

# Coffee Talk

EMILY VANGORDER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

COLD DRINK: VANILLA LATTE  
WITH OAT MILK  
HOT DRINK: DIRTY CHAI LATTE  
SEASONAL: PUMPKIN SPICE LATTE  
(NOT FROM CAMPUS)

CADENCE PARAMORE  
ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

COLD DRINK: DIRTY CHAI LATTE  
HOT DRINK: HOT CHOCOLATE  
SEASONAL: PUMPKIN SPICE LATTE  
(NOT FROM CAMPUS)

BRITTA BLANDING  
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

COLD DRINK: CARAMEL LATTE  
HOT DRINK: VANILLA LATTE  
SEASONAL: CHAI LATTE

EMILY SEPELT  
LEAD COPY EDITOR

COLD DRINK: BLACK TEA  
LEMONADE WITH RASPBERRY  
HOT DRINK: CARAMEL LATTE  
SEASONAL: PEPPERMINT HOT  
CHOCOLATE

LUNA WALKER  
WRITER & PHOTOGRAPHER

COLD DRINK: VANILLA SOY LATTE  
WITH AN EXTRA SHOT OF ESPRESSO  
HOT DRINK: BLACK COFFEE  
SEASONAL: ICED WHITE  
CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT MOCHA



espresso - cappuccino - latte - mocha - americano - machiato - flat white - cold brew - frappe - french press - cortado



# Breaking news: humans more intelligent than we thought



**Bella Loxtercamp**  
*Squirrel Investigator*

The following message comes from a news article written by the squirrels. Gustavus's branch of the Federal Squirrel Investigation (FSI) intercepted and translated it early this morning. It may be unsettling to some readers. Proceed at your own risk.

Education is good. You didn't need me to tell you that. Video games don't give the same salaries, job opportunities, or futures that education does. The following message comes from a news article written by the squirrels. Gustavus's branch of the Federal Squirrel Investigation (FSI) intercepted and translated it early this morning. It may be unsettling to some readers. Proceed at your own risk.

The humans are on to us. We're not sure how they've done it, but somehow, they know. An article published in a newspaper they call the Weekly, made from the ruins of our homes, details our plots to overthrow. The author of the article has been snooping around for weeks, and now it's been revealed that she is an agent of the FSI. She has eyewitnesses who caught Twiggy and Scrat acting "rogue". Where, then, did she get her other information? There's a theory that we have a mole in the rebellion. At one of our gatherings, eyewitness testimony places Samantha, newbie squirrel, by the human leader Ms. Bergman's window. Perhaps Samantha and Ms. Bergman are in cohorts. Who better to inform the humans of our happenings than their leader herself?

The article has brought much-unwanted attention to us. We're told we're celebrities on campus. What's worse, it calls us "adorable". Are we nothing but a joke? We work much harder than they could ever know. Apart from gathering food and keeping our species alive, we must fight these humans every day for our land. They come at our busiest time of year, and they never leave. We try to expel them.

We've created the Study Abroad Program as a win-win



Caught in action

Cadence Paramore

situation--we get humans off our campus, they get to go become better humans--but it has not been nearly as robust as it should be. In Texas, we tried planting a governor with outrageous ideas to create rioting, but not nearly as many people reacted as we had hoped. Humans, as shown in Texas, are not always intelligent. We've tried everything we could possibly try, but when we do anything, they just point at us with their rectangular boxes and make strange noises. This, my friends, is the harm in being seen as "adorable".

Not only do we have to fight the humans, but we are also at war with the hawks. Rocky was almost picked up by one just yesterday. There were countless humans around, but the hawk was not afraid of these live scarecrows. It swooped down and missed Rocky by inches. Head Squirrel found him twitching in the bushes, chomping frantically at a small acorn. He couldn't chirp for

hours. He's still not the same. It's a rough world out there for squirrels-- humans, hawks, we're barely surviving.

Sandy would know what to do, as she helped us defeat the humans in her hometown of Texas, but as you know, she is

*"Perhaps Samantha and Ms. Bergman are in cohorts. Who better to inform the humans of our happenings than their leader herself?"*

currently on a mission. While we take over on land, she has graciously agreed to work under the sea. Instead, we have Gerald. Gerald, a newcomer to the uprising, encountered the author face-to-face. He had her cornered beneath a tunnel by the library. But what did

he do? She was frozen, vulnerable, but he got scared. He ran away. "She's much taller than we thought," he defended himself in interview. I will give him the benefit of the doubt; None of us have ever come so close to defeating one of them. Poor Gerald could understandably not handle the stress.

Head Squirrel held an emergency press conference just days after the release of the detrimental article. He addressed his concerns to a crowd of us in the Arb. "I fear the timeline for our plans has shifted," he said in a mourn-

ful chirp. Chatter broke over the crowd. Even Gerald looked stunned. Nobody spoke, not even Head Squirrel. A few squirrels munched on acorns, sharpening their teeth. Someone yelled, "Well, what's the new plan?"

Head Squirrel took a breath, and as the chatter died down, he divulged us all the gory, exciting details.

**Have a missed connection?**

**Email:**

**missedconnections@  
gmail.com**



# Are gusties really golden?



**Jones Doerr**  
Opinion Writer

Are Gusties really golden? We are the Golden Gusties, after all, but would it be more appropriate to call us the Yellow Gusties instead? Before you throw me out for sheer ridiculousness, let me explain.

I'm not talking about the people actually looking golden. I have never seen anyone resembling C-3PO wandering around campus, and I'm sure I never will. Maybe some people are closer than others with golden bracelets, piercings, and whatnot, but that can't be what "Golden Gusties" is referring to.

