

Latinx night comes back to campus with flair



A photo from Latinx night, featuring dancers performing on stage.

Izabela Taylor

Amelia Dewberry
Staff Writer

Last Friday night, students and staff filled Alumni Hall for Latinx Night; a showcase of Latin American culture through both student and professional performances, games, and food hosted by the Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS). This year's theme was Latindependencia.

First, attendees were welcomed with paletas from La Michoacana. The high-energy event was kicked off by a performance by Alto Designó, a Minneapolis-based band. Dancers from Mis Raices Dance Collective in Mankato performed folk dances and Brazil Arts

Twin Cities brought students on-stage for more dancing.

Many members of the Gustavus community also shared their culture and talent on stage. OLAS Co-President and Senior Anthony Hernandez and next year's Co-President and current Sophomore Rebeca Bonilla performed a dance, as well as Senior Cristina Sirbu with fellow First-year Daniel López Fernández. Assistant Professor of Philosophy Jon Gill, known as Gilead7, had the audience clapping along to hip-hop. Former Gustie Jasmin Moriera accompanied her father Jorge Moriera's singing with violin. The evening was capped by a student group dance and Latin American food.

Senior Maritza Beltran shared her poem "Dissolved Borders" about navigating her identity as a second-generation Latina im-

migrant in majority white communities in the Midwest. "Poetry is one of my artistic outlets that I have trouble sharing -- it's usually a very vulnerable and raw side of my emotions that I try to omit to avoid making people uncomfortable, but as a senior, I felt that I had the comfortability and safe space to share how I felt -- and to let others know that it was okay to feel the same way," Beltran said. She was glad to hear that others had felt similar emotions and were touched by hearing her articulate those feelings.

Next year's OLAS Co-President Sophomore Sebastian Calderon emphasized the significance of the event for himself and others. "Latinx Night is the one night where I and all the Latinos and Latinas on our campus can share a small part of our culture, and during this night is

when I feel very connected back to Ecuador and Mi Gente Latina . . . this event connects not only Latinos but also our diverse campus and community, and by sharing a little about ourselves we can celebrate our differences and develop our cultural competence," Calderon said. Beltran added that it represents many parts of Latin American culture, specifically "... the things that everyone sees and the parts that we wish to highlight more."

Planning the night was both enjoyable and stressful for OLAS members, but fulfilling to host a great event, Calderon and Beltran agreed. Calderon attended the E-board planning meetings: "I saw all the members coming together as a team and working through each issue and problem, figuring out each little detail from Latinx Night

so it all could run as smoothly as possible. I saw and felt their stress, as they tried to make this the best Latinx Night it could be, and I'm so happy and proud to say that it was." Beltran felt that learning to manage stress and overcome logistical hiccups was a useful skill to develop.

For many students, "OLAS is a safe space where they can feel a sense of belonging or even find a second family," Calderon said. "I think OLAS is special because it's a community, a place for students to find their people, and also where you can learn about other cultures as Latin America is very big and diverse," Calderon emphasized. He added "One big misunderstanding about OLAS is that it is only for Latin American students when in reality it's for EVERYONE! All are welcome to join!"

News

Interfaith discussion... Page 5

WEEKLYScan

A preview of this week's top news and more

Entertainment

Movie review: *The Man with the..* Page 13

Variety

GOW: Patrick Stonecipher.. Page 6

Features

What's OLAS cooking..Page 8-9

Opinion

Jojo Siwa back like boomerang...Page 11

Sports

Track and field competes at Bethel... Page 14

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Events Calendar

Food Truck
 April 25, 5 - 7 p.m.
 Lund Circle

Earth Day 2024!
 April 26, 2 - 4 p.m.
 John's Family Courtyard

Relay For Life of Gustavus
 April 26, 5 - 11:00 p.m.
 Lund Hockey Arena

Diversity Ball 2024: Rooted in Diversity
 April 27, 5 - 10 p.m.
 The Capitol Room, 419 S Minnesota Ave,
 St. Peter, MN

Daily Sabbath Calendar

Holy Communion:
 Mondays (Christ Chapel)
 10 - 10:20 a.m.

Chapel and Chill:
 Tuesdays (Christ Chapel)
 10 - 10:20 a.m.

Music & Message:
 Wednesdays (Christ Chapel)
 10 - 10:20 a.m.

Chapel Break: Creative Reflection:
 Thursdays (Christ Chapel)
 10 - 10:20 a.m.

Musical Showcase:
 Fridays (Christ Chapel)
 10 - 10:20 a.m.

Student Senate Updates

The Public Relations committee met with the Marketing department to discuss student's concerns surrounding GustieBot. Student Senate proposed collaborating with them in order to make a statement about the tool. We hope to address the school's overall stance on AI and the constructive criticism that came with publishing the GustieBot

The Senate voted on many things this past week, including a bylaw change that allows for organizations to reallocate their funding if an unexpected charge arises

If you would like to be a member of the Senate, specifically a member of the Cabinet, you received an email from Megan Ruble on April 12th that includes an application for Cabinet positions. This involvement allows you to directly be in the know for campus related issues and lets your voice be heard within them. Email any member of the Senate with any questions!

Contact Public Relations Chair Kira Woods with any questions at kirawoods@gustavus.edu

Follow the Student Senate Instagram! : [gac.studentsenate](https://www.instagram.com/gac.studentsenate)

Campus Safety Report

Saturday, March 16, 2024

- On Saturday, March 16, Campus Safety responded to a fire alarm at Sorensen Hall. Smoke, no fire.

Sunday, March 17, 2024

- On Sunday, March 17, Campus Safety responded to a fire alarm in International Center, a cooking error, no apparent damage to property.

Sunday, March 17, 2024

- On Sunday, March 17, Campus Safety noticed the theft of a sign on the college grounds.

Sunday, March 17, 2024

- On Sunday, March 17, Campus Safety received a walk-in complaint of a student smelling of marijuana.

Saturday, March 23, 2024

- On Saturday, March 23, Campus Safety recovered evidence of a broken exit sign in Norelius Hall.

Sunday, March 24, 2024

- On Sunday, March 24, Campus Safety responded to Sorensen Hall for a fire alarm. Smoke, no fire.

Contact the Campus Safety office 24 hours a day at 507-933-8888.

