

**Disclaimer:** THE GHOULSTAVIAN SPOOKLY is a humor edition of THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY. We at THE WEEKLY appreciate good humor and there's nothing funnier than a ghoul, funny green little ghouls. If you don't like ghouls and ghoul themed jokes, please recycle this paper and rethink your sense of humor. And finally, as they say: *Read with Caution!*



# THE GHOULSTAVIAN SPOOKLY

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The president of this great college Bella Swan and her bestie Gus the Lion. Submitted

## WEEKLY Scan

A preview of this week's top news and more

### News

Best Halloween costumes ... **Page 2**

### Variety

Twilight is a horror film... **Page 3**

### Feature

Monsters University... **Page 4-5**

### Opinion

What makes a good slasher film... **Page 6**

### Entertainment

The Exorcist... **Page 7**

### Sports

Pumpkin Volleyball.. **Page 8**

## Night of the living... squirrels

### Yeah, we're making more squirrel jokes

**Carter Brown**  
Staff Writer

Beware, Ghouls, for on the night of Halloween, Oct. 31, something unearthly will come back to haunt us... It's none other than the Night of the Living Squirrels. For years on Halloween, it has been a common occurrence that the squirrels of Gustavus who have since passed come back as undead figures to roam the campus once more and wreak havoc. Be wary, Ghouls, these squirrels may appear just like

their alive counterparts, fluffy tails and all, but they're actually out to do one thing...steal your nuts. Pistachios, almonds, peanuts, they want it all. There is no shortage of greedy, undead squirrels.

Gus the Lion, who is not just our mascot but also our official leading undead squirrel expert, shares some advice and tips on how to stop a horde of fluffy, loveable, undead squirrels. Firstly, they sound different. Although the untrained ear may have a bit of difficulty finding this audible difference between an undead squirrel and a live

one, it will be attempted to be explained here for your safety. While a live squirrel sounds more "chatty" and like someone trying really hard to clear their throat but they are unable to, undead squirrels will sound more like an exasperated old man's sigh of disappointment. While this is a crude comparison, it might just be one that saves your life, and your nuts.

The second trick to spotting an undead squirrel is that they are a darker shade of gray. Rather than the usual shade of gray that squirrels are, they are much darker with a bluish tint,

much like what a chinchilla's fur would look like. This is due to the fact that the undead squirrel does not care about fur maintenance like their living counterparts do, so their hygienic practices are practically nonexistent. Now, your third and final trick to spotting an undead squirrel is that it will, of course, be dead. It will most likely smell like a rotting animal because it is. This is the biggest giveaway, so if you smell something is off, please run away.

These squirrels will stop at nothing to get your nuts. Remember that on Halloween

night, it is every person and squirrel for themselves. These bits of advice are not foolproof, however "It is better safe, than nutless." Gus the Lion said. If you are in need of shelter from these squirrels and are unable to make it to your dorm safely, our Safe Rides and Gus Bus programs are specially equipped for this event to help escort you to and from without fear on this night. And remember...Happy Halloween.

# Spookly survey: Best halloween costumes for COVID-19 superspreaders

Anna Edblad  
News Editor

Last week The Spookly sent out a survey to the ghoultavus students. Here are the top results and some minimal instructions on how to make your own costume at home:

1. Bio major: Just throw on some hiking gear and a comically large backpack. Seriously, why are they so big, what secrets do they carry in those things?

2. Male manipulator: Carhartt beanie and a collection of radiohead vinyls.

3. For our female manipulators out there, chunky black boots and just make sure everyone knows you listen to Phoebe Bridgers.

4. Gus the lion: Dress like my friend Cole. I hear from repeatable sources that he buys his clothes from the men's section at Kohls, so go crazy.

5. First-year: Lanyard and cafeteria trays normally do the trick.

6. Super-senior: Wear your student senate hoodie from 2017. No one has to know you got kicked out after too many visits to the Flame.

7. Coed resident: Just aggressively cling to your section mates and continuously bring up drama that no one understands.



8. Men's Hockey player: We hear you just have to be 26.

9. Weekly writers: washed out from the overheard lights in the Uhler basement and constantly telling everyone who will listen that your work for The Weekly and HATE The Fourth Cr\*\*n. Even if you're not an English major, you're as annoying as one.

