



By Aiyra Jorde, Features Writer

Happy March!

And Happy Women's History Month!

Yeah, that's right. A month dedicated to celebrating the contributions of women and the role that they've played in society throughout history.

Can you believe that as recently as the 1970s, women's history was barely mentioned in the K-12 curriculum (or in general for that matter)?!? In response, the school district of Sonoma, California, organized a "Women's History Week" in 1978, which quickly gained attention and spread within communities across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter officially declared the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week and in 1987, Congress passed a resolution designating March as Women's History Month.

In honor of Women's History Month, I've decided to highlight some amazing women that we don't talk about enough.

First on the list.

Me

...

Just kidding (kinda).

Jeanette Rankin - In 1916, Jeanette Rankin became the first woman elected to Congress. Elected as a Republican from Montana, she fought for women's rights and helped pass the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote (thanks Jeanette, appreciate it).

Margaret Hamilton - So you've heard of Neil Armstrong walking on the moon in 1969. Well, Margaret Hamilton (pictured below) led the software Engineering Division of the MIT Instrumentation Laboratory, which developed the Apollo spacecraft's guidance and navigation system. In other words, if it weren't for Margaret's big brain, the moon landing may have never happened!



Sojourner Truth - Known as one of the most inspirational black women in American history, Sojourner Truth (pictured right) escaped slavery with her infant daughter in 1826. Advocating for the rights of women and African Americans, Sojourner delivered the famous "Ain't I A Woman?" speech at the women's convention in Ohio in 1851.



Hedy Lamarr - Thank this technological trailblazer the next time you pull out your phone. Also known as "The Most Beautiful Woman In Film," Hedy Lamarr was not only a famous actress during Hollywood's golden age, but she was also an inventor who created the technology that would become the basis for the Wifi, GPS, and Bluetooth that we use today.

Claudette Colvin - At just 15 years old, Claudette Colvin refused to give up her seat for a white person in Montgomery, Alabama - just 9 months before Rosa Parks did the same. She was arrested and later challenged the bus segregation law in court as a plaintiff in *Browder v. Gayle*.



Marion Pritchard - A Dutch social work student, Marion Pritchard is estimated to have saved around 150 Jews during the Second World War. Risking her life, Marion hid a Jewish family in her home, distributed false ID papers, smuggled food into the ghettos, and placed babies with non-Jewish families.

Chein-Shiung Wu - Also known as the "First Lady of Physics," Chein-Shiung Wu (pictured left) was a Chinese American physicist who contributed to the Manhattan Project and made huge progress in the research of radioactivity. She disproved the law of conservation of parity (which had been accepted for more than 30 years) but only her male colleagues received the Nobel Prize for the discovery in 1957.

Althea Gibson - A trailblazing athlete, Althea Gibson was the first Black tennis player to win the French Wimbledon and U.S. Open singles championships in the 1950s. She was not only an incredible athlete, but also defied racial boundaries and paved the way for athletes of all races to compete.

There's many more insanely brilliant women that I stumbled upon during my research that I would highly encourage you to read up on. Hopefully, you find some inspiration in these incredible women and celebrate the XX chromosome (and XX chromosome identifying) organisms this month (and every month). Happy Women's History Month!

Are bad texters bad people?



Jonas Doerr
Opinion Columnist

You see the message on your phone. Someone is asking about your availability this week to get maple bacon vegan donuts. Hmm. To go, or not to go?

Better not to choose. You put your phone aside and decide to answer it later.

Are you a bad person now? It's easy to get an email or text and put off answering it. One might feel mild pangs of guilt, but the anxiety is nothing compared to having to actually answer an ambiguous message.

Or so one might think.

Maybe one gets around to answering the text eventually. It just takes a couple of days. "I'm just a bad texter," is the common excuse. Bad texter? No. Bad person? We shall see.

The standards for response times differ based on the medium. Phone calls, texts, emails, and chat messages all have different expectations behind them for how quickly one should respond.

A phone call from a Gen Zer is usually urgent. There is probably some level of desperation and urgent need to cause a phone call. Talk to someone live with no video? Aside from 8 a.m. Zoom classes, that's unthinkable!

Since phone calls are often urgent, they should be answered as quickly as possible. If you miss the first call, call back as soon as possible or let them know when you can call back. Of course, there are exceptions; if you know your friend is at heart still in the 20th century and loves phone calls, take your time.