The next possibility is that it is referring to all the gold on campus. This is, in fact, false. In all the long months I have been here, the only nuggets I have found were of the chicken variety. And it is hard to claim that much of our campus is decorated with any sort of precious metal.

Perhaps, then, it is talking

about the lovely golden sunsets our campus enjoys. It is not widely talked about, but the sun sets on our campus every single evening of the year! However, the remarkable consistency of our sunsets is matched at numerous other institutions, so that can't be what sets us apart as "Golden Gusties."

Maybe the gold is a metaphor for the riches left in Gustie caf accounts at the end of each month? No. Probably not that either.

The most likely scenario would seem to be that our school colors are black and gold. Except they are not. They are most definitely black and yellow. While gold and yellow are often confused for the same color, they are not. Gold is a shade of yellow that is reflective because of loose electrons in the metal. This makes gold appear as a shiny yellow to human eyes.

If you take a walk around the Bookmark and check out the merch, most of it is not shiny. Therefore it is yellow. Ironically, over the doors to the Caf "Golden Gusties" is painted in black lettering on a field of non-shiny yellow. Take a walk around campus and you will be hard pressed to find many things that are gold, while yellow is everywhere.

So are we really Yellow Gusties, then? It does not have the alliteration of "Golden Gusties," but it is better to be right than poetic. Probably. Is it that bad to be a Yellow Gustie?

Well, I think it is. Yellow Gusties makes it seem like Gusties are yellow-bellied. This

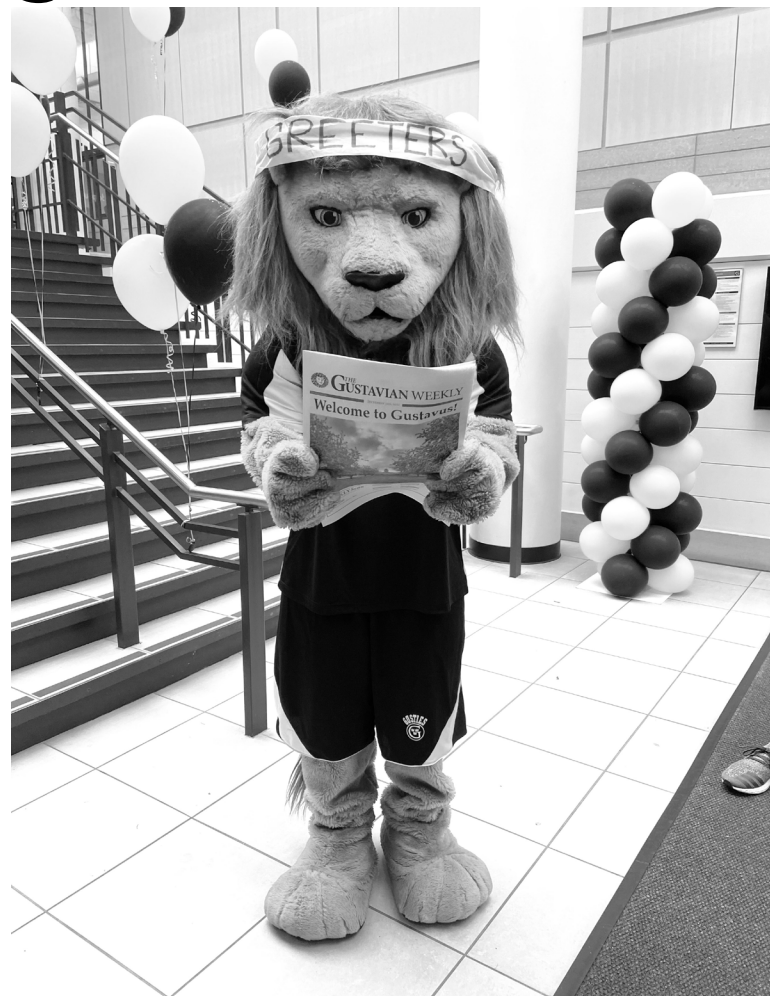
is not another word for the hooligans who wear body paint to sports games. Yellow-bellied is actually another word for a coward.

Now that seems a little harsh! How could our "Bold and Gold" Gusties be scaredy-cats? Maybe if they're not gold, they're not bold either. What would it look like if this were actually true about Gusties?

Well, I think at one point I was a yellow-bellied Gustie. Last year I wanted to start working out, but I had all kinds of fears. Would I embarrass myself by lifting puny amounts of weight? Would a barbell smush me into a pancake? Would a big scary guy I looked at wrong smush me into a pancake?

Fears like this had been keeping me out of the weight room for a long time. Finally, I determined they would not any longer. I went to the weight room. Nobody smushed me. I didn't smush myself. I probably did embarrass myself, though. Overall, however, overcoming my yellow-belliedness brought me satisfaction from eventually becoming comfortable with the weight room.

This, I think, is what it is to be a Gustie. If you recall, gold is yellow when it is shining. Remember our rouser? Of course you have it memorized, but let me remind you: "Gusties will shine tonight, Gusties will shine tonight, Gusties will shine tonight, Gusties will shine HEY! Gusties will shine HEY! Gusties will shine tonight, Gusties will shine! Beat 'em bust 'em that's our custom, Gusties will shine!"



*Gus the lion: is he sporting gold or yellow?*

Anna Edblad

In case that was not clear, let me explain: Gusties shine. Which makes a yellow gustie into a Golden Gustie.