Bonus: Couples costume, this pumpkin and my roommate's car.

## Official Spookly statement on the Ghost in Uhler:

We at *The Spookly* are extremely concerned about the ghost in Uhler. As absolutely none of our readers know, we are located in the basement of Uhler, meaning the ghost frequents our meetings. We are sick and tired of the ghost messing with our InDesign files and changing our name to *The Pooply*. We are asking, no, begging, Co-President Men Benke, to stop the ghost in Uhler. We have sent a representative to Student Senate on numerous occasions and still nothing has been done. Benke, this is your last chance to make changes, or consider yourself voted out of office. Recall Benke!

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# Ghoulstavus

## A Peek into Life at Ghoulstavus Monsters University



### EQUIP. ENERGIZE. ELEVATE.

“... The purpose of a Ghoulstavus education is to help its students attain their full potential as monsters, to develop in them a capacity and passion for lifelong learning, and to prepare them for fulfilling lives of leadership and service in society.” - **The Ghoulstavus Mission Statement**

“Ghoulstavus equips students to lead purposeful lives and to act on the great challenges of our time through an innovative liberal arts education of recognized excellence.” - **The Ghoulstavus Acts Vision Statement**

### The Students

The students here at Ghoulstavus are broken up into several areas of study: The Performing Arts Vampires; The Language Studies Cryptids; The STEM Studies Undead Zombies and of course the Health Exercise Science and Athletics Werewolves. Each group has their own set of quirks. The Vampires of the Arts are a friendly and rambunctious group but they startle easily and due to their nocturnal nature strongly oppose the idea of sunlight, especially any time in the A.M. The Vamps also always travel in their coven groups. They are divided into several large covens which are separated into sections. For example the Ghoulstavus Bands make up one coven, but you will often see them travel in their smaller sections of Trumpets, Tubas, Flutes, Horns, Saxophones, etc. The Language Studies Cryptids have a lot in common with the Vampires of the Arts but are much more solitary monsters. On campus you can see signs of them, like their published works and stories of the department run all throughout campus, but they are rarely ever spotted and some monsters on campus are convinced they aren't actually real. The STEM Undead Zombies can be seen meandering around campus as they continually switch from one class or study session to another. If you pay attention you may even spot a runner sprint to a late class or a sleeper seemingly dead on the nearest couch, chair, or even the floor. And of course you can't talk about campus without talking about the werewolves. Despite their aggressive appearance most are quite friendly. Much like the Vamps they also travel in groups, or in their case packs, such as football, soccer, volleyball, basketball or tennis. The students really make Ghoulstavus what it is, but we wouldn't be anything without our lovely Ghoul professors. Much like the ghosts of Harry Potter it's suspected that our Ghoul professors never truly leave campus but instead simply step behind the veil to the otherside when they're not in class.

# The very real, very scary reason I haven't been writing articles

**Tori Smith**

*Opinion Columnist*

Oh, wow. I've been told it's been almost a month since I've written an article for The Weekly. That's strange, I don't remember missing my deadlines.

And it's almost Halloween? I could have sworn the Nobel Conference was coming up. How could that be?

I'm not sure what happened. My memories are foggy. I don't remember this much time passing.

Let me go back to the last day I do remember. It was a Monday, October 4 to be exact, and everything was normal. I went to class and worked. I picked up some groceries on my way home, and cooked a mediocre pasta dinner for myself.

All of my roommates went back home that afternoon be-

cause of the Nobel Conference, so it was just me. I watched some Love Island on T.V., finished up a few assignments, and headed to bed.

Now that I'm writing it all down, however, I do remember something weird that happened. While I was working on my article for The Weekly, I heard some whimpering from the street outside my window. It sounded like a puppy crying for its mother.

Worried about a lost pup outside my apartment, I decided to go outside to look for him to bring him inside. It was a chilly night and I didn't want a little puppy to be outside all alone.

I ventured outside and looked around the yard for the little guy, but his whimpering had stopped. As I was searching, movement in the road caught my attention.