Emails are the opposite. Many emails don't require any response. The ones that do can usually wait at least one or two days. Waiting a week or more is, however, a definite no-no. Most

people will appreciate a faster response, but don't trip over yourself hurrying to choose the best Gmail auto-response.

Texts and chats are the scary gray area. How long is too long? How fast is too fast?

Most people have been in the situation of seeing a text right away. They think it would be a bit creepy to immediately answer, so they wait a little bit. A few minutes and then an hour goes by. With every second the chore of answering that text seems more painful. It can wait another day. Week. Month. At this point, why bother, right? Just ghost them!

Maybe, for you, it doesn't get this bad. But many people struggle with this at some point. When is the right time to answer?

Answer when you see the text, or when it's next convenient. The other person will appreciate it, and it will be one little piece of stress off your chest.

One might wonder: "If I answer too fast, will they think I'm interested?" "Isn't the best way to seduce someone by making them hang on my every word?"

Don't overthink, and don't seduce people. The other person is probably thinking harder about how you are perceiving

their messages than vice versa. And it's much better to fall in love naturally than to be creepy and "seduce" someone.

But if someone ignores these guidelines and keeps someone hanging, are they a bad person? Sometimes.

"Answer when you see the text, or when it's next convenient. The other person will appreciate it, and it will be one little piece of stress off your chest."

There are some circumstances when it's ok to answer slowly. A group chat or a general check-in message will wait. If you're taking an electronics break, take your time. Just answer when you're back. If someone is being abusive, by all means step away, block them, and find help if needed.

Otherwise, the bad answerer is bad. They aren't a bad person - people can't be easily thrown into 'good' and 'bad' boxes - but that action is wrong. Answering

a text poorly causes harm to another human being.

That person has to undergo the emotional discomfort of wondering if their friend cares enough to answer them. They have to stress about whether their plans will work out. In extreme circumstances, they might even shed a tear that falls straight into the crack in their screen protector, into their phone, and straight onto the battery, zapping them and knocking them unconscious for an hour.

Don't do that to your friends! There are three bad reasons a person might have to overcome to be a more ethical texter. The first bad reason is laziness.

The effort of sending a text might seem like too much work for a person. It might seem silly, but opening that message and thinking of a reply can seem like a lot, especially when the texts pile up. However, that's not a good enough reason for a friend to get zapped. Open those texts and answer them!

"That person has to undergo the emotional discomfort of wondering whether their friend cares enough to answer them."

The second bad reason is that one might think it's no big deal. Just because the other person is not allowed to seem annoyed at a long wait time for a response does not mean that it doesn't matter to them. Open those texts and answer them!

The last bad reason is that, to some extent, our culture promotes social cowardice. It can seem better to avoid a disagreement than tell someone how we really feel. It might seem better to pretend to like a person than address the issues one has. But avoiding conflict only creates a stressful mini-Cold War.

The only way to combat this cowardice is to be direct. Say how you feel. Social tact is not avoiding touchy subjects; it's addressing them in a sensitive manner. Take on those issues lurking in your inbox head-on, and redefine who you are.

You can be a good texter!



Is Gustavus still a Swedish institution?



Gabrielle Lavan
Opinion Columnist

Imagine that you are walking around campus for the first time. You walk through Campus Center and notice the names of certain rooms like the *Konferensrum*, you ask where the recital hall, *Bjorling*, is located as you try desperately to pronounce it correctly. After walking around for a bit, you notice posters around campus advertising *Fika*. You think to yourself, is this the extent of

the Swedish influence on Gustavus Adolphus College, besides its namesake?

Maybe back in the day Gustavus had stronger roots, but it seems that the only time our Swedish tradition is displayed is in the naming of buildings or around the holidays. During the holiday season, it becomes apparent that Gustavus does in fact have Swedish roots. Holiday buffets serve lutefisk, steamed fish, lefse, and other Swedish goodies. It takes only one look around to see the eye-catching design of Scandinavian sweaters donned by the campus visitors that are called to The Hill by Christmas in Christ Chapel or for the Festival of Saint Lucia.

Besides that, there are very few Swedish traditions that even make it to the mainstream campus media.

The story of Gustavus's relationship with the Swedish Lutheran tradition has changed alongside shifts in who attends this institution. The vast majority of Gustavus students are not from a Scandinavian back-

ground, and they may not be Lutheran.

The current approach to the celebration of Gustavus's Swedish roots lies in many religious ceremonies. This does not work and will continue to become more ineffective and obsolete. It is a widely acknowledged fact that the world is becoming less religiously devoted.