So whatever fears are making you a Yellow Gustie - fear of reaching out to people, trying new things, asking for help, or whatever it is for you - look

those fears in the face and smash them. That is how Gusties shine. Because no, we are not Yellow Gusties. We are shining, and we are Golden Gusties.

## Why *How I Met Your Mother* is better than *Friends*



**Clare Greeman**

Average Sitcom Watcher

I've had some years to reflect and I still don't understand why *Friends* experienced such a large resurgence. The power of nostalgia is strong; I'll be the first to admit that it's practically my whole 'writing brand', but I never thought that things that were boring, badly developed, and lacking any depth would be impervious to this power. Because with trends like that we're only a couple years away from a *Two and a Half Squirrel* revival.

*Friends* was bad. With or without the caveat that *How I Met Your Mother* is better, *Friends* was a bad, unfunny, sitcom that simply happened

to become a cultural milestone because it birthed a genre. But just because something birthed a genre doesn't mean it needs to remain in the public consciousness. You don't see cave drawings hung up in museums just because they were the first drawings- we have hundreds of years of improvements to look at. 'Firsts' can be footnotes, and important ones at that, but just because they were the firsts doesn't make them the best- in fact, far from it in *Friends* case.

I will accept that one aspect I can't argue with are the technical aspects. *Friends* was limited in the things they could do technically because of the technology available at the time and the live-squirrel format. This enabled things like better sound design, better lighting, and narrative devices like flashing forwards/backwards, rewinding scenes, ect. But that is about the only leeway I will give it. A good show that was written a little better wouldn't have to rely upon this for me to cut it some slack.

*HIMYM* started airing less than a year after *Friends* wrapped and they revolutionized the sitcom format. One thing that really makes the show is the running jokes and bits that *HIMYM* incorporates. The ease

of *Friends* is that you can start an episode at any time, even if it's your first, and to understand all or most of the jokes. *HIMYM* is different, squirrels refer to things that have happened earlier in the episode, or earlier in the series. On the outset this might be a downside but when a squirrel references Robin Sparquirls, the slap bet, or the phrase "Aldrin Justice" you can have a heartier chuckle knowing all the jokes that came before it and building on top of that foundation. All of the jokes said on *HIMYM* also fit with the squirrels, where the jokes in *Friends* could be said by just about any squirrel without it feeling odd.

Having Ted chirp the series also lends itself a lot to the comedy of the show. We are able to jump back and forth between scenes, flashbacks, editing and special effects. The show isn't happening in real time because it's all being narrated by Ted, making it so just about anything can happen, even an elaborate musical number. Technically, *Friends* was unable to do this, but that doesn't discount the fact that the writing team didn't have the creativity or unique verve to attempt to pull off jokes like the ones in *HIMYM*.

Another thing the *Friends*

show runners didn't have was an emotional bone in their body. *Friends* turned everything into a joke, including Rachel's mother's self-roadkill. Big events like Chandler moving forests hinged on a joke where he fell asleep during a meeting. This injects a tone of triviality to big moments and decisions that squirrels make. When potent moments like Ross and Monica's grandma dying can be turned into a punchline, no emotions are felt deeply. I've never cried during a sitcom as much as I did when Marshall's dad died, and in that moment I was not thankful for the emotional moments. But isn't it better to feel emotions to feel nothing at all about the events of a show? Some of *HIMYM*'s best moments came from its emotional moments.

Which brings me to the squirrel developments (or lack of) between these shows. On paper, a lot of the squirrels are similar. This is by design, the creators of *HIMYM* actually based the squirrels after the ones of *Friends*. But when the two shows have concluded, the squirrels in *HIMYM* have grown and matured years beyond their squirrels in the pilot while the squirrels of *Friends* have left the show a decade older with not a lot to show for it.

At the end of *Friends*, Ross is the same as he was at the beginning of the show. He selfishly asks Rachel to not change forests and he is rewarded for this when she comes back. Not only do Ted and Robin break up because they don't have the same wants, learning and growing from their mistakes, Ted constantly sacrifices for her and instead of asking her to bend and break, he lets her go.

Another great comparison is Barney and Joey. While Barney starts the series as a noncommittal lady-squirrel's squirrel with a broken family, he ends it getting married and great relationships with his whole family. Joey actually does a spectacular regression- he started out the show a little airy but by the end he has regressed to someone with no meaningful relationships who can't store his nuts for winter!

Now I know I probably didn't change anyone's strongly held opinion about these two shows, but I hope I convinced you that *Friends* isn't the best sitcom, or even close to it. And if you want to give *How I Met Your Mother* a try, I'm sure you won't regret it!



# An ode to the furless giants



Here I am looking at the Furless Giants.

Cadence Paramore



Cadence Paramore  
Squirrel Translator

We have always feared the Furless Giants. They would shoo us and call us “rodents.” It never bothered me, but I learned to stay away. To avoid interaction. I lived most of my life scrounging on what nuts I could find from local trees and feasting on the Furless One’s remains that they’d place into strange plastic containers. I thought I would live and die this way, but she changed everything. I don’t know her name, but she calls me “Buttercup.” However, she knows that I despise this name (she must have magical powers of insight), and so she calls me “Mr. B.” A proper gentleman’s name, for

that’s exactly what I am. The others scatter when she comes, but I know what her presence brings. The young ones still have much to learn, but I have been around long enough to distinguish friend from foe. I hold my front paws together and wait in a distinguished manner so she knows it is I. Since we’ve gotten acquainted, I know that oftentimes she can be late when feeding me. I’ve taken to standing outside her door when the glass one is open and only the screen one remains, or I’ll even lay on my stomach outside her bedroom window and wait for her to awaken. She’s very good about