It was a big yellow lab walk-

ing down the dimly lit street. I recognized him as being the neighbor's dog, Dozier, from next-door. Maybe he was the one whimpering, I thought.

I'd never seen him outside his fenced yard before. Maybe someone accidentally left the gate open.

There was something off about him, though. He looked skinnier than usual, like he'd suddenly lost 20 lbs., and his legs looked funny. It was almost as if his hind legs were taller than the front which made him walk crooked and slow.

He noticed me watching, and he stopped. He stared right back at me, which made me nervous.

I see this dog almost every day on my way to classes, and whenever he sees anyone pass, he gets so excited to say hi I wonder if his tail is going to wag right off.

But that night, he just stared frozen in place in the middle of the street. His eyes glowed yellow, and I got the sense he wasn't feeling as friendly as usual.

Thinking something was seriously wrong, I slowly moved to approach him, hoping to bring him back to his house where his owners could look over him.

As I moved to approach, he opened up his mouth and started howling. His howl was different though. It sounded fake and unnatural, almost like a human trying to imitate the sound of a dog.

It's then that my memory gets a bit fuzzy. I don't know for certain what happened next. I think I went back inside, called the neighbors to let them know Dozier got out, and went to bed. Maybe I took a shower... but maybe I didn't. Maybe I locked the front door, but maybe I

didn't.

The next thing I know, it's the week of Halloween and I don't have any memory of the last month. I went back to look at the article I was writing that strange Monday night, but it's not on my computer. It doesn't exist.

I asked my friends if they'd noticed anything strange about me the past three weeks but they say I've been acting normal. I've been going to class, work, finishing assignments, but for some reason I haven't been writing any new articles.

Alma Jorgenson, the Opinion Editor for The Weekly, doesn't believe me. She thinks this is some sort of Halloween-themed excuse for me not wanting to write, but trust me, this story is absolutely true.

# My first "horror movie"

**Tegan Hirman**

*Opinion Columnist*

Anyone who knows me knows that I love horror movies. Other classics like Halloween and The Exorcist, children's Halloween movies like HalloweenTown, Twitches, and Monster House, even newer horror movies like The Invisible Man, Hush, and The Conjuring. I like all of these films, and each and every one of them holds a dear place in my heart. Especially Halloweentown. However, none of these were my first horror movies. In actuality, I have to admit that my first, let's call it scary movie, was when I was in kindergarten and I watched The Sandlot. Now, I know when you are thinking, it's not a scary or "horror" movie. Yes, I know and

I give you all permission to laugh at what is about to transpire.

In retrospect The Sandlot is not a scary movie, but back in kindergarten it most certainly was. Just thinking about it, I envisioned a big ferocious dog with a rabid glare, a breath that smells like rotting flesh, yellow teeth that could tear through flesh, and a thirst for young vulnerable children. Tell me you wouldn't be scared too. Well, that's not the point necessarily. At first, I watched the move in the comfort of my own living room with my mother who thought I would love the move considering I played softball since I could walk. She considered this to be lighthearted, perhaps easy for my stomach. At first, it was. I went out of bed that night with mostly clear thoughts. Perhaps

the image of the dog would appear now and then but nothing out of the ordinary. The next night, however, that's when the tides shifted.

A little bit of a backstory, at the time we owned three basset hounds. There was Matilda, Buford Wallis, and Cleatus T. They were so sweet, kind, and a bit slimy dogs. I loved them so much. But, that night, I could have lived without them. I remember it being a very dark, cold night, a perfect ambience to set the scene. It must have been late October, early November. I was getting ready for bed, brushing my teeth, combing my blonde curly hair, and eventually pulling back my covers to get into bed. My room was freezing due to the fact I was facing the back of the house with the least

amount of heat. I remember sitting on my bed, which faced the backyard window, and saw the colorful leaves that covered the icy, crunchy grass. A rainbow that laid upon the solid ground, the earth preparing to take another long rest. With a yawn, I blinked the tears from my eyes, and took a nice long deep breath. My left hand resting on my cheek, my elbows perched on the windows ledge, I traced a heart onto the window covered in moisture. All of a sudden, a huge, snarly dog jumped onto my window, barking it's head off, flashing it's brilliant white teeth. I fly backwards, landing on my bottom with a huge thud, crawling backwards in a motion that resembles a crab walk, all the while screaming my head off.