If Gustavus can shift its perspective and approach to celebrating its Swedish roots in a less religious context, it will find a richer Swedish experience. There are many different creative traditions that Gustavus could adopt to embrace more students into the Swedish tradition that is unaffiliated by religion.

At a bare minimum, a short-term goal Gustavus could adopt is having more Swedish foods in the regular Evelyn Young Dining Room rotation. In short, Gusties could benefit from the addition of Swedish meatballs and lingonberries, much like the beloved Ikea has.

This seems like a minor

change, but still, so many Gusties eat at the Caf multiple times a day so the change would be noticed. The tradition, history, and roots of the founding of Gustavus are a part of every Gustie. Many of us will never be able to take part in studying abroad in Sweden, but that does not mean we cannot still enjoy Swedish traditions.

If Gustavus is going to continue to claim to embrace their Swedish roots, they need to do it in a way that involves all of the students. For example, I doubt that the general population of Gusties knows that President Bergman travels annually to Sweden. Or that Gustavus has hosted the Swedish Royal Family on occasion.

Gustavus, of course, has a claim to its Swedish foundations no matter what they choose to do in the present. However, being a Swedish institution makes Gustavus special. It inspires intrigue and curiosity in those who have never been here. At the very least, Gustavus can take this pique

of interest to its advantage as a recruitment tool.

But why does this all matter? Well, because we don't want to be hypocrites. Staking a claim to something that you do not continually pursue to sustain its influence is something that need not be claimed.

It is easy to criticize the actions of an institution without praising the work they already do. Criticism is the nature of an opinion columnist. But it is important to note that Gustavus does a lot to embrace its roots. It does more than most institutions to incorporate its founding history into the college culture, but it could be doing more.

If the college does not do more, I fear there may be a disillusionment of the Gustie masses that become increasingly confused about how they fit within the current Gustavus-Swedish zeitgeist. I know I am.

This cannot be an overnight fix, but it is certainly something to keep in mind. Although, Swedish meatballs could certainly help.

One hour dramas, or the half hour sitcom



Houston McLauri
Opinion Columnist

Over these last few weeks, with the release of "The Last of Us," on HBO Max and its subsequent success in capturing the American audience, I have been forced to ask myself one question: why are the episodes so long? The first episode of the series, "When You're Lost in the Darkness," was 81 minutes alone. That's just shy of the 90-minute marker, nearly the duration of a feature-length film. The other

episodes, most of them going about an hour in run-time, do seem more reasonable, but it begs the question- why do these episodes need to be so long? I believe that the length of these long-form drama series is better for the average college student since it allows for a rich story for people to sink their teeth into, and dissuades the epidemic of binge-watching. Meanwhile, the casual sitcom, while funny, only allows for short bursts of laughs and relaxation, and encourages the binge-watching epidemic through these short episodes.

First, one must look at the content of these TV shows when considering their enjoyment. As with most long-form dramas, such as "The Last of Us," "Breaking Bad," or "Chernobyl," there is a draw to the stories that are being told. Complex stories, driven by character, with each episode changing and having consequences because of the previous episode. This creates tension and allows the audience to care about what happens in these shows, which makes them invested in the story of the characters. This drive of story, and intrigue drawn from

the audience, is what makes the long-form drama series worth watching.

That doesn't mean that all long-form dramas are built the same. Some, like "House M.D.," or "9-1-1" often have a longer plot that spans multiple episodes. And while these relationships and stories are told over these episodes, it's a much more episodic story, either dealing with medical issues in the case of "House M.D.," or the strange calls in "9-1-1". Where these shows shine, as with the sitcoms, is that the audience can put on any episode and would be able to follow the plot of the show. Very few explanations would be needed for current plot points, and unlike shows like "Breaking Bad", where one must start at episode one, these shows allow easy viewership for anybody willing to watch.

But compare this to the average sitcom, such as "Friends" or "Seinfeld". The audience can still put on any episode without the prior context of the show, and there would be little to no story lost on the audience. The sitcom suffers from the idea that the characters don't change, that

they don't grow, as seen in the beginning and end of Seinfeld. In both the first and final episodes, the characters have the exact same conversation, showing that there was no growth over the series. They remained the same people, unchanged by the stories they endured.