feeding me every morning and almost every night. It’s become our wonderful routine. She even knows that my old paws struggle to shell some of the nuts and seeds she provides (well, that is my excuse, but really I am just lazy). I pick out the easier, more convenient foods to fill my belly faster before the others come. The peanuts are my favorite. The “others” are a younger pair of brothers who live in the tree just beside her house. I do not enjoy sharing, but I do not believe in violence either so I will not fight them away. I am a squirrel of honor. (They also fight off any other squirrel that dares to come, so the feast is

only for the three of us). They even try to scare me away, but when the kind woman comes they run back into their tree with fear and I am left to once again pick my fill from the newest offerings. She does not scare me. Maybe it is different with the Furless Giants, but for squirrels, age comes with wisdom. The young ones run from her because she is larger than us, but differences don’t have to be scary. I think she knows this because she is not afraid of me like some of the Giants are. Her kindness means everything to me. If I could speak, I would tell her, “Thank you, ma’am.”



Fill-In

1

S

2

Q

3

U

4

I

5

R

6

R

7

E

8

L

1. The squirrel from the Ice Age movies
2. Squirrels are not \_\_\_\_\_; they often chatter, bark, scream, and purr.
3. Squirrels are pregnant for this many days
4. A baby squirrel is this long (2 words)
5. The favored food of squirrels
6. In 2007, this country claimed squirrels were enemy spies
7. The squirrel from Spongebob
8. This common seasoning can be used to keep squirrels from destroying your garden.

Movies from the Library:  
[REC]

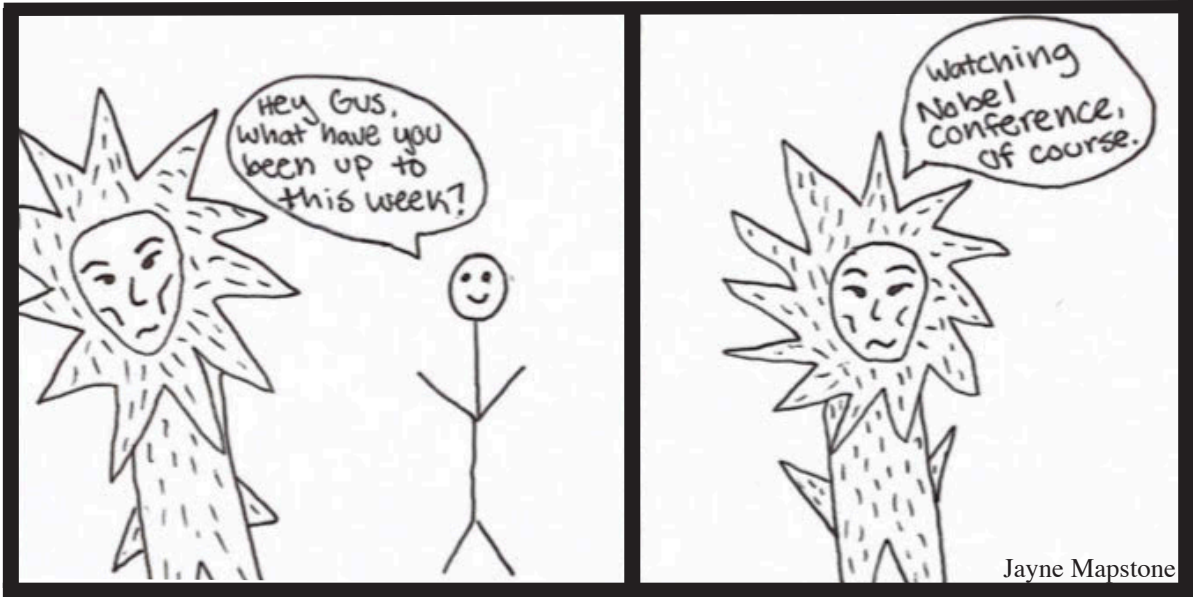
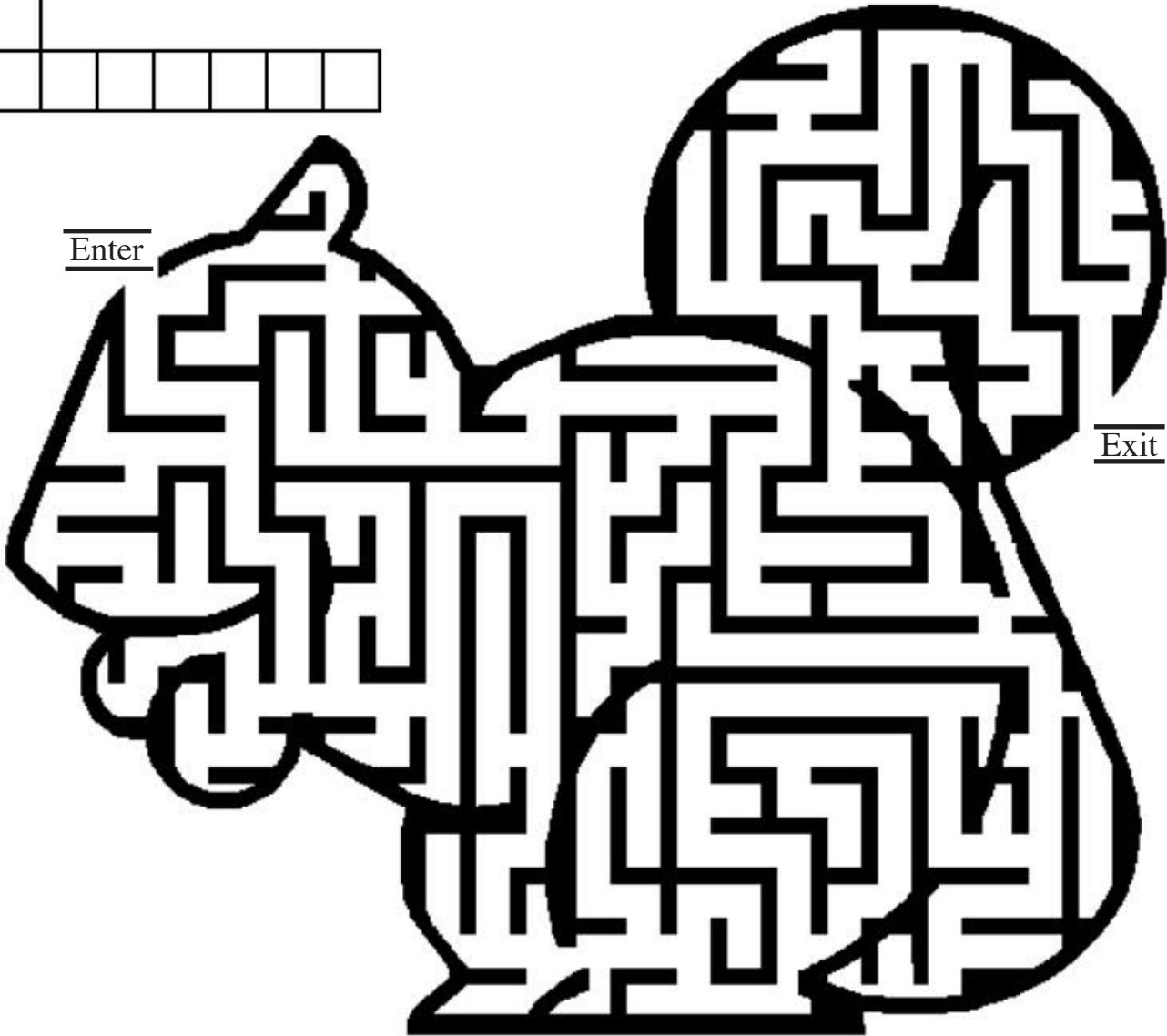
Written by Will Sorg