Thumbling for the door handle, hands too wet to grab hold, and all I could think about was the image of the dog from the Sandlot flying through mid air, swallowing a baseball whole, ripping the kids contraption into two, and now it was my turn for "the beast" to get me.

Long story short, it was Buford Wallis who jumped onto a landing that was right below my window. Though I had this knowledge and it did relieve some of my anxiety, I still made my mother smash the VCR Tape that held that wretched movie. That was my first glimpse into the horror genre, and at the time I hated it, but now I love it. I hope you all have a spooky Halloween.

# What makes a good slasher film?

**Marcjanna Taylor**

*Opinion Columnist*

Horror movies, once considered a low brow by critics of film, are now a Hollywood staple. The genre has grown over the years, amassing a large following. There are many sub genres of horror. The one I'll be focusing on is slasher. The first horror movie, what is now known as slasher, was Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho released in the 1960's. But what makes a good slasher film? Is it the sound direction, the filmography or the amount of special effects? Or is it how much gore, blood and nudity is in a film? I will be breaking down what makes a good slasher film. But in order to do so I am going to focus on four different movies from four different time periods so we can see the progression of slasher films. I'll examine what components of these movies made them successful and whether or not their success was deserved.

To understand the slasher

genre let's start with what's generally considered the first slasher: Psycho. When Alfred Hitchcock's masterpiece was released in theaters it shocked audiences, it was the first movie where the protagonist did not live till the end. And more importantly, the first time audiences witnessed a graphic death on screen. What Alfred Hitchcock had done no other director had thought to do which is why Psycho has become such a pop culture classic.

What makes Psycho such a great movie is the use of filmography.

The camera direction and or lighting is what really creates the atmosphere which is integral to making a good slasher film. So does that mean good filmography makes a good slasher? Yes and no. Focusing too heavily on filmography can distract from the horror of a slasher and a slasher doesn't necessarily have to have good camera direction to be considered a staple slasher film. For example, Texas Chainsaw Massacre doesn't have as

sophisticated film as direction however, is still considered a staple slasher film.

Speaking of Texas Chainsaw Massacre, what makes it a great slasher is not the technical aspect, but rather the theatrical aspect. The family of cannibal killers had given a great performance, but what really sold the performance for me was the props and costuming. There was the notable element of surprise, where the actors didn't see the leatherface costume until the day of filming. The use of an actual chainsaw had probably added to the overall performance of the actors, who were playing the victims of a crazed family.

In the cannibalist family's house there were meat hooks in the basement which a leather face had hung one of the victims on, there were bones all over the house, and there was also a cooler covered in blood in which one of the victims had jumped out of. These props had added to the overall atmosphere and had made the Texas Chainsaw