Now, that doesn't mean that there can't be comfort or intrigue in the story because of this. Comfort can surface from the fact that little to nothing changes for these characters in an ever-changing world of our own where there is something new happening each day, with relationships constantly changing. In the sitcom, nothing changes, and that can be comforting in its own special way. And as for intrigue in a story, the animated sitcom "Bojack Horseman" has gained massive amounts of popularity for its deconstruction of the titular character, capturing the eyes of audiences all across America. While there may be comfort in the never-changing aspect of sitcoms, and a few exceptions to the story can arise, most sitcoms suffer from the fact that there is no story tying each

episode together.

There is then the final problem of binge-watching episodes, the worst plague that can befall a studious college student. Binge-watching is the idea of watching multiple episodes of a show in one sitting. For me, this is the worst affliction that thirty-minute TV shows have done for me, sometimes crossing over to long dramas. The most notable time this happened for me was when the first season of "Stranger Things," was released. One night in the summer, I spent the entire night watching the entire season. In college, I can fall into binge-watching really easily with shorter TV shows, but in long drama shows, I am less inclined to fall into that endless pit of episodic entertainment.

For me, the overall story of a TV show is what makes it so special, and since I am in college, I cannot spend hours in my room watching fifty episodes of thirty-minute sitcoms. In this way, the long-form drama is better than the half-hour sitcom.

Academic grifting



David Eide
Opinion Columnist

Having gone through three and a half years of it, I think it's fair to now say that I have a pretty decent grasp on academia and the various institutions and systems that support it. Overall, I'd say I'm quite satisfied with how academia functions, at least from the admittedly limited perspective of a student. That is not to say that it is flawless, mind you, merely that in my short time experiencing it, I haven't really been disappointed or disillusioned by many aspects of it. There is one exception, however. While I've been a student, I have come to detest what I have come to terms with as academic grifting. I'm aware that this is a somewhat nebulous term, but I'd generally define it as the various ways in which participation in academic activities is placed behind often quite high paywalls. To put it bluntly, I think that this academic grifting makes it nearly impossible to get laypeople involved in scholarship and can in many cases even limit actual professionals. I'm not the only person who has noticed this, and I think a movement is building to address the issue.

I'll start off the more in-depth discussion with a topic that I expect many of us students will be quite familiar with; textbook prices. This is an issue perhaps most noticeable in STEM fields, where companies feel like they can get away with charging \$200 every semester for a single book. As a matter of fact, textbook prices have been increasing at an absurd degree for decades at this point, far outstripping the

standard inflation rate, with prices rising an astronomical 1,041% since 1977. Even when students fight back against this insanity by utilizing the used books market, companies still find a way to restore scarcity by releasing new editions every couple of years even when it's not fully necessary. The switch to online textbooks has actually made things worse, as now you don't even own a physical copy of the book but instead pay for limited access, meaning there is no possibility of a used market to lessen prices whatsoever.

A somewhat less immediately obvious example but one that is perhaps even more insidious and harmful is the academic grifting that is to be found among the countless academic publications which hide almost all of their articles behind a large paywall. I don't hold any illusions, I'm aware that these journals need to make a profit somehow, but some examples I've found are

inexcusable. I have seen social science articles from the 1970s still locked behind a paywall that is usually something like \$60 for a single article. Usually, this problem is somewhat mitigated through schools, like Gustavus, subscribing to big databases of journals to provide students and faculty access to a wide variety of academic articles that may need to be utilized in their work. However, not every journal will be included in the package purchased by your institution and some scholars have found themselves in the odd position of not even being able to access articles that they contributed to due to their school not paying for them. Now imagine how much of an issue this is for people who are not a part of major institutions, and it should become clear why there is such a big communication problem between the academic community and the public at large.

Based on these examples, it should come as no surprise that

a significant movement has begun to develop seeking to push back against academic grifting in the numerous forms it takes. Many open-source resources have developed in recent years hoping to provide the same information contained in expensive textbooks without charge. Indeed, I'm aware of a couple of professors at Gustavus who have adopted an approach that minimizes the need for textbooks while still ensuring that students receive all the important information needed for a course. In regard to the issue of publications and their high paywalls, even stronger actions have been taken. For example, just recently the US federal government created a new rule requiring all research receiving federal funds to be publicly available, which I think is just a common sense regulation.

The fact is that many of the companies selling these journal bundles function as monopolies and make extremely high profits off of work that is

ultimately designed to benefit the public and advance our societal knowledge. We should be pushing the institutions funding research to ensure it is open access as well as providing support to several nascent open-access journals which have been established in recent years as scholars have become fed up with the practices of the academic publishing industry. My frustration with academic grifting has gotten to the point where I would say that simply pirating the material you cannot access is the most morally acceptable option on top of just being economically feasible. In my opinion, the fruits of academic studies and research should be available to the public rather than locked behind a paywall and I think as a community of scholars we need to start pushing harder to make this ideal a reality.



