

A perusal of pies



David Eide
Opinion Columnist

There's a topic that's been swirling around in my head for some time but I've always held back from writing on it for fear of inspiring too much controversy and backlash. What is this topic? It is of course, my vast collection of pie hot takes, some of which may stun and amaze you. I have a healthy, or perhaps unhealthy, affection for this style of dessert and I consider myself something of a connoisseur. Consequently, I think it would be enjoyable to share my perspective on some of the most popular varieties of pie in the hopes of inspiring the same level of passion I have for pies in anyone who happens to come across this article.

Let's start off with the many varieties of fruit pie, since in my experience they're often the default image that comes to mind when pie is mentioned. In my honest opinion, fruit pies as a whole are kind of overrated. Especially in comparison to how prominent they are in the general discussion of the dessert. This is not to say that I would turn down an offering of a fruit pie if it were presented to me, only that I think the other varieties of pie have better offerings on average. There are two big exceptions to my assertion, however. The first big exception is apple pie which is probably up in my top three overall kinds of pie. I know it might be a bit of a cop out to say I think fruit pies are overrated to then turn around and say I really like one of the most popular fruit pies. A pie that has come to be seen as nearly synonymous with a somewhat kitschy style of Americana. But the fact is, I really like apple pie. There's just something

about the way that the flavors of the apples, the filling, the cinnamon spice, and the crust come together that make apple pies so much more appealing to me than other fruit pies. The other big type of fruit pie that I enjoy is strawberry rhubarb pie. This might seem like a bit of a surprise since strawberry rhubarb is a somewhat divisive variety, but I think a large part of that stems from the fact that this pie is difficult to make correctly. When it's done incorrectly, the result can be quite gross but when care is taken to make sure there is just the right amount of strawberry and rhubarb present, that's when the results can be divine.

"In my honest opinion, fruit pies as a whole are kind of overrated."

Another pie category that I have strong opinions on are the cream pies, also known as the type of pies that get thrown into people's faces. Overall, I really like this variety. Banana cream pie is probably the best of the bunch in my opinion, although chocolate cream pie isn't far behind. I really appreciate

the texture of these pies, the way they just sort of melt in your mouth while the flavors of the filling and the crust complement each other simultaneously. On the other hand, one of my least favorite pie varieties happens to be adjacent to cream pies: the key lime pie. This might be one of my more controversial opinions as I know a lot of people really like key lime pie, but I just can't stand it. Something about the taste has never sat quite right with me and no matter how many times I've had people claim to me that this particular key lime pie will show me why this dish is so beloved by so many, none have succeeded in swaying me. It's somewhat odd too as I quite like lemon meringue pie, which isn't that much different from key lime pie. But I guess that's just how things go sometimes.

Finally, let's have a look at some of the miscellaneous pies that are hard to categorize; a group which happens to include some of my favorite kinds of pie. My all-time favorite has got to be pecan pie. I absolutely love the filling and the way in which it balances

out with the pecans on top, especially when it has a healthy heaping of whipped cream on top. It's to the point where even when pecan pies are mass produced without much concern for craft, I still find them delicious.

"...especially when it has a healthy heaping of whipped cream on top."

Of course, no discussion of pies or pie-like desserts can go without mentioning pumpkin pie. I also happen to really like pumpkin pie, it's something of a comfort food for me, in fact. Whenever I eat pumpkin pie, it feels like I'm transported back to the happy Thanksgivings or Christmases of my childhood, and I think that is the case for a lot of other people as well. While pecan pie still has it beat in the flavor department, in terms of emotional attachment, pumpkin pie is definitely the winner.

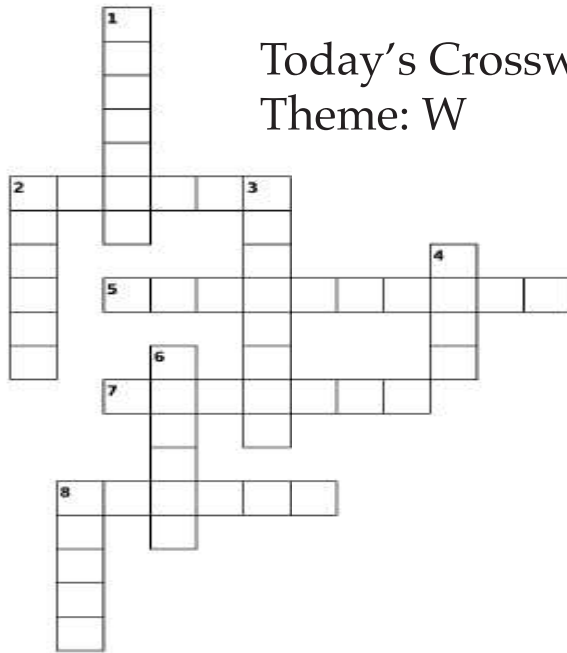
I think that there's something to be said about the emotional appeal foods have to us,

pie or otherwise. The experience of a dish isn't just the immediate taste associated with eating it, but with all the memories and emotions that have become tied together with it. So, the next time you sit down to eat your favorite kind of pie or whatever other dessert you happen to enjoy, perhaps take a bit of time to consider how other experiences besides just pure flavor may factor into your preferences.