Author Antti Tuomainen to visit campus for public lecture on Finnish literature

Elliot Steeves
Staff Writer

Antti Tuomainen, a renowned novelist of crime fiction from Finland, will visit Gustavus for one week from April 22nd through the 27th. The visit is part of the Scandinavian Studies department's ongoing "Out of Scandinavia" program, which has brought important artists, writers, and figures from Scandinavian arts and culture to Gustavus' campus since 1989.

Tuomainen will visit several different classes throughout the week, ranging from Russophone Literature with Annelise Rivas and Scandinavian Crime Fiction with Ursula Lindqvist, to more general classes like Writing Fiction with Eric Vrooman and Introduction to Creative Writing with Rebecca Fremo and Philip Bryant. He will also visit the Writing Center during their staff meeting, and even Introduction to Statistics Literacy with Ella Burnham.

Tuomainen has written a large amount of renowned fiction, ranging from his earlier dark noir work to more recent and comedic ventures. His most-known books include 2018's *The Man Who Died*, and 2022's *The Rabbit Factor*.

"His novels are almost always about crime," Scandinavian Studies Professor Ursula Lindqvist said. "They are preposterous, and there is always a weird motif of an ordinary Joe getting the woman of his dreams. In that sense, it's modeled a bit on his own life."

Lindqvist commented on how Finnish humor is very unique and dry. Because of this, Tuomainen's novels have been heavily read and laughed at. As a result, Tuomainen has put Finland on the map in a lot of ways, talking about what makes Finland itself.

"I appreciate it from the perspective of someone who can translate his humor into language," Lindqvist said. "My family roots are in Finland, and I have dual citizenship. His humor is so typically Finnish. It takes a minute to get it, and



A photo of novelist Antti Tuomainen.

Submitted

then you howl with laughter!" Tuomainen also engages with a lot of stereotypes about Finnish culture.

"Even if we are entirely new to Finland, he makes these

archetypes so endearing," Lindqvist said. "You want to root for the underdog when you read him."

Two students in Scandinavian Crime Fiction, Seniors Ce-

rise Metz and Leah Thompson talked about goofily reenacting a scene from *The Man Who Died* from their desks in class.

"It wasn't huge; we just read from our desks," Thompson

said. "Sometimes, Lindqvist wants us to read from our desks so that the class can hear passages out loud."

Both the students also concurred that Tuomainen's bibliography was an interesting look at a new cultural perspective.

"We don't often think of death as being associated with comedy," Metz said. "There are small cultural aspects contained in Tuomainen's writing if you look closely enough. It gives more cultural insight that you might not understand, and helps a lot of people with understanding Finnish culture."

The Out of Scandinavia residency generally focuses on bringing in guests who will resonate with students, and whose work students have connected with.

"Tuomainen was hands down students' favorite crime fiction author," Lindqvist said. "He will be extremely engaged, and will be active with our students throughout the week."

Tuomainen was also extremely easy to reach out to on social media.

"I just reached out to him on Facebook and asked him to come," Lindqvist said. "He is so humble and down to earth, and is extremely enthusiastic. We were really grateful that Antti was so available."

All those interviewed were sure that Tuomainen would bring a much-needed jolt of humor and realness at a time in our semester when all of us need it.

"He is a writer at the top of his craft, and anyone would benefit from coming and listening to him," Lindqvist said.

"If anyone wants to learn more about Finland, and the process behind one of the greatest Scandinavian writers, they should definitely attend one of the events," Thompson said.

"Finland is not only fun, it is also dark and comedic," Metz said. "Tuomainen would love to tell us about it, and immerse us into his thought process behind creating these wonderful novels."

Women are funny! WAC, SRF, and GWiL to host comedians Soo Ra and Shyloh Blake

Katie Samek
Staff Writer

The Women's Action Coalition (WAC), Students for Reproductive Freedom (SRF), and Gustavus Women in Leadership (GWIL) would like to cordially invite Gustavus to join them for a laugh at "Women Are Funny!", a comedy performance featuring comedians Soo Ra and Shyloh Blake. This event will take place on Thursday, April 25th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall.

A make-your-own-trail mix bar will be available for students, along with popcorn and mocktails. Each of the three organizations will have a booth set up before the event for interested students to sign up for and learn more about these organizations on campus.

Soo Ra is a Miami-based comedian who now resides in NYC, having made appearances on an assortment of outlets such as BuzzFeed, Fusion Comedy, and WorldStar Hip Hop. She has also been a guest on several notable podcasts, such as Kill Tony and Talk Clearlyer, and has had the honor of opening for famous comedians like Jeff Ross, Tony Woods, and Kyle Grooms. Students can follow her on Instagram, Facebook, and X accounts, all under the username @hoora4soora.

Shyloh Blake is a local stand-up comedian, based out of Minneapolis, MN. The host of "Stand Up Saloon" at The Saloon in Minneapolis, she was selected for the 2023 10,000 Laughs Festival in Minneapolis, MN, appeared in the 2023 Sno Jam Comedy Festival in Sioux Falls, SD, and was a finalist in the 2022 "Funniest Person With a Day Job" contest at Rick Bronson's House of Comedy at the Mall of America. She has been interviewed by MPR News, Twin Cities Live, KFAI Radio, and Voyage Minnesota magazine. Students can follow her on Instagram, X, TikTok, and Threads, all under the username @shylohblake.

The Women's Action Coalition (WAC) strives to highli-



The comedians that will be in attendance, Shyloh Blake (left) and Soo Ra (right).

Submitted

ght the successes and efforts of women in all walks of life, as well as create a safe space for women, LGBTQ+, BIPOC, and allies so that meaningful discussions and a strong sense of community can be fostered without judgment. Meetings are held every Monday night in the WAC/Counseling Hub Room (Jackson Student Union room 105) to talk about women in sports, indigenous women, intersectionality, and more.

"If students are interested in WAC, they should come to our Monday night meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.!" Vice President of WAC and Junior Raquel Vaughn said. "Or, if they prefer, they can reach out to any one of the executive board members via email at g-wacexec-board@gustavus.edu."

Gustavus Women in Leadership (GWIL) is a women's organization with the mission of preparing, promoting, and inspiring Gustavus women to reach their potential, in both their professional and personal leadership development. The group aspires to develop women so they can advocate for themselves, live purposeful lives, and serve their neighbors for a better world. Some of their largest events over the last year included an internship panel, Career Quest, the International Women's Day Event featuring Dr. Cindra Kamphoff, and the End of the Year GWIL Banquet at the American Swedish Institute.