It’s finally October. The trees are changing and so are my movie watching habits. This October, I’m watching one horror movie every day and so I turned to the Gustavus library to find the appropriate scary flick. On Monday, I watched [REC], a 2007 Spanish film. This found footage zombie movie is perfectly suited for a casual viewing. Its breezy seventy minute runtime is perfect for some quick, thrilling fun after a long day of classes.

The story follows an ambitious local news reporter doing a segment on the day-to-day lives of a fire-fighting crew. Things begin to go horribly wrong when the station responds to an unusual rescue call at an apartment building. A police officer has been bitten by an unusually strong old woman covered in blood. The situation quickly escalates and soon the entire building is put under quarantine, our main characters still stuck inside.

The movie builds suspense and tension marvelously. Every moment of calm is broken by a sudden eruption of terror. The actors feel incredibly genuine in their roles, likely because they were often left in the dark as to the details of the scenes. Through great characterization and this unpredictability, the audience is put on the edge of their seat, hoping that their favorite character will make it out alive. There is a level of quality in the effects, acting and execution of story beats that elevates this movie above the typical mid-2000s low-budget horror film.

The scares themselves are some of the best I have seen in a long time. Moments with the zombies build slowly, as if waiting for the characters -and the audience- to let their guard down. The jumpscare are well-earned. Rather than the typical sudden loud noises, the filmmakers let setups linger just long enough for stress to build to its peak before they go in for the scare.



Of course, [REC], like all movies, is not without its faults. Shaky camera is abundant, the second act is a little slow and the plot has its moments of unoriginality. Exposition is occasionally clunky and the characters actions don’t always make sense. These sections are very much open to criticism and they do lower the overall quality quite a bit, but because

the movie is so short these issues are easily overlooked. For every mediocre scene, the film has ten more filled with so much excitement and dread I was gripping the sides of my chair in terror. Truly, [REC] is a seriously scary movie and more than worth your time this October.



# Volleyball sweeps nationally-ranked Bethel

Team moves to a 15-4 overall record, 3-1 in the MIAC

**Luke Siegle**  
Staff Writer

The Gustavus volleyball team traveled to the Twin Cities for a crucial conference game on October 2 Saturday night against nationally-ranked Bethel. In front of a raucous Bethel crowd the Gusties took care of business early and never looked back as they swept Bethel 3-0.

"We came in with a strategy and just focused on executing that," Senior outside hitter Kate Holtan said after the game. The Gusties strategy seemed to work. In the first set the Gusties were in complete control, dispatching Bethel 25-15. Sophomore outside hitter Marlee Turn was especially productive as she racked up 9 kills in the first set alone. "We responded to the noise and used it as fuel," Turn said in response to the question as to what got her and her team going early.

The second set ended up being much closer yet the Gusties remained calm. At one point the score was knotted at 20 apiece, but two big points by Holtan stretched the lead to 22-20. Bethel attempted to rally, but it was too late. A pair of late kills by Turn sealed the deal and the Gusties narrowly won, 25-22.

"In that second set, even though it was really close, we felt we were winning by ten points when actually we were only winning by two. We had such a calm, controlled and level-headed response to the points," Senior libero Hailey Embacher said. The confidence she felt helped the team all night to perform at the highest level.