Pecan pie- David's favorite

submitted



Today's Crossword Theme: W

- Across:
- 2. Look through this
 - 5. Incapable of being wet
 - 7. Rich
 - 8. Tusked Animal

- Down:
- 1. Marriage ceremony
 - 2. Type of tree
 - 3. Wolf man
 - 4. Wriggling creature
 - 6. Seven days
 - 8. Bet

Copenhagen Cowboy: A TV show for crazy people

Will Sorg
Movies Guy

Danish Filmmaker Nicolas Winding Refn is a provocateur. Refn, who has recently started being referred to in his work as NWR, is well known for his harsh stylistic tendencies. He has made slow paced, ultraviolet, neon colored, nihilistic films his trademark. It seems that with each new project he works on, he tries to push the boundaries of what can be seen as acceptable for film in the sense of both content and technique. Even NWR's most well known film, Drive, starring Ryan Gosling, has sparse dialogue, an unconventional narrative structure, and incredibly brutal violence.

In 2019 NWR shifted from films to television with his Amazon Prime Video mini-series Too Old to Die Young. It is a 12 hour show about a dirty cop working as a hitman in Los Angeles and a cartel boss who is trying to get revenge on the cop for killing his mother. It is one of the slowest, weirdest, uncompromising TV shows I have ever seen. It breaks all of the conventions of television, swings for the most uncomfortable content possible, and it does not even really have an ending. In early 2023 Copenhagen Cowboy was released on Netflix and it is NWR's most inscrutable work yet.

On paper it seems rather simple. A six-part series follows a remarkable young woman named Miu as she makes her way through the criminal underworld of Copenhagen. It starts with Miu as a victim of human trafficking as an Albanian mobster believes Miu has magical powers that can allow his middle aged sister to conceive a child. As the show goes on, she falls in with Chinese gangsters and other threats as she attempts to help some of the more likable characters. What complicates this setup is Nicolas Winding Refn. He's done crime dramas more than any other genre and it is clear that he is far more interested in experimenting than sticking with the conventions of the genre. Miu is genuinely magic, she has powers even if it is never fully explained what they actually do, actually very few things are explicitly explained and if they are it is wedged between the immense amount of runtime that is spent building the mood of the show.

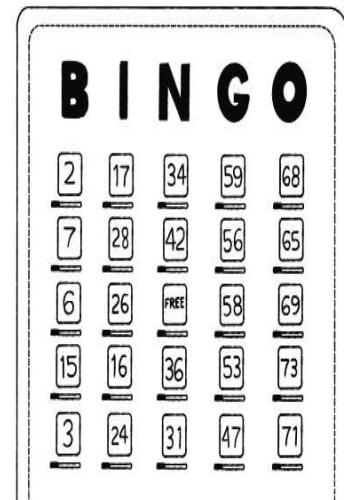
Feeling obligated to attend bingo to win back your tuition money

This show, like a lot of NWR's works, is all style and no substance. The style is the substance. The neon colored lighting that bathes the whole show in blues, purples and reds are a hallmark of him for a reason. The show's cinematography is also completely for show. There are at least two 365 degree panning shots in each episode, a shot that consistently slows down the show due to its required slow speed to be pulled off smoothly but it looks amazing and that is the whole point. The whole show is like those panning shots. In each episode, there is only enough plot to fill 20 minutes of story but instead we are given gorgeous cinematography that takes us through the scenery and builds a feeling more than it tells a story.

When style becomes substance, anything can be done with television. Rather than show a gang war, it can be abstracted into closeups of weapons firing and silhouettes falling to the ground in a hazy, abstract montage. When style becomes substance, even the funniest ideas can be played straight. This is a show that has vampires and aliens involved in its plot and the main character is a nearly mute, tiny woman with a bowl cut and blue tracksuit. She knows martial arts and could probably kill almost any other character in the show. These are all positively ridiculous ideas and yet they are played with a level of seriousness that is rarely seen in even the most dramatic of TV shows.