"We are always looking for more people to get involved with GWIL," Communication

Co-Chair of GWIL and Senior Morgan Kelly said. "If students are interested, they can find our booth outside Alumni Hall during the event, or they can send an email to myself (morgankelly@gustavus.edu) or Avery Rowan (averyrowan@gustavus.edu) to be added to our email alias."

Students for Reproductive Freedom (SRF) partners with Planned Parenthood General Action to educate the college community about reproductive health and rights, to translate increased awareness into pro-choice activism on campus, and to serve as a coalition partner to state, national, and international reproductive rights efforts. SRF believes in the fundamental right of every individual to manage their fertility, supports

full access to comprehensive reproductive and complementary health care services, preserves, and protects the essential privacy and rights of each individual, advocates for public policies that guarantee these rights and ensure access to such services, and supports access to medically accurate educational programs.

Overall, there are high hopes for this event that the groups are bringing to Gustavus: "We hope to break the stereotype that 'women aren't funny' by bringing these two wonderful women to campus," Kelly said. "This has been a highly requested event, and it's an honor to bring these two to Gustavus and spread awareness about the history of misogyny in the field of stand-up comedy."

Interfaith discussions at Gustavus Adolphus

Grace LaTourelle
Staff Writer

The third part of the Interfaith Discussion Series will take place on Tuesday, April 23rd at 10:00 a.m. in Christ Chapel. The dialogue will be about the Muslim faith. The Interfaith Discussion Series was headed up by Senior Zoe Jesh who is the current Interfaith Intern for the Chaplain's Office and Religion Department.

"My role with this interfaith series was to coordinate all of the guests, communicate the questions that I would be asking ahead of time, and to facilitate the actual discussions," Jesh said.

The first two discussions in the three-part series revolved around Judaism and Buddhism. The Chapel Break discussions were created to enter into inclusive dialogue and learning for students, faculty, and staff.

"Part of it is learning for the broader campus community and it's also helpful for people of non-Christian faith traditions to have people be curious about and wonder and learn," Chaplain Betsy Hoium said.

In the series, Hoium and Jesh alternate sessions as well as interviewing the guests. This session will be led by Jesh, interviewing Dr. Hagar Attia, who has been named the head of the Muslim Student Association.

"We're asking the same or similar questions at each of these: asking about what it is like to live in a diverse world, a major faith milestone or memory, [an] overview of their faith tradition, how to learn more..." Hoium said.

Jesh also noted that one particular question will be asked; it will revolve around a teaching that Attia finds particularly profound in the Muslim faith. Jesh aimed the discussions to highlight the background and personal experience of each guest who was invited.

"The importance of these discussions/Q&A sessions is to make students, faculty, and staff aware of the differing faith/religious backgrounds that Gustavushasoncampus," Jesh said.

The Muslim faith is the largest non-Christian faith represented on campus. As well as coming to the interfaith discussion and learning, students and faculty are also encouraged to uplift their Muslim peers.

"...we can lift up our Muslim peers in many ways. One way we can do this is through acknowledging and celebrating in a respectful way, certain holidays specific to the Muslim faith," Jesh said.

Jesh identified that Muslim students may feel overlooked, also commenting on the Islamophobic rhetoric in society and the safety concerns that are raised alongside that.

"We can also lift up Muslim students on campus by creating safe and welcoming spaces to have dialogues similar to the interfaith series that allow them to inform students about the Muslim faith and why it is important to them," Jesh said.

Gustavus represents the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, a denomination of Lutheranism. Jesh noted that often, students who identify as or similar to that faith are drawn to campus. However, the Lutheran faith, as Jesh and Hoium identified, encompasses learning and acceptance of other faith traditions.

"The Lutheran faith is very much...rooted in Lutheranism and open to other traditions and how we partner with our neighbors," Hoium said.

The series does not only aim at teaching but also acknowledging students of other faiths on campus to create a welcoming space.

"Too often students of a different faith on campus are overlooked. If they see that there are other people who identify with the same faith, they are more likely to feel welcomed and accepted on campus," Jesh noted.

The discussion on April 23rd will conclude the series, however, students are encouraged to keep learning and having interfaith discussions.

"...inter-religious/interfaith discussions can sometimes be hard to have," Jesh said. "...if we can introduce students to discussions like this it will set an example of how people can approach difficult conversations outside of the realm of faith."

Hoium also noted the broader impact that the discussions and dialogue have on individual and community spirituality.

"It makes the campus stronger when we value other faith traditions because you both learn more about your own tradition and beliefs and



Chaplain Betsy Hoium

about others when you are in dialogue," Hoium said.

"It makes the campus stronger when we value other faith traditions because you both learn more about your own tradition and beliefs and about others

when you are in dialogue."

Hoium suggested building relationships and doing fun things together to reduce the 'us' and 'them' rhetoric, in the "ever increasingly diverse world". Students and faculty are encouraged to bring questions and an open mind to the final part of the discussion, as well as continue to

make interfaith connections.

"I would just like to add that I have had a wonderful time planning this series and getting to talk to some amazing people. I also appreciate all of the students, staff, and faculty that have come to the discussions so far," Jesh said.

Submitted

GUSTIE of the WEEK

Patrick Stonecipher

Taylor Storlien
Staff Writer

This week's Gustie of the Week is Patrick Stonecipher. Stonecipher is finishing up his Senior year on The Hill this spring. With a major in English paired with an individualized Film major, Stonecipher has made his four years here work for him in every way. "I individualized the Film Minor to be a Major, combining English and Art classes with [an] emphasis on film studies and video art. What I hoped to achieve with the major was a solid groundwork in film criticism and theory, backed up with a decent bit of production experience, which I got a lot of during my semester abroad," Stonecipher said. He hopes to be a filmmaker, dreaming of being a writer or director, but most of all aspiring to work in film editing.

Film has also connected him to friends he has made during his time here at Gustavus. Se-

nior Eli Simon and Stonecipher met when they lived in the same pod in Norelius as First-years: "We were out on the soccer field playing games at the start of the semester and we both mentioned we were into filmmaking - we hit it off right then and there!" Simon said. Film brought Stonecipher and Senior Beck LaCanne together too, as they met through mutual friends and bonded over watching *Le Samouraï* together.