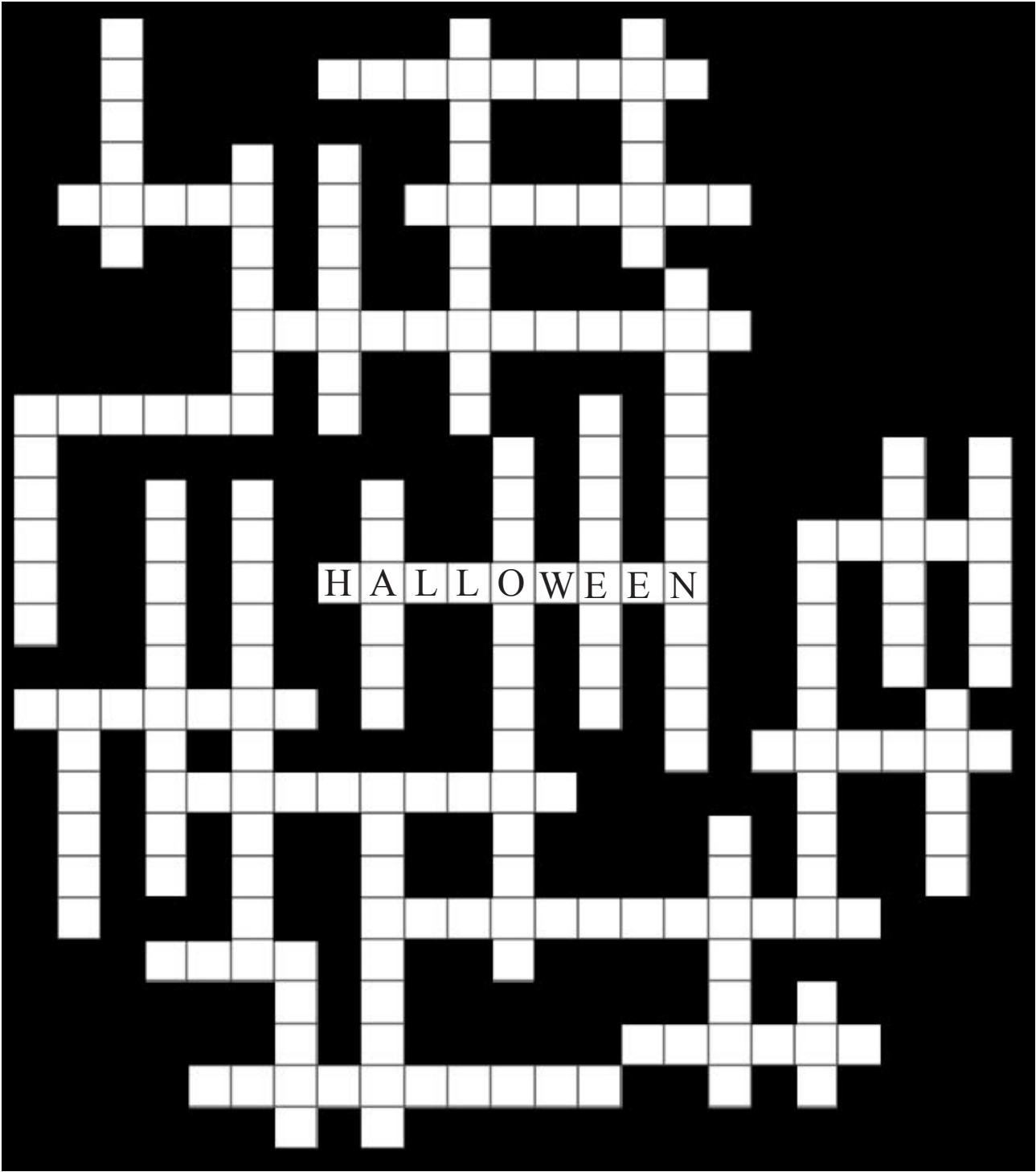
Massacre iconic. But how does Texas Chainsaw Massacre hold up against Psycho? While both have their faults I believe, Texas Chainsaw Massacre beats Psycho in the entertainment department. However, the technical aspect and or overall plot progression in Psycho's is far superior.

But how does Psycho or Texas Chainsaw Massacre measure up to the rest of our list? I believe that Halloween, and Scream are in some ways better than Psycho or Texas Chainsaw Massacre. Due to Both Scream and Halloween developing the genre of horror into one that was self aware and better yet focused more on the characters rather than the horror itself. Both Psycho and Texas Chainsaw Massacre fell short on developing their characters since the Texas Chainsaw Massacre created the concept of the 'final girl', Halloween developed the trope by making the 'final girl' a babysitter, which would change the Horror genre for decades to come.

The character arc of the baby-

sitter in Halloween as well as the overall direction solidified it as a classic. The famous twist ending for Scream, with there being two killers instead of the classic one, solidified Scream a spot in pop culture horror. But between the two which is better? I believe Scream due to its self awareness. The killers of Scream use horror movies as a sort of calling card. The creative direction of Scream makes it better than Halloween. But how does Scream compare to Texas Chainsaw Massacre and Psycho? Scream wouldn't have the self awareness and or overall creative direction without the likes of Psycho and such.

So what makes a slasher good? In my opinion it's up to you the viewer to decide. Yes, I know its a lame conclusion, but as the old saying goes beauty is in the eyes of the beholder.