It is genuinely difficult to say if you can define Copenhagen Cowboy as anything other than an unmitigated vision. I've seen every episode and I cannot fully tell you what it is actually about. I think the only person who has any idea what the show even is, is NWR. It is purposefully frustrating, undeniably unaccessible and the kind of show only a handful of insane people could genuinely enjoy. I enjoyed it by the way.

Frija Reinert



Senior Spotlight

Gustie runner Birgen Nelson

Parker Burman
Staff Writer

Birgen Nelson has been a vital member of the Gustavus Track and Field team for the last three years. In just three short years she has created a legacy that will continue to last for years to come. Her impact has not solely been in the field of competition, but also wide-reaching across the Gustavus community and campus.

In her time as a Gustie, she has set five individual indoor track records in addition to a team record in the 4x400 meter relay. In outdoor competitions, she has a pair of individual and a pair of team school records as well. In addition to her school records, she holds three NCAA DIII records, two of which are individual records. These are in the 60-meter indoor hurdles, 100-meter outdoor hurdles, and a sprint medley with current Gusties, Sophomores Makenna Huettner and Kate Carlson. She even broke her own NCAA DIII record earlier this year in the 60-meter hurdles, setting another national record.

"I am inspired by the need to excel."

Her inspiration and motivation for her accomplishments on and off the track all come back to her mentality of excellence. "I am inspired by a need to excel. I have a big vision of what I think I can accomplish, so I work hard to bring that vision to reality. I am surrounded by people that believe in me

and that is inspiring knowing that other people have faith in me, as well," said Nelson.

Nelson is a Classical Languages and Political Science double major with a minor in Environmental studies. After graduating Birgen will head out east where she will attend Duke University in pursuit of a Master's degree in Public Policy. Her track days will not end at Gustavus but will continue on as a Duke Blue Devil on the DI stage. A hope of hers is to stay involved in athletics, potentially considering coaching and working with athletes as a career option in the future. "After graduation, I will attend Duke University to earn a Master of Public Policy and continue running track. I would definitely consider coaching as a future career. I would like to work with athletes in some capacity. This could come from a public policy approach, meaning I could advocate on behalf of athletes, or from coaching," Nelson said.

"We all know what we are capable of as a team and what we want to achieve."

Nelson is a strong leader on and off the field and is highly respected by her teammates and the Gustavus community around her. "It means a lot to me that my teammates respect me enough to put me in a leadership position. We all know what we are capable of as a team and what we want to achieve, so it is an honor to lead us in that direction," Nelson said.



Birgen Nelson hurdling at USATF Indoor Championships

Submitted.

son said.

The legacy that she will leave behind as one of the greatest Gustavus athletes is one that she does not take lightly. "I hope that in the future I can stand out to people as a reason to believe in themselves. When I was younger I saw all these great athletes and I wondered how they did it. Sometimes, a legacy can start with believing "Why can't it be me that succeeds?" Nelson said.

A favorite memory of Birgen's in her time at Gustavus happened last year as a member of the 4x400 meter relay where she ran as the team's anchor. This event took place at the Outdoor Conference

Championships last year and is something that will always stick with her. "My favorite memory at Gustavus was anchoring the 4x400 meter relay to get the win at the Outdoor Conference last year. Hearing my teammates cheer for me was so amazing! I am surrounded by the best people and this memory is always a great reminder of that," Nelson said.

There are still things that Birgen wishes to accomplish before her time as a Gustie comes to an end in a few short months. She still seeks to claim another national title and to break as many records as she still can, and that her impact on Student Senate will continue. "By the time I leave Gustavus, I hope to have won another National title. I would really like to get the national record in the 100H, as well. I hope that after I leave Gustavus, Student Senate will continue the work that Delaney, my Co-President, and I have started," Nelson said.

"My friends, teammates, and coaches have all taught me valuable life lessons that have made me a better person."

While her time on campus is rapidly coming to an end she will always be remembered as a Gustie. "My time as an athlete has proven to me that I can achieve what I set out to do. On a personal note, my friendships at Gustavus have been life-changing, as well. My friends, teammates,



Nelson and teammates at nationals.

Submitted

Gusties pick up two wins

Tennis Tops Saint Mary's, UWEC



Gustie player eyes the tennis ball.

Submitted

Nyden Hill
Staff Writer

This past Saturday, the Gustavus men's tennis team took to the courts in an effort to extend their three game winning streak in a double-header against UW-Eau Claire and Saint Mary's, respectively. Coming into the matches, the Gusties were riding victories over St. Olaf College, St. Scholastica College, and Central College. With this momentum in mind, the Gusties certainly had some confidence heading into the match-ups.