His First-year random roommate turned friend, Senior Jack Raway, thinks back to how much Stonecipher helped him through his first year: "I was really nervous to be away from home, but having Patrick around made things so much easier since I had someone I could talk to when I got back after classes, activities, or just whenever since we were always in our rooms back then," Raway said. Stonecipher's friends ac-

credit him with the ability to make people laugh as well as having a kind spirit. "He often makes people smile...he's a really fun person to be around and can help turn a bad day into a good one," Simon said. His personality is well-known to those around him. "Anyone that knows Patrick knows that he's constantly making people laugh. He always brings a really fun, charming energy that makes people smile, whether that's his friends, his classmates, his family, or even people he just met," Raway said.

"He often makes people smile...he's a really fun person to be around and can help turn a bad day into a good one."

As for his time here, "Gus-

tavus shaped me through the friends I made [during] my time here. We met freshman year and have stuck together the entire time, even when we all traveled abroad. I've never felt closer to a group of people, they're honestly a family to me. Every day they inspire me, not just to reach for higher achievement, but to be a kinder, more compassionate person to everyone I meet," Stonecipher said. LaCanne recognizes how humble Stonecipher can be, especially when it comes to his relationships.

"Patrick gives a lot of credit to his friends for being very caring and compassionate, but he doesn't always recognize that he's an incredibly kind and beautiful person himself. He's an incredible host, and always works to make those around him feel comfortable, recognized, and cared for," LaCanne said.

He's made many memories on The Hill; when asked what his favorite was with Stonecipher, "Too many, sorry," was Simon's answer. Even for LaCanne, there is not a standout moment, as her favorite memory with Stonecipher is "... more like a collection of moments: When he sings in the kitchen while he cooks! It's one of the most comforting, sweet things he does. And he has a beautiful singing voice," LaCanne said. As for a more specific memory, "Wine Wednesday," Raway said.

"[I] realized it was probably true: strang-

ers don't go around praying on the downfall of everyone around them. We're all normal people living our lives, and it's easier to do so when we support each other."

Something that has helped Stonecipher through a multitude of situations has been the saying "Everyone wants what's best for you." He finds himself a fairly nervous person in general, particularly in social situations. He began telling himself this line and "realized it was probably true: strangers don't go around praying on the downfall of everyone around them. We're all normal people living our lives, and it's easier to do so when we support each other," Stonecipher said. He leans on the idea of community and the good of people, as that motto has enabled him to be more social and outgoing, "for better or for worse," Stonecipher said. After graduation, he is planning to work for a few months minimum as a freelance editor. After this, he will enter the Montage program at FAMU in Prague. He is excited about the future and when he thinks back to his motto, he knows anything and everything will work out: "I figure as long as I remind myself I have a lot of people in my corner, and that I'm in their corner as well, things will work out alright."



GoW Patrick Stonecipher

Submitted

Do you have a suggestion for a Gustavus student, professor, or staff member who could be our next Gustie of the Week?

If so, send their name, position on campus, and a short description of why you think they should be recognized to weeklylettertotheeditor@gmail.com for a chance to be featured!

Gustavus Valorant team faces finals

Colleen Coleman
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, April 17th at 7:30 p.m., the Gustavus Esports team competed in the conference Valorant finals against Seattle University. The team also hosted a watch party in Beck, where the Gustavus community was welcomed to watch along in person as well as those who tuned in to the Twitch stream.

“Our entire team is incredibly thankful we get the opportunity to play at this level, and we want to thank

our program director Evan Haldeman and especially Gustavus as an institution for all the support they have given us.”

Gustavus Esports competes in the Open Plus division of the National Association for College Esports, alongside almost 200 other schools. Gustavus placed 11th in the conference alongside 15 other schools. With the Valorant team making it to the conference finals for the second season in a row, the Esports team is ecstatic for the opportunity to play. “Our Valorant team earned a 5-2 regular season

and a spot in the playoffs with which we have defeated [the] University of Portland and [the] University of North Carolina Pembroke,” Director of Esports Evan Haldeman said.

“Our entire team is incredibly thankful we get the opportunity to play at this level, and we want to thank our program director Evan Haldeman and especially Gustavus as an institution for all the support they have given us,” Gustavus Esports member and Junior Gabe Gohman said. The team has had a very successful season on and off campus, with the Smash team also reaching the playoffs, and the group hosting many events and tournaments on campus. “After our

5-2 record in the main season, we’ve since battled our way to the finals where we hope for a repeat season championship,” Gohman said.

“After our 5-2 record in the main season, we’ve since battled our way to the finals where we hope for a repeat season championship.”

On and off campus, Esports has had a big renaissance in recent years. Having recently started up after an anonymous grant in 2020, Gustavus Es-

ports has grown very popular and successful in recent years. Especially with the surge of online gaming with pandemic lockdowns, Esports have overall gained lots of recognition similar to physical sports across the globe.

If you missed viewing the match live, you are able to re-watch the stream and support the team on twitch.tv/gustavusesports.



Promotional Valorant Picture

What did OLAS cook at Latinx Night?



Why wet grass is underrated



Raquel Vaughn
Opinion Columnist

The April showers are here. It feels like every day now that there's a thunderstorm on the forecast, or at the very least, rain. Don't get me wrong, I love the rain. In fact, I look forward to the days that I get to wake up to thunder and a flash of lightning. I like to listen to its pitter-patter as I read my book. And sometimes, I'll look up and watch the droplets race down the window pane. When I was little, I liked to fall asleep to the sound of thunder and imagine what was happening in heaven. When my brothers and I were still learning fractions and how to work the landline, my mom would tell us that when it rained, God was laughing so hard He was crying and that the boom of the thunder was just his voice. I would dream about what and who could make God laugh viciously and loudly.

I love the rain and everything about it: the sound, the smell, the way the dark clouds hover over the city, making it feel like the "end of the day" all day. I will continue embracing every feature of this natural phenomenon, even if it makes an enemy.