Clueless

Fill in the crossword, not with clues, but with the provided words. We've filled in one to get you started.

- AUTUMN

COBWEB

FRANKENSTEIN

GRAVESTONE

HAUNT

HEX

HORROR

MASQUERADE

OCTOBER

PHANTOM

SCARECROW

SEANCE

SKELETON

SPIDER

SQUASH

VAMPIRE

WING

ZOMBIE
- BLOODCURDLING

ENCHANTED

GHOST

HALLOWEEN

HAUNTED HOUSE

HOCUS POCUS

JACK-O-LANTERN

MOONLIT

PARANORMAL

POSSESSION

SCREAM

SHADOW

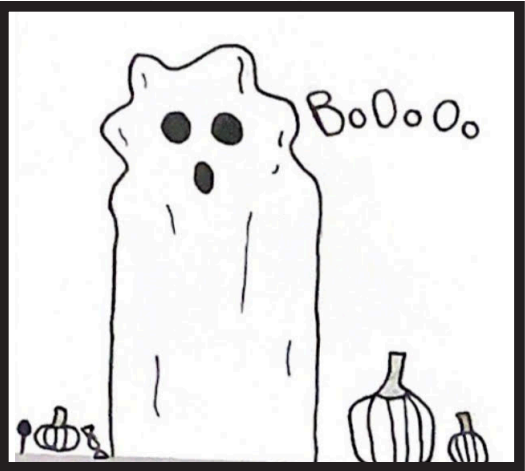
SKULL

SPOOKY

TRICK-OR-TREAT

WEREWOLF

WITCH



Jayne Mapstone

Movies From The Library: *The Exorcist*

By Will Sorg

In 1973, William Friedkin’s film adaptation of *The Exorcist* was released onto audiences all over the world. With it’s modest \$11,000,000 budget, it grossed \$441,306,145 worldwide, and adjusting for inflation it is the most successful rated R movie ever made. Audiences were completely captivated by the horrific story of a young girl being possessed by a demonic spirit. It faced huge criticism at the time for its shocking subject matter yet that seemed to only cause even more buzz about the film. It was by all accounts, a horror phenomenon.

Its legacy is not only marked by its popularity but also from the idea that the production itself was in some way cursed. A plethora of production issues happened. During one scene, actress Ellen Burstyn suffered a back injury while doing a stunt and her scream of pain was kept in the movie due to its raw horror. Several cast and crew members had relatives pass away during production and actor Jack Macgowran tragically died of influenza a year before the film’s release. Perhaps the most infamous event that took place was a fire that burned down an entire house they were shooting in, except for the room where the exorcism scene took place.

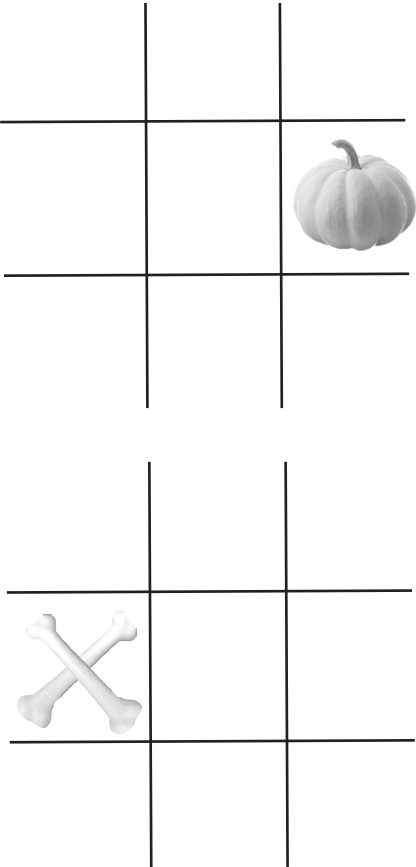
The issues and reputation of this movie boosts the already tense atmosphere that is created in the film. It is methodical yet perfectly paced descent into a sinister conflict. In the film, we see the recently divorced actress Chris MacNiel attempt to solve the terrifying changes that have begun in her young daughter Regan. The theme of a child growing up in a difficult environment is twisted into horror by manifesting it through demonic possession. Along with this is the storyline of the lead male character, Father Karris. He is a young priest who grapples with his faith throughout the story before finally encountering the demon that holds young Regan hostage in her own body.