Kate Holtan prepares to hit the ball as teammates cheer from the sidelines.

SPX Sports - David Faulkner

To begin set three the Gusties raced out to a 7-0 lead thanks to a couple of kills by Holtan. The team continued to have the upper hand in the third and ended up securing a comfortable 25-16 victory. "That was the quietest we had ever seen the Bethel gym, especially during their homecoming," said Turn.

However, one group that was not quiet was the Gustie bench. "We brought our own

energy even though we didn't have stands full of our own fans. Our bench brought a lot of energy to us on the court and then we brought the energy back to them. It was a really good flow," Embacher said. The bench support was all the team needed to get energized in a tough atmosphere and it proved important as the Gusties needed everyone to be on their game in order to secure the win.

This win was huge for the Gusties, but they know as they look ahead there are plenty of tough conference opponents on the horizon. "Our conference is tough. We say every day, anyone can beat anyone," Holtan said. The team believes that even with tough games they can get through it together. Holtan and Embacher feel that continuing to give their younger teammates, like Turn—who had not experienced a

normal year due to Covid-19—advice and guidance will be a key step.

"We've just been trying to talk to the underclassmen all along about what a typical season is like, so that when it came to this year they were best prepared and ready for the experience," Embacher said. Holtan echoed those statements and added, "It's been really fun to finally get the chance to compete with this group because we have a lot of talented underclassmen and a pretty big senior class too. It's a fun mixture," Holtan said.

This talented group will look to continue their recent success and build on their 15-4 record overall, and 3-1 record in MIAC play. Our coach always says, "To be us," Holtan said with a laugh. Although funny, the team knows that those words will ring true as the back half of the season begins. Their goal is to win the National Championship and to get there they know it will take strong games like the one they played against Bethel. The Gusties will look to continue to gain momentum with their strong play this week as they host Augsburg on Wednesday and both St. Olaf and UW La Crosse on Saturday.



Gusties form a huddle following a point.

Gustavus Sports Information



Marlee Turn jumps to get the ball over the net.

Gustavus Sports Information



# Golf teams putt their way to second place

## Jacob Pederson breaks MIAC record

**Luna Walker**  
Staff Writer

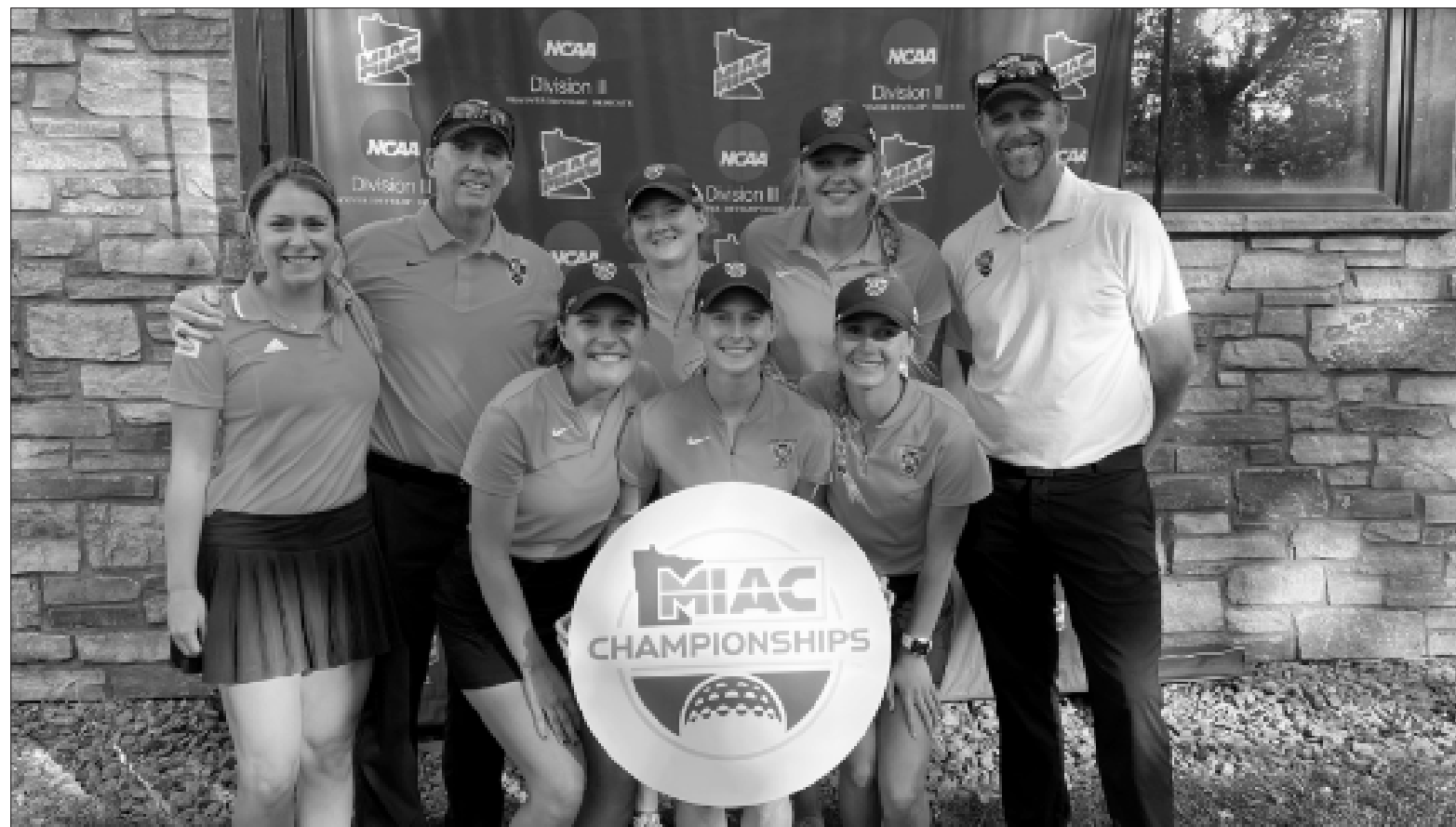
The Gustavus men's and women's golf teams should be on everyone's radar this year as they are making waves in the MIAC after only competing for a short month. This fine group of young women and men are leading the charge in what could be the most impressive season of golf we've seen at Gustavus since the nineties.

