend to take on the Concordia Cobbers and put together a convincing 4-0 shutout.

The Gusties got going halfway through the first period as Press assisted McHugh to give Gustavus a 1-0 lead.

In the second period, Firstyear Alaina Halverson netted her second goal of the season



Gustavus Sports Information

A group of Gusties celebrate after scoring a goal against Hamline.

to extend the lead for the Black to extend the Gusties' lead once

Peterson and Holland added two more insurance goals for the Gusties in the third period to cap off the game.

In the second game of the series, the Gusties got started early in the first, as First-year Lindsey Bjerke scored just three minutes into the contest.

Halverson added a second unassisted goal for Gustavus with five minutes remaining in the opening period to give the Gusties a 2-0 lead.

The Cobbers were able to score their first goal of the series with six minutes into the second period to cut their deficit to one goal, but Press responded with eight seconds left in the period

Neither team scored in the final period, and the Gusties earned a 3-1 victory behind 15 saves from McCov.

"We got things to work early on and played a great first. We let them back in it in the second but had a great goal late in the period that allowed us to play differently in the third. Very proud of the effort today," Carroll said.

The Gusties are tied with Hamline atop the MIAC standings and sit at No. 5 in the national rankings.

They take on Saint Benedict on the road this Friday and then play again at 2 p.m. on Saturday in St. Peter.



First-year Heather Olinger prepares to pick out a pass to one of her teammates.