The film takes plenty of time to build up a delightfully unsettling feeling. The scenes where the demon shows its power over Regan are full of effective and disgusting body horror. The special effects have aged remarkably well, with a lot of visually memorable moments being accentuated by practical effects. The musical score is used sparsely but when it is, it further builds the creeping evil of the film. It all feels like a dark, dream-like reflection of the difficulties people must face in their lives.

It would be hard to find a movie more suited for Halloween than this. A classic horror film with an eerie production story and some truly unsettling moments throughout the film itself. It terrified and captivated the audiences from the past and present. Very few things are as visually evocative as the exorcism scene at the climax of the film. As the two main priests of the film chant bible verses in a room so unnaturally cold that you can see the actors breath, we see some of the most influential moments in horror history.

Tic-Tac-Toe

Cross-bones and pumpkins!



## Women's soccer wins in frightening OT Team beats Bethel in nail-biting fashion

**Brady Boie**  
Staff Writer

After something of a rough (pumpkin)patch in the season, the Gustavus women's soccer team was set to play Bethel in a conference game on Oct. 23. The game was a difficult back and forth with neither team displaying any particular advantage, culminating in a double overtime situation for the Gusties. Eventually, the Gusties managed to prevail over their opponents as First-year Lillian Selberg scored the game winning goal in the second overtime period. This victory leaves the Gustavus women's soccer team with a record of 8-8 overall and 5-4 in the MIAC.

This victory was especially important to the Gusties as they prepare for postseason play. "This win gave us a lot of confidence going into our last two games and we can carry it over into playoffs," First-year Lucie Henrich said. With the remainder of the season being so short, the Gusties are able to use this win as a vote of confidence in their ability to compete amongst, and potentially become the best in the MIAC, "The win... helped our team have confidence in a spot for playoffs," Henrich said. Mental

conviction for success is especially important for the mental preparation aspect of entering into the postseason.

Not only was the win important mentally, it was important for postseason rankings and outcomes. "This win continues our roll of conference wins, it was our fourth conference win after our rough patch. We really need these wins to cinch our spot in playoffs," Selberg said. As the Gusties prepare to enter the playoffs, every win is important in securing a spot and putting the Gusties in the best position possible to excel in the postseason. Mental and physical preparation are key to the Gusties' success in the postseason, a fact that is widely embraced by the team as everyone buys into the culture of success and goals for postseason.

In addition to being an important part of preparation for postseason, the Gusties win over Bethel was a key indicator of how the Gusties work to persevere and achieve their goals. "One of our season goals is to have no overtime losses. Our last game that went into overtime; we had lost and we said it was our turn to win. Although

we were all tired we knew we had to keep fighting," Selberg said. This mentality of it being their time to win, shows the buy-in that the players have to the program and how earnestly the team wants success, even in the face of exhaustion and tough competition.

This victory in double overtime was especially important to the entirety of the team. Scoring the winning goal was especially important to Selberg as she got to physically experience the joy of her team through hugs from her teammates. Selberg got to further experience her teammates' happiness after the game. "After the game we all talked as a team and I didn't realize the seniors hadn't ever won a game during OT playing here. So to see their joy to finally win just made everyone that much more happy to have won," Selberg said.

Despite its importance to the seniors, the game was an emotional victory for every member of the team. "It was a full team win. Every player was filled with joy and so excited. Everyone was proud of one another and everyone played their part towards this victory," Henrich



Gusties celebrate in their marcocostumes.

Gustavus Sports Information

said. Again, the full commitment points to the pride that the Gustavus women's soccer team takes in their success as a team and as individuals. Regardless of their playing time, every member of the team was fully committed to the game and the process, which was pivotal in the Gusties turning the well-matched game around. The joy the team had will be important for them going into the remaining two regular season games as well as playoffs.