Books.

submitted

Movies From The Library: *Singin' in The Rain*

Will Sorg
Movies Guy

In 1927, for the first time in America, it was possible for the average person to go to a movie and not only see what was happening on screen, but hear it as well. Early talking films were rough, awkward, and gimmicky, but that did not matter to audiences. Talking films immersed audience members even more deeply into the experience of movie watching. It was a change that would revolutionize filmmaking and completely alter the way people looked at movies. It was no longer good enough for an actor to be attractive and expressive, they had to sound like stars too. It was a time of frustration, new opportunities, and plenty of drama. Naturally, Hollywood has adapted this very specific time period into a handful of movies. It's the perfect setting for movies about movies, and no film utilizes that idea in a more entertaining way than *Singin' in The Rain*.

This film, directed by Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly, perhaps best encapsulates that classic Hollywood feel. It is lavishly produced, with the film going hugely over budget due to the extravagant set pieces, including a third-act dance number that cost over \$600,000. Its two directors have a similarly extravagant pedigree. Stanley Donen is known as "The King of the Hollywood Musical." Meanwhile, Gene Kelly was a legendary actor, singer, dancer, choreographer, and director who was also the star of the film. The supporting actors are equally impressive with Donald O'Conner's talent and comedic relief being unmatched, and Debbie Reynolds as the female lead is undeniably charming.

The film was an absolute success. Its seven-million dollar box office was huge at the time, and in the year that followed, the film became widely considered one of the greatest American musicals of all time. Watching the film 71 years later, it is still striking just how timeless and amazing it is. A silent movie star makes a last-ditch effort to save his disastrous first talking film by turning it into a musical. From this plot springs a perfectly paced, immaculately choreographed, film spectacle that borrows all the glamor and joy of big-budget musicals without a shred of darkness or gloom.

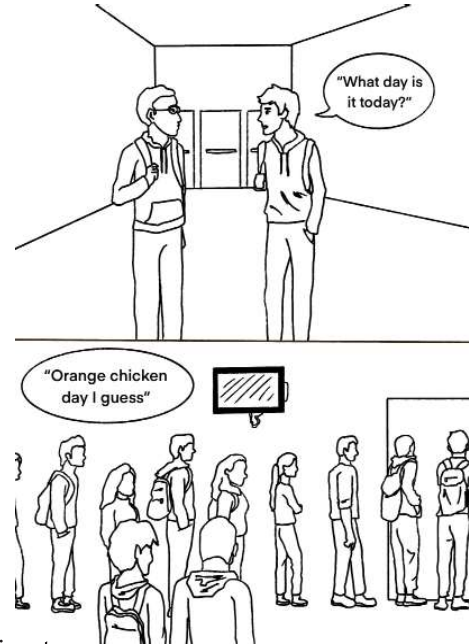
The iconic scene that the film takes its name from is perhaps what shows off the film's jubilant tone the best. Gene Kelly practically frolics through a downpour as his carefree smile and warm singing voice pierces through the rain. The dancing of the scene is perfect, Kelly's movement feels almost unplanned and spontaneous, exactly how it should be as if he is simply moved through his emotions rather than carefully executed choreography. That scene is of course one of the highlights of the film, but it must also be emphasized that it is hard to choose which section of the film is the best. There are so many incredible scenes and each one is filled with entertainment, humor, and positivity. It is a film that hits every mark perfectly. A film that never falters in its pursuit of pure entertainment. It is perhaps the greatest crowd-pleasing musical of all time and it may never lose that accolade. So maybe it's a good thing that talking pictures weren't just a fad, because they definitely ended up ironing out the roughness of the early ones.

Across:

- 2. Homeland of the Dhalai Lama
- 5. Blue planet far away from The Sun
- 6. Charlie Brown's beagle
- 10. American novelist
- 12. Tech company known for its computers
- 13. Swedish pop group
- 15. Name of The Pope