Let's take it back to Raquel's third-grade year when the school's spring semester was inching closer to its end. In elementary school, this time of year was always the best because it was easier to twist your teacher's arm. If the class spent the entirety of silent-reading time actually reading then—surprise—afternoon recess! If the class walked quietly from the lunch room to the classroom then—surprise again—afternoon recess! The months of April and May in elementary school



Wet grass

Submitted

meant that every opportunity was an afternoon recess opportunity. And for whatever reason, my class earned an afternoon recess on this particular day of the week.

"I love the rain and everything about it: the sound, the smell, the way the dark clouds hover over the city, making it feel like the 'end of the day' all day."

As we shuffled from the classroom to the playground, we couldn't contain our excitement. After all, it rained all morning and during lunch, so we never even got our normal recess that day. Who's smart idea was it to stick a hundred nine-year-olds in a building for seven to eight hours straight?

The elementary school's layout was interesting in that a hill ran from the parking lot to the playground. The hill wasn't extremely big, but it was steep enough that recess monitors would hand out sleds during the

winter so we could go sledding down it. There was also a hill that led from the playground to what we called our school's forest. During recess, we weren't allowed to go into the forest, but the monitors didn't mind if we played with leaves and sticks on the outskirts. However, I was more of a monkey bars kind of girl, so I kept to myself on the playground while my friends poked at rocks with their sticks.

When we ran outside with our backpacks, I slipped on the first hill. It spooked and embarrassed me, but I realized that it was simply wet grass. I shrugged my shoulders and dropped my backpack at the bottom of the hill, where everybody else's backpacks were also abandoned. Like I said, I spent every recess at the monkey bars. But the most-coveted playground equipment was up for grabs. What we called "The Glider" is what you would imagine a single bar on a metal zipline. We were the only class outside, and I figured that it was now or never. So I walked up to "The Glider" intending to spend all of our afternoon recess swinging from one side to the other.

I got one swing in before noticing most of my classmates were at the bottom of the other hill, right by the school forest. I wondered how they got down there so quickly without falling on their butts. Everything was wet—the grass, the playground—I nearly slipped off "The Glider" doing my one swing. I completely forgot this fact and what happened moments before when I began running down the hill, yelling at my friends to be careful because they could slip on the wet grass.

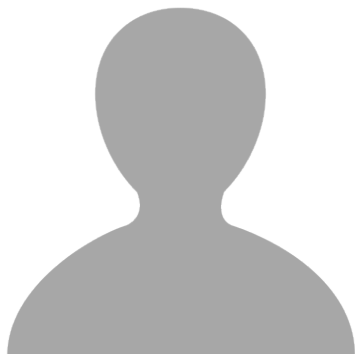
I couldn't even get to the end of my warning before I slipped again. This time I braced both of my hands behind me to break my fall. As a third-grader a mere month or so away from experiencing summer, that was the worst mistake I could have made in that moment. As soon as I connected with the ground, a sharp pain went through my right arm. I began to cry, and two of my friends ran to help me up. My hands were muddy as well as my skirt, and all the boys in my class, except for Logan H, pointed and laughed at me. It wasn't raining or thundering, but I could've sworn that even

God was up in heaven laughing at me.

When I went to the nurse's office, I was in there for so long getting my arm wrapped up that I missed my bus. Walking alone from the front doors to an unfamiliar bus while nursing your right arm with your left is a truly humbling experience. I had to switch off mid-route. It didn't matter how many times during my hour-long bus ride I called my mom, she still did not answer. It wasn't until thirty minutes after being dropped off that I learned my mom was grocery shopping. It wasn't until the next day, when I skipped school to go to the hospital, that I learned that I dislocated and fractured my arm. I cycled through two different casts and had to learn cursive with my left hand. And it didn't matter how much I loved the rain, I had to put a plastic bag on before going out in it.

Now, as a 21-year-old, I am still afraid of slipping and falling. The reason I walk twice as slowly on campus during the winter is for the same reason I hate wet grass.

Jojo Siwa: Back like a boomerang



Sophia White
Opinion Columnist

Jojo Siwa is facing karma with all these allegations surrounding the release of her new song, "Karma". After its release, Siwa claimed to be in her new era, but is there really a difference between dancing bows and female Gene Simmons? The real disappointment in this statement is that Siwa has no idea who Gene Simmons is when asked about their recent likeness in interviews. What's even worse is that Siwa claims to be the first to have made such a "radical" change in her style during her lifetime of stardom, which is completely and utterly false when you look at Miley Cyrus who made that kind of change famous, or even Amanda Bynes who looks completely different. And the controversies just keep stacking up.

The first thing I would like

to discuss is how the song leads us to believe that Siwa deals with the karma of her actions and is suffering from something. She has a net worth of over 20 million and a car covered in decals of her face, and she's suffering? She hasn't even been fully de-platformed for some of the things she has done or supported either. I'm not seeing karma. She faces no consequences for her actions. The release of this song has created so many memes that she is not only benefitting monetarily but it also is hiding a recent controversy of hers that involves the abuse of a disabled child in a child's dance group that Siwa and her mother formed called, XOMG pop.

"The release of this song has created so many memes that she is not only benefitting monetarily but it also is hiding a recent controversy. . ."

One of the dancers in this group of minors received surgery for her spine and was forced to dance and exercise while in recovery by Siwa and her mother. If she didn't, the girl would be kicked out of the

XOMG pop group. She ended up leaving the group of her own accord and has now been speaking out about it on social media. What a coincidental time to have this controversy come out and simultaneously start posting snippets of a new song. The whole dance group incident has essentially been swept under the rug as a result of Siwa's release of "Karma" and the interest it has received.

"As a way to get back at Siwa, Smith released the unreleased version to the public that was written in 2014 recently. Unfortunately, it can only be referenced as a cover of Siwa's song. . ."

That isn't even the last of it though. Karma was not written by Siwa, as we all have been led to believe. Nor some random record producer. It was written by someone else entirely who did not permit Siwa to pass the song off as her own. Brit Smith wrote "Karma" in 2014 and left the song unreleased with an available music video for people to watch. Siwa has yet to comment on this, but she claims that the song was her own cre-

ation and that the lyrics mean a lot to her. All the lyrics and melodies are copied other than the one line in which, in Siwa's version it says, "I would've never [effed] around" and in Britt Smith's version the lyric goes, "I would've never [messed] around". Siwa putting "effed" in is the only difference between her version and Smith's – and it isn't even the actual curse word! It's just sad. As a way to get back at Siwa, Smith released the unreleased version to the public that was written in 2014 recently. Unfortunately, it can only be referenced as a cover of Siwa's song as Siwa bought the rights before Smith could. This leaves another person wrongfully exploited by the reign of Jojo Siwa.