The Gustavus women's soccer team's double overtime victory over Bethel was a key indicator of the culture on the team and how dedicated the women are to achieving their season goals. Not only was the

win an important reminder of the confidence the team deserves to have, it also helps the Gusties secure a more promising position as they prepare for postseason play. "This game definitely showed our grit. We were constantly pushing ourselves. We have talked about there being pretty games and there being gritty games. This was definitely one that was both pretty and gritty. We fought until the last second [and] we had pretty chances but it ended up being a gritty goal to get the win," Selberg said. Looking into the immediate future, the Gusties played Hamline on Oct. 27 and are set to play Macalester on Oct. 30 for their last two regular season games.

## Volleyball has monstrous weekend Gusties aim to be 'pumpkin king' as season nears an end

**Alli Joerger**  
Staff Writer

The Gustavus women's volleyball team has had a spooktacular season. Their dominant play throughout the year has brought the team together and given the Gusties an opportunity to snag the number one seed as the season draws to a close.

"Bethel and Hamline have a big match this weekend, and depending on the outcome of that game, we will either be the one seed or the two seed," sophomore Marlee Turn said.

With the top seed in sight, the Gusties buckled down and took care of business this past weekend. On Friday, they hosted the Concordia Cobbers and played one of their most complete games of the season.

"Overall we played really well against Concordia and St. Ben's. After Tuesday we had a little bit of a rough match against Northwestern so our goal was to have a good response to that and respond well and I think we did that," Turn said.

The Gusties jumped out to an early lead in the first set and used an 8-3 run to expand their lead to 10, with the score reading 19-9. Senior Kate Holtan led the attack and finished the first set with 12 kills. The Gusties

took the first set 25-18.

"I felt good about my personal performance. Our setter, Kasie Tweet, did a great job running the offense this weekend, which gave me a lot of opportunities to be aggressive at the net," Holtan said.

The offensive prowess displayed by Holtan and Co. continued in the following sets. Gustavus quickly dispatched the Cobbers in the second set, scoring 11 in a 12 point stretch to jump out to an 18-6 lead. The Gusties finished the winning set with a score of 25-14. The final set was even less competitive, as the Gusties completed the sweep with a 25-11 victory.

"Keeping the energy was key. We always try to keep it lighthearted but also try to be really competitive at the same time and to just get after it... having a loud home fan section meant a lot and I think it definitely played a factor in how we played," Turn said.

Holtan finished the match with 23 kills, which was a new career high. Holtan's strong play has been an instrumental part of the Gustie's success this year, and everyone on the Gusties knows that.

"Kate brings a lot of energy



Kasie Tweet sets the pumpkin.

Gustavus Sports Information

and fun to the team. You can always depend on her for anything. When the ball is in her hands, you can trust her. She helps complete our team and I am glad that I can play on a team with her," Turn said.

The Gusties had a quick turnaround and hosted St. Bens on Saturday. The Gusties carried their momentum from the previous day and had yet another excellent performance. Turn and Holtan ignited the Gustie offense with a pair of kills in the middle of the first set, and the

Gusties never looked back. They took the first set 25-17.

"Our team works really well as a unit. I think this sense of unity has created trust amongst all of us, which has been a key to our consistent performances thus far," Holtan said.

This unity was on full display in the following sets. The Gusties blitzed the Bennies in set two and took an early 7-3 lead. The Bennies were able to keep the set within striking distance for a while, but a kill by Holtan ignited a 10-5 run to

close out the second set 25-15. The Gusties took the final set by an even greater margin, as they buried the Bennies 25-13.

Performances like the ones the Gusties had this weekend are exciting to watch and enjoyable for team members; dominant wins have been a staple for the women's team all year, and gives the Gusties confidence heading into the playoffs. Unfortunately for the Gusties, the easy wins will be harder to come by come playoff time. However, there is team-wide confidence that they are prepared for those closer matches.

"Although we haven't seen a super close match in awhile, we have faced tough opponents in some tight matches earlier in the season. We have had close matches where we have come out on top, as well as a few where we haven't...I think these experiences have prepared us for close competition as we enter the postseason," Holtan said.

The Gusties will close out their regular season by hosting St. Scholastica on Oct. 29th. After that, the Gusties head into the playoffs with MIAC championship aspirations.