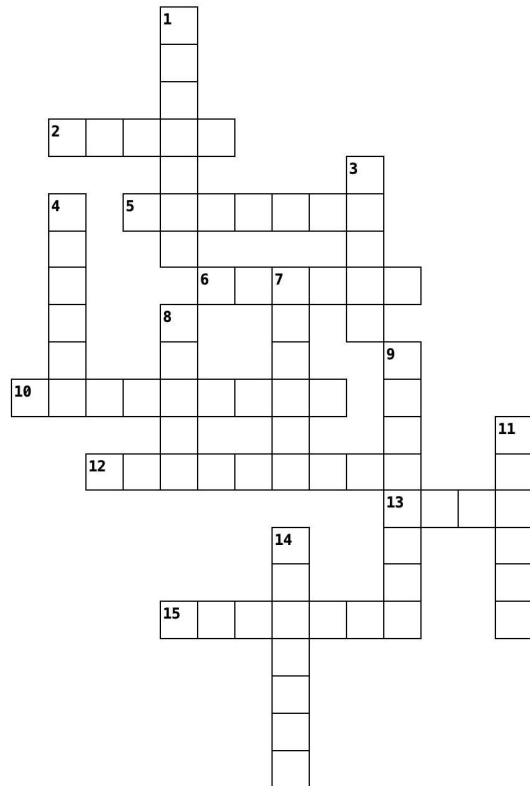
Down:

- 1. Tissue brand
- 3. Type of Italian Scooter
- 4. Internet search engine
- 7. Movie award ceremony
- 8. Fast food restaurant or fast blue mammal
- 9. A college in Saint Peter, Minnesota
- 11. Highest grossing movie of all time
- 14. Last name of a famous family of politicians



Frija Reinert

Today's Crossword Theme: Proper Nouns



Track sets records at MIACs

Women take third place, men end in fifth

Parker Burman
Staff Writer

Last weekend the Gustavus Track and Field team was in St. Paul to compete in the two-day-long MIAC Indoor Championships. After day one of the competition, the men and women were sitting in fifth place with 41 and 48 points. With an intense day Sunday, the women were able to push themselves into third place while the men finished in their same fifth place slot.

Starting with the women, Senior Birgen Nelson continued her dominance in the 60-meter hurdles, setting the MIAC Indoor record during prelims with an 8.56. In the events final she strengthened that time by hurdling an 8.53 to claim the title. Junior Danielle Miller was also named All-Conference in the 60-meter hurdles, finishing third in the race with a 9.24 time.

Nelson also earned All-Conference in the 60-meter taking third with a time of 7.865. Teammate and Sophomore Kate Carlson just edged out Nelson for second place with a time of 7.861. Sophomore Megan Geraets added another All-Conference for the Gusties with a second-place finish in the 400 meter.

"I think our team competed very well this weekend. We had girls go out and have some amazing PRs in their races, and we also had a lot of support from teammates cheering on others after their races or from teammates who came to the meet to support our team," Geraets said.



Gustie women celebrate a win in the 4x200-meter relay.

Submitted.

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On the men's side, Senior Josh Beiswanger highlighted the men's first day of competition by winning the weight throw with a toss of 56-4.5. Sophomore Tyler Smith took home All-Conference in the 800 meter, taking second place with a 1:56.93. In addition to these two impressive accomplishments, Senior Tucker Wallin broke a nearly 45-year-old school record in the mile with a blazing time of 4:16.48 to secure third place.

"I was really satisfied to place 2nd and 3rd against very competitive fields of athletes. I would've liked to win the conference championship for the 800, but I put out my best effort and am happy with the outcome," Smith said.

On the final day of competition, the Gusties women secured three more event championships. Nelson won in the 200 meter with a time of 25.61 and then teamed up with teammates Carlson, Geraets, and Junior Ally Rakow to win the 4x200-meter relay. Their time of 1:45.39 broke a school record that had stood since 1998. In the field, Senior Annika Poe won the shot put with a throw of 46-0.75.

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a time of 25.61 and then teamed up with teammates Carlson, Geraets, and Junior Ally Rakow to win the 4x200-meter relay. Their time of 1:45.39 broke a school record."

"After finishing the race and just having the anticipation of seeing our time, and then realizing that we broke the 4x200 record; there's just no better feeling than that accomplishment and pride to set a new record a new goal for our school," Geraets said.

"I am so proud of the girls on this relay! We missed the school record last year by .30, so it was amazing to break the record this year," Nelson said.

Geraets continued a strong weekend with All-conference honors in the 200 meter taking third with a 26.05. Senior Erin Beer finished third in the high jump with a leap of 4-11.75.

The men performed well on Sunday as well, where Wallin took home another distance title, this time in the 1000 meter with a time of 2:31.32. In the 4x400 meter relay Smith, Seniors Seth Zeitchick and Wyatt Quiring, and Junior Agro Gushwa took third place with a time of 3:27.37. The 4x200 relay team of Quiring, Zeitchick, Junior Matthew Skelly, and Senior Peter Oviguan took fourth with a 1:30.94 time.