Siwa describes herself as having been a "bad girl" in the past, but in reality, she still is. Not even in the cool way, but in the cringy "I wish you would stop posting things" kind of way. I showed the music video to my own mother and she described Siwa as, and I quote, "a toilet snake." I don't even know what that is, but it sounds correct.

Siwa is allowed to do the kind of content she wants to until she genuinely harms other people, yet I think that has already been done. Between abusing children, supporting social

media pedophiles, trying to dethrone Miley Cyrus, and stealing someone else's music, Jojo Siwa should be de-platformed. It's as simple as that. However, in reality, it sadly isn't that simple.

"They have money and won't suffer karma unless we take away the thing they feed off of: attention. Granted, I am giving Siwa attention. . . but I am doing it in hopes that the song gets out of my head. . ."

I've started to come to terms with the fact that people like this cannot be "canceled". They have money and won't suffer karma unless we take away the thing they feed off of: attention. Granted, I am giving Siwa attention right now by writing an article about her, but I am doing it in hopes that the song gets out of my head and I can get out of this Siwa meme cycle. It is really funny to see the clips of her swimming out of the toilet, but I am going on a personal boycott now. People can only be de-platformed by not giving them views or your time, and I think we should all work on that with those influencers and celebrities we know are doing things that should not be publicized and still earning money off of it. There are going to be thousands of controversies from thousands of different people, but I am going to put my time and views toward those I want to count on. Not towards Jojo Siwa. This time her boomerang is not coming back.



Jojo Siwa, Karma music video

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Movies From The Library: *The Man With The Movie Camera*

Will Sorg
Movies Guy

By the end of the 1920s, film history was on an unstoppable march towards the innovation of talking pictures. The death of the silent film was heralded by 1927's *The Jazz Singer*, the first talkie, and through the 30s, filmmakers made the somewhat awkward transition into sound. The sound did change the landscape of cinema forever; stories came to life in dramatically different ways due to the ability to actually hear dialogue, music, and sound effects. In many ways, it marked the blending of film as a medium with other arts. Films became an amalgam of theater, music, photography, and novels. Eventually, film served as a melting pot of art that birthed the type of narrative film we are used to today.

Yet even back in 1929, there was a movement to showcase the distinctly cinematic language of film. Of course, it is impossible to separate film from the other arts because there is intersectionality with all art. However, Soviet filmmaker Dziga Vertov created a film to exemplify what makes film an art form by itself. *The Man With The Movie Camera* is a little over an hour long, but it captures the essence of the film within its short runtime.

Vertov's documentary is a simple one; it's a series of seemingly unrelated scenes edited together. There are shots of people on the beach, soaring high-angle shots of city activity, the process of cigarette packaging at a factory, and plenty of other sequences. However, it all furthers Vertov's thesis that film without the influence of the other arts should capture "life unawares." The film feels like a mosaic of early 20th-century life. Edited by Vertov's wife Elizaveta Svilova, the film is a chaotic, almost overwhelmingly quick piece. It feels strikingly modern as the camera is not bolted to the unmoving tripod typical of early film. Rather, the camera is unhinged from our reality. The documentary is almost dreamlike as we watch photos begin to turn into moving pictures and buildings merge into each other as the editor cuts two images together.

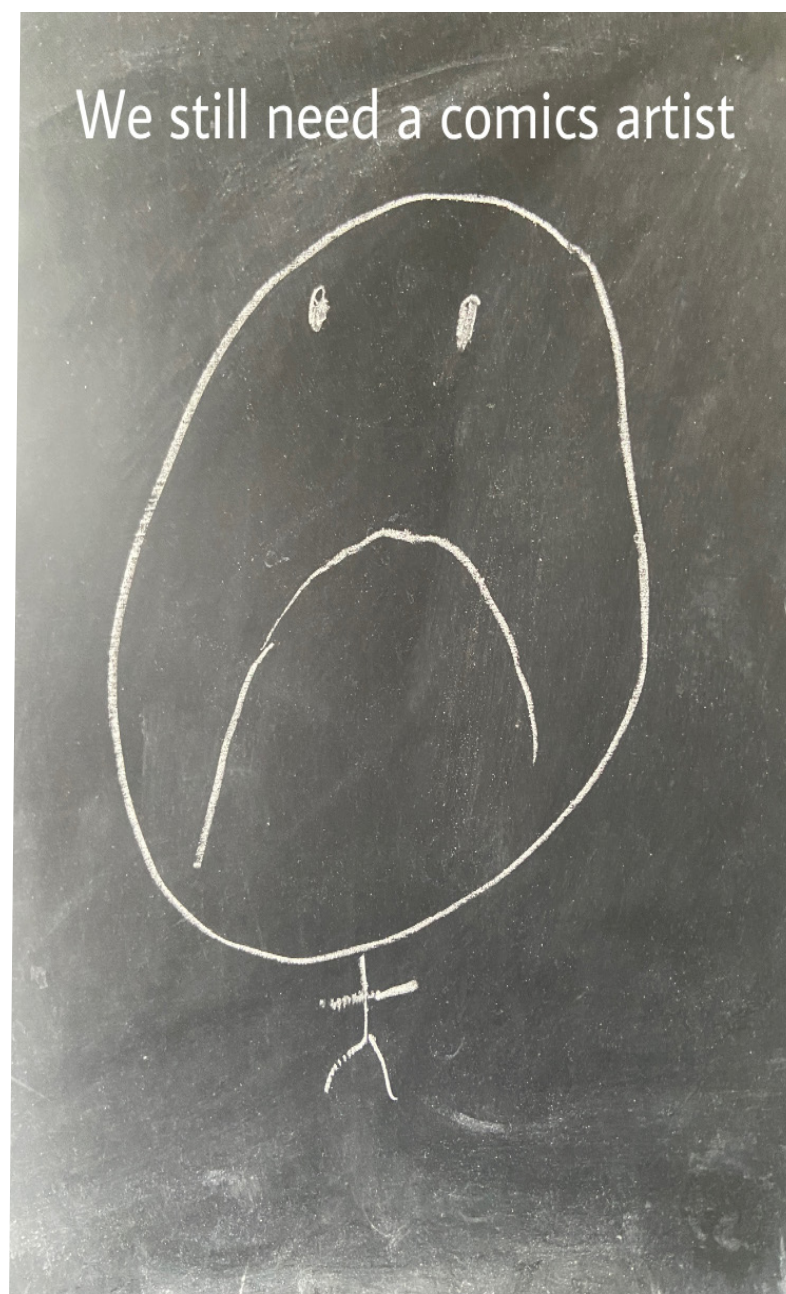
This style of filmmaking is something that is rarely seen in Hollywood, yet this movie is deeply influential for film as a whole. I could pick out several scenes in this movie that have been directly referenced in major Hollywood releases in the last 95 years. Some of the influences are smaller than others, but it is remarkable how this Soviet film from the late 20s has forever changed the scope of what people can do with film.