"Overall, all the boys were pumped and excited going into the first match against Eau Claire. Especially after a hard-working week of practice we all discussed how important it was to come with the same energy and focus into the header against Eau Claire," said Sophomore Taona Mhwandagara.

With this in mind, it is important to note that success is nothing surprising when it comes to Gustavus men's tennis. Gustavus has claimed the MIAC Conference title in each of the past two seasons leading up to the 2022-2023 season, so it comes as no surprise that the Gusties have some lofty expectations for themselves as they go for a three-peat.

The first of the two matches played on Saturday was one against UW-Eau Claire. While

the Gusties definitely stood out as the favorite, boasting an overall record of 7-2, the Blue-golds held an impressive record of their own (5-2), riding a three-match winning streak against MSOE, UW-Stevens Point, and St. Scholastica.

"We knew coming into the Eau Claire match that that team is very tough. We were using this opportunity to practice keeping our energy high throughout the entire day, to prepare for this upcoming weekend. It was important to play our way because we know that our way is the best way to play," said Sophomore Odin Fouchier.

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Against Eau Claire, the Gusties found immediate success in doubles. The pair of seniors, Nick Aney and Daniel Fouchier, led the way for the Gusties and won their match in a score of 8-6. Following this

strong showing, the Gusties were able to win their second and third doubles matches, both with scores of 8-3.

Following the doubles matches, the Gusties continued to flex their muscles with a singles sweep. Playing in the number one singles spot, Sophomore Marco Siviero defeated his opposition 6-3, 6-1. Following this dominant performance, Senior Daniel Fouchier defeated his opposition 6-1, 6-4. Following these two matches, the Gusties were able to win the remaining four singles matches, thus completing the sweep. Gustie Senior Alex Budde, who participated in both doubles and singles, had this to say following the Eau Claire victory: "One thing we always strive for is good doubles. In both matches we started off with a 3-0 lead because of that, so that's always advantage we look to have going into singles."

With this win against Eau Claire, the Gusties were able to extend their winning streak to four consecutive match-ups, and look to continue their previous mindset with another win against Saint Mary's University.

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"The mindset stayed the same. Because of the incredible depth of our team, other guys than the guys who played Eau Claire were able to compete against St. Mary's. They were still focused on the present and competed very well. The entire team kept the energy we had during the Eau Claire match," said Fouchier.

After handily beating UW-Eau Claire, the Gusties proved to maintain their composure and defeat SMU by an even bigger margin, with Sophomore Rafa Costa defeating his opponent 6-1, 6-3, and the rest of the lineup following suit. In doubles, the duo of Senior Drew Eloffson and First Year Tyler Haddorff led the way with an 8-0 doubles victory, with the additional two doubles lineups defeating their opponents 8-1.

With this strong showing at home, the Gusties look forward to continuing this momentum at the IITA National Indoor Tournament at the Swanson Tennis Center.

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our mind now is National Indoors. This weekend is big for end of the year seeding, future tournament seeding, and sets a tone for the rest of the season. Winning the MIAC and doing well in NCAA's are always goals we have but indoors is the only thing on our mind at the moment," said Budde.

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With this big tournament coming, we wish the Gusties the best of luck as they look to continue to build onto their already amazing season.