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"I'm extremely proud of how hard the team fought in the 4 by 4. Everyone on the relay had already raced at least once or twice earlier in the championship, but Wyatt, Seth, and Agro left everything on the track for our relay and for our entire team," Smith said.

A select few Gusties will compete at the Wartburg Qualifier on Saturday, March 4, with hopes of gaining an invitation to compete in the NCAA Indoor Championship in Alabama the following weekend.

"The women's team really wanted to bring home first place, but with some things not going to plan we are still proud of our performance. We have some great momentum for the rest of the year moving onto the outdoor season, and I can't wait to watch the success that is to come," Carlson said.



Wallin and a teammate celebrate a record-breaking mile.

Submitted

Women's hockey marches forward

Olinger progresses towards full recovery



The Gusties defeated Hamline 5-1 in the MIAC semifinals.

Submitted

Nyden Hill
Staff Writer

This past weekend, on Sunday, Feb. 26, the Gustavus women's hockey team took the ice against Hamline University for the MIAC conference championship semifinals, in defense of their 2022 team title. The Gusties entered the matchup as the odds-on favorites, with only one MIAC loss on their record and placed firmly atop the MIAC rankings. On the other hand, the Pipers were situated in the middle of the MIAC pack with an in-conference record of just below .500 (8-9-1).

Despite the seemingly-massive advantage that the Gusties had, their mindset remained steadfast as they looked to punch their ticket to the MIAC finals.

"I think that it was important for us to not overlook Hamline just because we were the number one seed...Playoff hockey is completely different from regular-season hockey. Anything can happen," Senior forward Clara Billings said.

In the opening minutes of the first period of action, offensively, it was quiet from both sides. After the first ten minutes of action, the score remained 0-0, with the Gusties having overall puck control throughout those ten minutes.

"Capitalizing on our offensive opportunities was our struggle in the first period. The game was pretty even for both sides, but we had a little trouble

scoring," First-year forward Lily Mortenson said.

The first goal of the afternoon came, with Mortenson taking it upon herself to beat the Piper defenders and skate in for a momentum-building goal.

"I think it was really big for us. Usually in hockey, once you get one goal, they keep coming, it was really nice to get that momentum," Mortenson said.

After the first Gustie goal, the second period most certainly did not disappoint. Senior forward, Tina Press, notched the second goal of the afternoon, and just two minutes later, Sophomore forward, Kaitlyn Holland added to the Gusties' second-period explosion with a goal of her own, making the score 3-0 in favor of Gustavus. Junior forward Brooke Power got in on the action as well, scoring a goal at the 5:10 mark from a face-off. The Gusties' final goal of the afternoon came from Press, increasing her total for the afternoon to two scores.

"Hockey is a big game of momentum and we were able to capitalize on our chances and catch the other team and goalie off guard. I think they were on their heels a little bit. Once one, two, and three come, there were bound to be some more," said Billings.

When the final buzzer sounded, signaling the end to the game, the Gusties secured a dominant 5-1 win and trip to the MIAC finals for the second year in a row.

While the stage for the

Gusties will look very similar to last year, they will defend their title without a very important piece to their team and family, a Senior defenseman, Heather Olinger.

Olinger suffered a broken spine during a contest against St. Benedict's College on January 13, as a result of an illegal check from behind by a St. Benedict's player. Olinger said this when asked about her immediate reaction to the injury.

"As soon as it happened, I knew it was really bad. I kind of assumed I had broken my back/neck pretty bad. It was definitely the worst pain I had ever felt, so I knew it was pretty bad right away," Olinger said.

Despite suffering a very painful and life-changing injury, Olinger has received monumental support from the Gustavus community and beyond, even raising tens of thousands of dollars on a GoFundMe in her honor and for support. When asked about what kind of impact having this support has had on her outlook, Olinger was undeniably appreciative and hopeful.

"It was honestly kind of indescribable. It's been so amazing and such a blessing to have so many people reach out and say their condolences. It just makes me feel like I can do it. It has given me a lot of courage and faith to keep going and keep getting better," said Olinger.

Prior to her senior year, Olinger put together quite the resume in her three years play-

ing in a black and gold jersey. A three-year contributor, Olinger has recorded honors, including being a 2-time Academic All-Conference and 2-time ACHA All-American Scholar. Aside from her injury, in reflecting on her decorated career as a Gustie, Olinger is very happy with her own performance and contributions, saying this.