The best art is often made under self-imposed restriction. Here, Vertov could have easily constructed a narrative documentary or even just used sound and text to aid his message. However, by committing to his uncompromising vision of the uninhibited cinematic language, he created a film that is unlike any other up to that point. While watching this movie, I felt deeply moved simply by how artfully constructed it is. You can put on this 68-minute film and be transported to a moving record of the way film was, the way film is, and what it has the potential to become.

Word Scramble!

1. reggo
2. gunraaton
3. yabb
4. okco
5. oodisu
6. heya
7. bonog
8. ehsep
9. neeuvcrdor

Answers in the next issue



Will Sorg
Unwilling Comics Guy

Track and Field competes at Bethel Invite

Gusties set 15 Meet records at invite



Gustie athlete gets ready to hurl the disc

Submitted.

Zachary Tlusty
Sports Editor

The Gustavus Track & Field team took to the Bethel Invitational on the sunny Saturday afternoon of April 13th. The Gusties set 15 meet records, five stadium records, and 44 new personal records. No team scores were recorded for the meet, but the Gusties won a total of six different events.

For the Gustie Men, First-year Jade Anstine finished fourth in both the 100-meter and 400-meter, setting a new meet record and personal best in the 100 with a time of 10.82, and added a second meet record in the 400 with a time of 21.60. The team of Junior Tyler Smith and First-year Nick Brauer went one and three in the 800-meter, both setting stadium and meet records. Smith took first with a PR of 1:53.50, while Brauer set his own PR of 1:54.25. The Gustie 4x100 relay team of Senior Isaiah Subah, Anstine, Junior Nathan Le, and

Senior Matthew Skelly posted a second-place finish with a season-best time of 42.83.

The Gustie Women continued to post some of the NCAA's top performances, led by All-Americans Junior Kate Carlson and Junior Megan Geraets. Carlson recorded a meet record and season-best time in the 100, finishing in 12.16. Geraets set a new stadium and meet record in the 200-meter, taking first in 24.49. Carlson wasn't far behind, finishing second in 24.76. In the steeple, Junior Sydney Hagen posted a personal-best 11:46.38 to finish fourth. The relay team of Senior Danielle Miller, Geraets, Senior Ally Rakow, and Carlson set a new season-best time for the Gusties in the 4x100, crossing the line in 48.59 to win the event.

The Gusties dominated in the field, with strong performances in both the throws

and jumps. First-year Olivia Duncan took first in the discus, tossing a meet record and personal best of 41.31 meters (135-06). Junior Kelley Brennan added another PR in the discus, finishing fifth with a mark of 38.20 meters (125-04). Brennan also finished fourth in the hammer throw with a meet-record toss of 50.02 meters (164-01).

Rakow took third in the high jump, clearing a mark of 1.50 meters (4-11). Junior Lakesha Carter, after posting the MIAC's best javelin throw last weekend, added another impressive toss, this time throwing for 37.88 meters (124-03) – a new meet record.

Senior Isaiah Subah took second in the long jump, setting both a stadium and meet record of 6.69 meters (21-11.5). And, if one stadium/meet record wasn't enough, Geraets added another in the long

jump, taking first with a jump of 5.67 meters (18-07.25).

Junior Alli Graff added a second-place finish in the pole vault, posting a PR of 3.31 meters (10-10.25). Senior Madi Kes tacked on one more meet record, taking first in the triple jump with a mark of 11.53 meters (37-10).

Duncan had a first-place and conference-leading throw of 135-06. Brennan added a fifth-place finish with her PR of 125-04. She also added a huge mark of 164-01 in the hammer throw and Lakesha Carter took third in the javelin at 124-03. On the Men's side, First-year Wyatt Hudspith opened up his college career in the discus with a throw of 130-03 to break into the top eight of the MIAC standings and Junior Zack Stordahl had a top-10 meet throw and PR of 144-04.

The Gusties will have their

next meet on Saturday, April 20th which Saint John's will be hosting in Collegeville, Minnesota for their annual Saint John's Invite. Events will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Gustavus baseball splits with Scholastica

Gusties go 1-1 in doubleheader in Duluth



Gustie player pieces baseball

Submitted

Zachary Tlusty
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the Gustavus Baseball team traveled to Duluth to square off with northern MIAC rival St. Scholastica for a doubleheader. The weekend started strong as the Gusties played a solid game to win 5-2. In game two, however, both offenses exploded and sadly, the Gusties fell 6-8 to split the doubleheader at a game apiece.

In the first game of the doubleheader, Senior Pitcher (and lefty!) Adam Biewen threw seven innings of two-run ball for the complete game, with only one of those runs allowed being earned. The first two innings of the game were devoid of offense but in the third inning, the Gustavus offense broke through. First-year Outfielder Danny Gavin doubled to left-center and was knocked in on a ground out by Sophomore Catcher Sam Schneider, giving the Gusties a 1-0 lead.

The Saints would tie the game in the fourth inning after a Gustavus error led to a run-scoring single to even the

score 1-1. Gustavus would reclaim the lead in the fifth as Senior Infielder Drake Siens hit his team-leading seventh home run of the season for a 2-1 lead. The Gusties tacked on two more runs in the sixth after Schneider singled and would eventually score on a sac fly off the bat of Senior Gavin Baker. Senior Chris Knowles then doubled to right-center, scoring Junior Brady Schmitz, who had also doubled in the inning.