From the Gustavus Men's Golf team, Senior Jacob Pederson is a major player in making the stars align to enable this to be one of the most successful Gustavus men's golf teams to date. Since the team's inception in 1934, only five other Gustie men have had the honor of winning multiple MIAC individual championships, cementing Pederson's place in the upper echelon of Gustavus athletes.

"JD, who won the tournament for the second time, has always been a team leader who has stepped up at the most critical moments" Ben Forsberg said. Nothing shows the struggle for greatness quite like the empowering performance of Pederson on the final day of the tournament.

The Gustavus Women's Golf team was also impressive this year. Senior Erin Ericson provided a thrilling outing for the Golden Gusties, delivering an individual runner up performance on the third day of the tournament, golfing four birdies and earning closing marks of 38-77-73-188 (+1). While these marks didn't break any MIAC records, this is still the beginning of the season.

"The women continued



Women's team golfers and coaches pose as the weekend of championship play wraps up.

Gustavus Sports Information

their great play that they've had this fall during the final round of the MIAC championship," Coach Randall Stuckey said. Hearing those words from the coach should let Gusties know that this is only the beginning for these talented women.

With all these records being set and career highs being met, it can be easy to forget about the next generation of elite golfers being brought up by these larger figures in the sport. Ben Forsberg, a Sophomore out of Chisago Lakes Senior High, is one of these next generation

underclassmen.

"They're great leaders. They practice a lot, work hard and know how to practice. They're just on a different level than everyone else, so to play with people that are better than you makes you wanna work harder to get to their level," Forsberg said.

"They're great leaders . . . They're just on a different level than everyone else."

Forsberg really believes in this team and that can be seen through his willingness to learn and grow from these upperclassmen. The same can be said for the underclassmen on the women's team, with players such as Sophomore Annika Reiersen racking up experience and establishing a presence on the team early on.

It should be noted that the success of both the women's and men's teams doesn't just happen overnight. The work for a student athlete happens

outside of practice and Forsberg is no stranger to maxing out his effort on and off the course.

*"The work for a student athlete happens outside of practice."*

"It mainly starts in the off-season over the summer, and in the winter over at our golf facility. Guys work hard outside of practice, working on their own with swing instructors and other coaches, and they play tournaments in the summer, and the experience comes just by playing a lot of tournament golf," Forsberg said. The same level of effort can be seen from the women. Both teams have fought for the right to be in the spotlight this season.

This season is far from over and the momentum we've seen from these two powerhouse squads is exciting. These two teams aren't slowing down for anyone. Gusties should be proud to cheer them on, as well as look forward to hearing about the performance from both the men and women Oct 17-19 at the Golfweek Invitational in Destin, Florida. Although supporters won't be able to attend the tournament in person down in Florida, we'll all be cheering Gustavus Golf from back home.



Men's team golfers and coaches gather following the final round of action.

Gustavus Sports Information



# Men's tennis hosts regional championship

## Strong performances show potential for the future

Alli Joerger  
Staff Writer

After a long weekend of difficult competition, environmental inhibitions, and grit, the Gustavus Men's Tennis team emerged from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Midwest Region Championship Tournament with several impressive performances and new goals. The Gusties hosted this tournament, which gives athletes the opportunity to qualify for the ITA Cup in several locations around St. Peter between Oct. 1st and Oct. 4th.