The dynasty continues

Men's swimming claims fourth MIAC title in a row

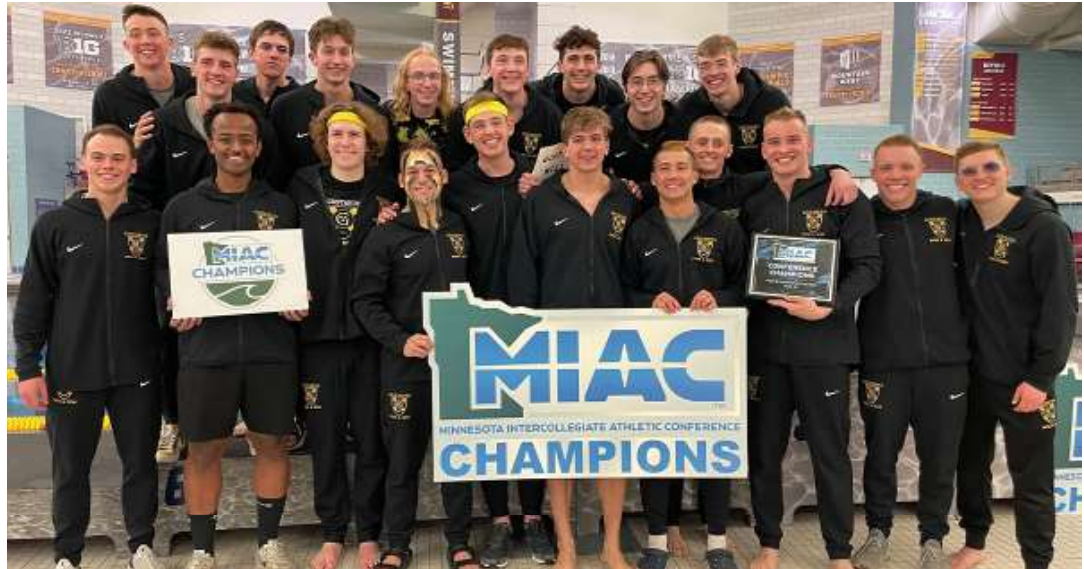
Brady Boie
Sports Editor

The Gustavus men's swimming and diving team took home its fourth consecutive MIAC Championship title this past weekend. The Gusties outscored second-place Saint John's 968.5 to 694.5 and broke numerous school and meet records in the process. Their dominance was on display from the beginning, as the Gustie team of Junior Matt Strom, Senior Taylor VanderJeugd, Junior Peyton Richardson, and Senior Andrew Becker touched the wall first in the 200 medley relay on Wednesday night. Their winning time of 1:30.40 was good enough for a school record and set the tone for the rest of the meet. On that same night, the Gustie team featuring Richardson, Strom, and Seniors Erik Small and Dane Hudson won the 800 freestyle relay by almost four seconds.

"[The medley relay] set the tone for the meet... but starting the meet with a school record got everyone excited to swim," Richardson said.

Richardson's superb swimming was far from over. On Thursday, he swam a 100 Butterfly time trial before prelims and swam a 48.92, which broke the school record of 49.35 that had stood for almost twenty years.

"Peyton's time trial in the 100 butterfly was huge... we didn't even score any points from it but seeing him go as fast as he did, getting the [NCAA] B cut, getting a best time, and going 48 in the 100 fly as the first thing that happens in a meet was a huge energy boost right off the bat for that session," Senior swimmer Adam Thornberg said.



MIAC Champs.

Submitted

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Richardson followed up his record-breaking swim with a

second-place finish in the 200 individual medley, being narrowly edged out by his teammate Small. Other notable individual Thursday performances included a victory from Becker in the 50 freestyle with a time of 20.28 and a 500 freestyle win for Strom in 4:29.89. The 500 freestyle final featured four Gusties and served as a pivotal point in the meet.

"Obviously Saint John's was gunning for us at that meet... having that many Gusties in the same heat was a morale boost... you knew going in that we were going to do pretty well... having that many people in all of the distance events was a huge help," Thornberg said.

Despite all of these impressive performances, the best was yet to come for the Gusties. They closed the night with a flawless 400 Medley Relay. The team comprised of Strom, Junior Kieran Ripken, Richardson, and Becker posted a blazing-fast time of 3:19.15. This time was good for both a school and a meet record.

"We were pretty confident that we were going to break the school record that we had set last year, but we had our eyes set on the NCAA B Cut and MIAC meet record as well... we knew that all four swimmers were going to execute their job and swim fast," Richardson said.

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The fast swimming continued for the Gusties on day three. Small set a new school record in the 400 Individual Medley, edging St. Olaf Senior Tim Rizzo by just two-tenths of a second. This race featured four Gusties in the top eight spots and highlighted excellent talent and depth.

"Erik Small had a great meet. He won every event he swam and got some really great times... I was very impressed," Thornberg said.

After Small's victory, Richardson touched the wall first in the 100 butterfly, with teammates Becker and Hudson following in second and third. Strom continued his excellence with another MIAC championship win in the 200 freestyle. The night ended with a 100 breaststroke victory from Ripken and another relay win for the Gusties.

The final day of the meet was more of the same for the Gusties. The men took home

first place in every single event except one and swam great races. The men's 1650 freestyle featured five Gusties and was won by Strom. Richardson took home the 200 backstroke title, winning with a time of 1:52.99. Becker defended his 100 freestyle title from one year ago and Small won the 200 butterfly. Sophomore Nyden Hill took second in the 200 breaststroke and had two teammates join him in the top eight. Finally, the men's team of Small, Strom, Hudson, and Becker took down a fifteen-year-old meet record in the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 3:00.89. This performance put an exclamation point on the meet and helped the Gusties set their sights on even bigger goals.

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"It is rewarding and exciting to win [the MIAC], but once we have won it several times we have to set our goals higher than just winning," Richardson said.



Adam "H" Thornberg prepares to swim.

Submitted