St. Scholastica tallied their second and final run of the game in the bottom half of the sixth after a lead-off triple was cashed in by a single. Making sure that they provided the necessary insurance for their starter in Biewen, Senior Bryce Novak singled home Gavin, who had reached base on a walk.

In the second and final game of the day, Gustavus got on the board in the second frame as Siens hit his eighth home run of the season and second of the day for the early 1-0 lead. Schneider would pick up another RBI on the day as

he singled home First-year Brayden Kohls. St. Scholastica found their offensive groove as they answered in the bottom half of the inning before taking on four more runs in the third inning for a 5-2 advantage over Gustavus.

"It's bittersweet. We built some great momentum in the first game, and it was good to get the win, but it really would've been nice to win both. I feel like we can learn a lot from this double header, and come back better to face Concordia."

In the fifth inning, the Gusties cut the lead to one as Schmitz singled home Novak and Knowles doubled down the right-field line to score Schmitz. The Gusties then tied the game in the sixth as Gavin scored on a ground out by Schneider, making the new score 5-5.

St. Scholastica regained the lead for the last time in the seventh inning. Getting on

runners early in the inning, a pair of singles knocked in three runs for an 8-5 Saints lead. Knowles smacked an RBI double which pushed Baker across the plate, however, this is all that the Gusties could manage in their attempt to rally back. Lefty Pitcher and Sophomore Nick Hentges suffered the loss for Gustavus in his four innings of relief work, although he pitched well allowing just a single run on three hits, and six strikeouts. Knowles led at the plate, batting 3-for-4 with two runs, two doubles, a walk, and two RBI.

When asked how to interpret this result Junior shortstop Brady Schmitz said, "It's bittersweet. We built some great momentum in the first game, and it was good to get the win, but it really would've been nice to win both. I feel like we can learn a lot from this double header, and come back better to face Concordia." Here in the heat of the baseball season every game counts so the Gusties will look to get some positive momentum rolling that hopefully they can take into the

playoffs.

This weekend, the Gusties will look to gain more ground in the MIAC as Concordia comes to town for a Saturday doubleheader. Game one will start at 1:30 p.m. with the second game tentatively set for a 3:30 p.m. first pitch.

Womens Softball sweeps Bethel

Softball women remain undefeated in MIAC play



Softballer belts ball into the outfield

Submitted.

Kieran Ripken
Sports Writer

The Gustavus Softball team hosted #10 nationally-ranked Bethel for a doubleheader on Sunday, April 14th, and recorded a sweep—the team's first against the Royals since 2018. The Gusties won 3-1 in the first of two games before solidifying the sweep with a 4-3 win in extra innings later in the day. Gustavus improved to 14-14 and 8-2 in the MIAC on the season.

In the first game, Sophomore Maizie Anderson earned the start for the Gusties in the circle and held the Royals scoreless with two shutout innings. A Gustie error in the top of the third allowed a Royal to tally a run. It would be their only run.

Junior Kayla Herda responded for the Gusties in the bottom of the third with a clutch two-out single, scoring Sophomore Olivia Guggenberger and First-year Macy McNally to gain a 2-1 lead.

In the bottom of the sixth, Sophomore Caitlin Olafsson led off for the Gusties and scorched a triple to left field. In

the next at-bat, First-year Carly Olson launched a double to right center and scored Olafsson, pushing the final score to 3-1.

Anderson had a dominant performance in the circle and registered a complete game, striking out five and holding the Royals scoreless for the remainder of the game. Olafsson paced the squad with two hits and Herda led the team with 2 RBI's.

"I prepared as if we were playing any other team. I knew it was important to take them seriously, but I didn't want to make the moment seem too big and I know how important it is to trust myself and my abilities as well as my teammates because I know they have my back as well," Anderson said.

"Since my freshman year, Bethel has been a top of the MIAC team to beat. Our season ended last year when we lost a close 1-0 game to them so it meant a lot for us to come out with vengeance," Junior Greta Dahlen said.

In the second game, First-year Ava Hamsund earned the

start for the Gusties. In the first inning, Hamsund loaded the bases and allowed a run off a Bethel single, but escaped the jam without further damage.

"How I go at any team is to try to get ahead on the batter and get them to chase balls that make it easier on the defense like a popup or grounder. Bethel has a lot of good hitters and bunters so we threw my change up more often to try to get them to swing," Hamsund said.

In the subsequent inning, a single from Dahlen scored Sophomore Taylor Katzenmeyer to level the score 1-1. Bethel would respond in the top of the third, scoring on a passed ball to regain the lead at 2-1.

Two innings later, the Gusties had a scoring opportunity and capitalized when Guggenberger hit a sacrifice fly, scoring McNally and tying the score at 2 apiece.

In the top of six, Bethel would not go away and tallied an additional run to give the Royals a 3-2 lead. As one might guess, the Gusties once again tied the game in the bottom of

the inning. First-year Peyton Stevermer launched a double that advanced First-year Breck Carlson into scoring position. A Dahlen sac fly scored Carlson and re-tied the game at 3-3.

Neither team folded in the seventh, pushing the game into extra innings. Hamsund returned to the circle for an eighth inning of work and did not disappoint. Despite a runner placed on second, Hamsund forced three consecutive groundouts to close the inning. Herda began the inning on second and did not have to wait long before a single courtesy of Olson scored the game-winning run, clinching the Gusties' sweep of Bethel in the 4-3 win.

"I think that these wins were super important for us. One of our goals before the season was to beat Bethel so it was something that we knew we could do and was something we really wanted to accomplish," Anderson said.

"It was a big sweep for us to be able to stay at the top of the MIAC and gave the team confidence that we can beat good teams and perform well in big games," Hamsund said.

While the Gusties were able to perform well on the field and down Bethel twice on Sunday, it has been the team's approach to the little things that have made all the difference.

"Our support for one another is something that cannot be written in the box score. We notice the small things in one another and emphasize their importance, which has a way of making everyone feel influential. After a long weekend of games, this can be evident in the number of voices lost on the team," Dahlen said.

The team does not intend to dwell on their successful day with numerous MIAC opponents ahead of the schedule.

"While it's nice to soak in the sweep against Bethel, we now move into taking every conference doubleheader one at a time. The season is far from over and as we have seen in the recent MIAC scores, anything can happen," Dahlen said.