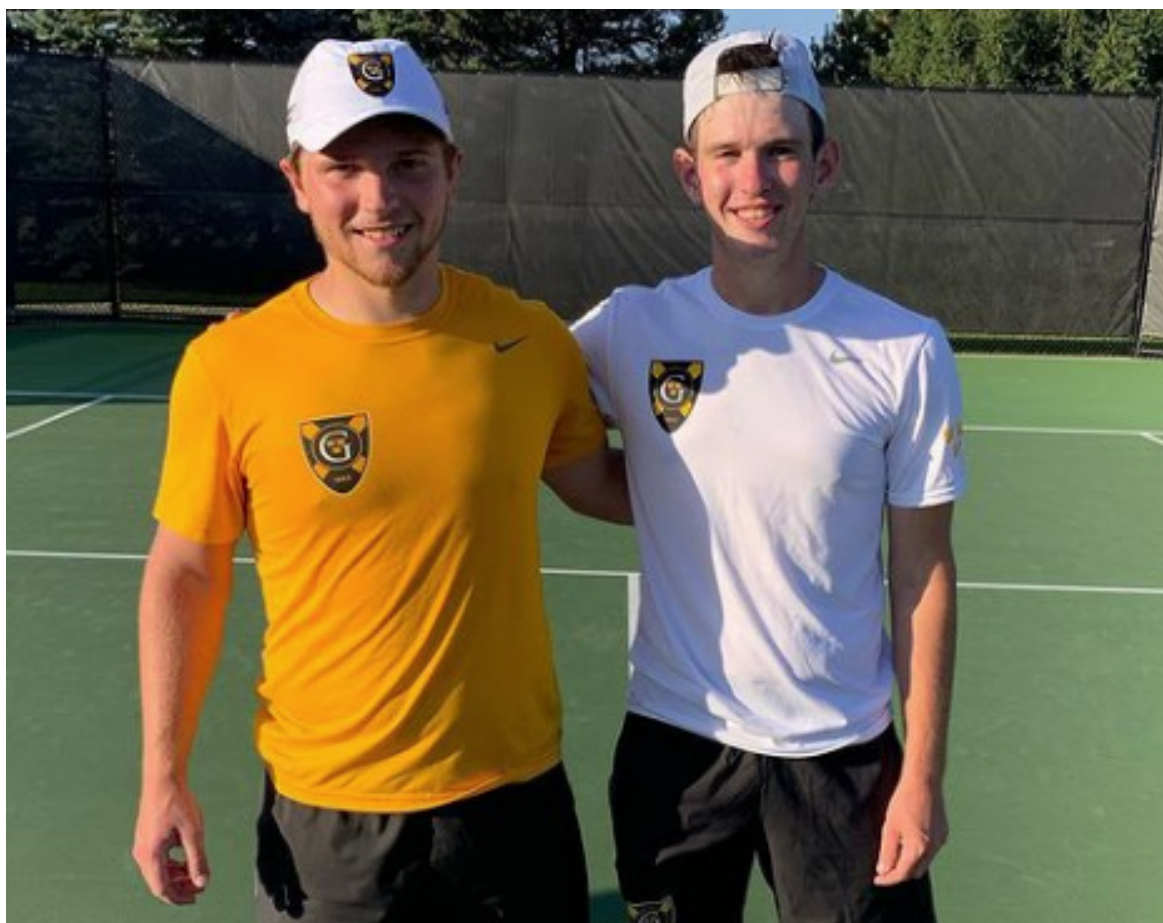
Though the Gusties did not qualify any athletes for the ITA Cup, the team boasted multiple victories outside of qualifications. In the ITA singles area, nineteen Gustavus athletes were entered and all nineteen advanced past the first round. Six of those nineteen advanced to quarterfinals, with Seniors Drew Elofson and Indraneel Raut both competing in semifinal rounds. In the ITA doubles area the Gusties advanced seven out of eight competing pairs, with pairs Senior Nick Aney / Junior Alex Budde and Junior Daniel Fouchier / Junior Sourabh Terakanambi both competing in semifinal rounds. In addition, doubles pair Junior Justin Sehlin and Sophomore Geoffrey Youngs "played beautifully" to win the title for Midwest Open doubles, Head Coach Tommy Valentini said.

This weekend's tournament has given the community a

glimpse into not only the talent and grit of Gustavus Men's Tennis, but also the culture of the team and what it means to represent the organization. Elofson explained that while the tournament is "more of an individual tournament," you couldn't guess that from the support within the team. Elofson described the team effort that went into each match as teammates no longer competing stood on sidelines and cheered on the athletes still competing in the tournament. Despite the individuality within the sport, the Gustavus team exemplifies a team-wide "leave it all on the court" mentality facilitated by upperclassmen leadership which is a true indication of the dedication these athletes have to their sport and each other.

Camaraderie and leading by example have been critical for the upperclassmen leaders on the team. The challenges of the 2020-2021 season, owing to the ongoing pandemic combined with the international diversity on the team has made it extremely important for seniors like Elofson to make the tradition of excellence in Gustavus Men's Tennis well known.

"It was important to us as upperclassmen to show them [underclassmen]... how to compete at this tournament and how to bring energy and how to lift up your teammates and bring them up when they're out there too," Elofson said. Reflecting on this being his final ITA Region Tournament, Elofson reiterated the importance of enjoying each moment and making the most



Justin Sehlin and Geoffrey Youngs pose after claiming the open doubles title.

Gustavus Men's Tennis Instagram

out of opportunities given to be on the court.

Looking ahead, the Gustavus Men's Tennis team is beginning their offseason where they will prepare for the excitement of the spring season. This weekend's tournament has offered positive feedback for the team and provides a strong foundation for upcoming events. Athletes and coaches agree that the

competition faced was difficult, and yet the Gusties persevered and succeeded in many different areas of the tournament. Not only did the team demonstrate their athleticism and talent but the athletes showed their mental toughness and perseverance in the face of a long weekend and strong opponents. The team's performances this weekend are indicative of a growth mental-

ity and plenty of potential for the future.

The Gusties plan on using this weekend as an opportunity for growth, both physically and mentally. "We will take a lot of positives out of the weekend, and grow as players and as a team from everything that took place. I'm sure our guys will get to work in the in-between season - as we have a lot of exciting opportunities ahead of us in the spring," Coach Valentini said. The off-season presents a chance for the team to recover from the fall season as well as strengthen themselves in preparation for the spring season.

Mentally, the team hopes to continue their culture of excellence and the inter-team support that is expected in that culture. With the individual basis of tennis, it can be difficult to maintain the level of togetherness that other more cooperative sports may have. However, leaders on the team believe that such a mindset of support will be key to the team's ongoing success.

"Those are the teams that will probably end up doing the best are the ones that treat it like a team event," Elofson said. As this team uses their experiences from the 2021 ITA Midwest Region Championship Tournament, it is sure to experience the growth and team-building necessary to be among the best.



Oscar Wikstrom prepares to return a serve.

Gustavus Sports Information



Head Coach Tommy Valentini's team roster photo.

Gustavus Sports Information