"My experience here has been amazing, both in school

and on the ice. My teammates have really grown to be my family and I really, truly am so grateful to have met them and made lifelong friends," Olinger said.

With the MIAC Championship occurring next Saturday, March 4, we wish the Gusties the best of luck as they hope to repeat as conference champions. We also wish Heather the best of luck as she progresses toward a full recovery.



Roster photo of Heather Olinger.

Submitted

Back-to-back

Women's basketball takes home MIAC championship

Andrew Clark
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Feb. 26, history was once again made. The top-seeded Gustavus Gusties Women's basketball team took the court against the number two seed Concordia Cobbers in the MIAC Championship game. Head Women's Basketball Coach Laurie Kelly led the Gusties to a 79-57 victory over Concordia to win the MIAC Championship for not only the second time, but for the second year in a row.

The Gustavus Women's Basketball team has already been on a record-setting season with a record of 24-2 coming into the game.

"Coming into the game we have been playing our best basketball as a team... we felt confident because we were well prepared and ready to go on our home court in front of our fans," Sophomore Guard Kylie Baranick said.

With a lot of hype behind the season already, family, friends, fans and fellow athletes packed the home bleachers Saturday at Gus Young Court in support of the team.

"We felt great as a team coming into the tournament. We were confident that if we just played 'Gustavus Basketball' that would be enough to get us the Championship. To be able to do it, for the first time ever, on Gus Young Court, in front of all our friends, family, and fans was magical! The crowd was amazing and really helped push us to victory. The support from the other student-athletes cheering from the stands meant so much to our players. The local fans and our family members



MIAC Champs.

Submitted

all showed up to cheer us on, which makes that moment even more special," Head Women's Basketball Coach Laurie Kelly said.

The Gusties came out with a quick lead in the first quarter, and never let the Cobbers recover. Gustavus ended the first quarter having 11 unanswered points. The Gustie defense continued to never let up, keeping the Cobbers to very minimal scoring.

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tory. The support from the other student-athletes cheering from the stands meant so much to our players. The local fans and our family members all showed up to cheer us on, which makes that moment even more special," Baranick said.

After the first quarter, the Gusties refused to let up and held their lead for the remainder of the game. Baranick led the Gusties to a dominating victory, scoring a career-high of 24 points on 5-9 shooting from the floor and a perfect 12-12 on free throws. Gustavus led by as much as 26 points throughout the game. At the end of the first half, Gustavus led 40-27.

After halftime, the Gusties made quick work of the Cobbers and easily led the rest of the game. If the Cobbers went on a surge, Gustavus would go on a bigger, longer, and higher-scoring surge.

The Gusties could smell the victory from the start of the second half leading by 26 points at the high point. The Cobbers tried their best to come back, and they made a respectable effort, but they could not overcome the power of the Gusties.

"As we got up over 20 points and were in the 4th quarter, it sank in that we were going to win this Championship on our home court and make history. For 11 years, I have dreamed of watching our players climb a ladder in their own gym, and cut down a piece of the net. For every player and coach that has

been part of Gustie women's basketball's history...they were a part of this journey and I am grateful for them all. Our victory Sunday, was their victory too," Coach Kelly said in reference to the final moments of the game.

"As we got up over twenty points and were in the 4th quarter, it sank in that we were going to win this Championship on our home court and make history."

The Gusties were victorious over the Cobbers with a score of 79-57. The Gusties are now at a 25-2 record with their most recent win.

The Women's basketball team is now headed to the NCAA DIII Selection Show. Gustavus plays on Friday vs Ohio Wesleyan at 5:15 p.m. CST on the campus of UW-Whitewater. If they win, they will advance to the round of 32 and play Saturday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. CST vs. the winner of the UW-Whitewater/Webster game, which will be played following the Gustie game on Friday evening.

"I feel good about where our team is at, and also know that anything can happen in NCAA tournament play. That is why they call it [March] Madness.

We are just going to take it one step at a time, and enjoy each moment we have together," Kelly said.

"We are feeling confident about how we're playing right now and it helps that we have lots of experience. After being there last year, we are ready to prove ourselves and will be coming out with lots of energy and ready to play on the big stage," Baranick said.

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Good luck to the Gusties in their endeavors in trying to bring glory and honor to Gustavus's name. History has already been made this amazing season with record-breaking wins. It will soon be seen and decided just how many records will be broken and championship titles will be won for the Gusties.



Emma Kniefel drives to the hoop.

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