

THE MAST

'TWELFTH NIGHT'
SHOWING THIS WEEKEND
PAGE 11



AUTOMATIC BERTH
WOMEN IN NCAA
TOURNAMENT
PAGE 16



MARCH 3, 2006

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

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Computer crisis

'Expectations have increased while capabilities have not,' officials say

SAM CHREST
Mast news reporter

PLU has experienced an increasing number of technical computer problems this year, which have forced students to cope without network access for extended periods of time.

The problems have stemmed from a number of sources, although they find common ground in the aging technical system and the staff who lacked the capabilities to overcome the problems quickly.

"There are 30 to 40 buildings and miles of cable," said Chris Ferguson, associate provost of Academic and Information Services. "Most of the network was put in place in the 1990s."

"All of the gear was designed before the modern era of viruses," he added.

There have been at least three periods this year when there were significant network problems.

The return of hundreds of students at the beginning of fall caused immediate turmoil. The resources currently available to PLU were unable to cope with the re-introduction of many virus-ridden computers into the network.

The most recent rash of network problems occurred in January, with the opening of the Morken Center. Of the five network interfaces installed in the center, one had faulty equipment that was not identified for several days.

Compounding the problems facing an increasingly out of date system is a growing dependence on the system from administration, faculty and students.

"Expectations have increased while capabilities have not," said Ferguson.

To combat the problems, the university will seek to update the technology on campus. The president's council will create a technology funding initiative, which will allocate \$300,000 per year towards the computer systems.

Part of the money will purchase a student antivirus license, which will cover 4,000 students. Students attempting to connect to the network through Gatekeeper will have to have virus protection prior to connection. If they do not have an antivirus program, the network will direct them to an area from which they will be required to obtain one.

The rest of the initiative's

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FINALLY



Photo illustration by Kyle Duba

Next Friday, there will be a reception to celebrate the addition of aerobic and weight-training machines and roughly 30 pieces of free-weight equipment in the Names Fitness Center.

More than \$74,000 spent on new gym equipment in fitness center

LAURA ZAICHKIN
Mast assistant news editor

Names Fitness Center finally faced improvements February after progress remained static for a quarter of a century.

"If not longer," said Laurie Turner, director of athletics and administrator who spearheaded the campaign to improve the center.

A reception will occur March 10 at 2 p.m. to celebrate the addition of more than \$74,000 worth of new equipment, including four aerobic machines, 13 weight-training machines and approximately 30 new pieces of free-weight equipment.

"There's a lot of newer equipment," senior Kaelen Moore said. "It's up to date."

The fitness center improvements began in November of last year when Provost Jim Pence requested that Turner create a proposal for improvement.

"Initially my proposal was almost \$100,000," Turner said.

The money came from the Names endowment fund, the president and ASPLU. ASPLU was particularly concerned with Names because of student feedback obtained during constituency meetings held in the fall semester.

Turner said her main concern when creating the proposal was to

provide a safer and up-to-date environment.

"It is a multi-purpose facility," Turner said. "It's safer equipment, it's more modern equipment. We really tried to address some of the weight-training needs for females."

Other improvements include an area dedicated to abdominal workouts and Turner said there is a possibility that a trainer-like em-

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Recently published book highlights PLU community

'Putting Students First' author stresses holistic education

INGRID STEGEMOELLER
Mast news reporter

A recently published book highlights the PLU community as one that helps students develop as whole people, not just future workers.

Larry Braskamp, Kelly Ward and Lois Calian Trautvetter co-authored "Putting Students First," which features 10 church-affiliated colleges and universities from around the country and discusses the authors' study of how these schools nurture students.

"I was always interested in how colleges like PLU create a campus culture that helps students develop as whole people," Braskamp said.

Professor Paul Menzel participated in Braskamp and Ward's PLU study and said the book exemplifies schools that put students first in terms of well-rounded development, academic and

otherwise.

"In order to do this, (schools) have to deal with students' whole lives, not give them merely an academic education," Menzel said.

The book is broken into chapters describing the study and its findings. Four chapters explain the "four Cs" - culture, community, curriculum and co-curriculum - and how each of the 10 schools

utilizes these areas to help students grow holistically.

A list of questions ends each chapter, with the intent of promoting conversation on campus about how to better assist students in their collegiate journey. Some of the questions Braskamp hopes students will ask themselves include "what am I learning; how am I developing; what's important to me; what activities are affecting me as a person?"

"We would like (students) to think about getting involved with conversation. Faith and character development is hard work and there needs to be dialogue and conversation," Braskamp said.

He added reaffirmation of the "good work" faculty, staff and stu-

"I was pleased with how well faculty members understand students and are able to challenge them."

Larry Braskamp
"Putting Students First"
co-author

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STATE, NATION, WORLD BRIEFINGS

Local to Global news



AP Photo/Mohammad Hato

Civil war looms with 68 killed in Baghdad: Sunnis and Shiites traded bombings and mortar fire against mainly religious targets in Baghdad well into the night Tuesday, killing at least 68 people a day after authorities lifted a curfew that had briefly calmed a series of sectarian reprisal attacks. At least six of Tuesday's attacks hit clearly religious targets, concluding with a car bombing after sundown at the Shiite Abdel Hadi Chalabi mosque in the Hurriyah neighborhood that killed 23 and wounded 55. A separate suicide bombing killed 23 people at an east Baghdad gas station, where people had lined up to buy kerosene.

Smoking ban loophole: Despite two citations for violating Washington's new statewide smoking ban, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians continues to let patrons light up at its Emerald Queen Casino. Dr. Federico Cruz-Urbe, director of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, says an agreement the tribe signed in 2004, allowing it to move the casino from waterfront land in the Port of Tacoma to an Interstate 5 location in Fife, requires that it follow the same state and local laws as other businesses. Tribal spokesman John Weymer counters that the tribe is a sovereign nation, unencumbered by the smoking ban. The dispute hinges on whether the voter-approved smoking ban applies to tribal casinos that aren't on reservation land - an issue the law does not address. The Puyallups' main casino near east Tacoma is on reservation land. The tribe can operate its other casino, at the site of a former Best Western hotel on non-tribal land in Fife, for six years before it must enter a trust, said Susan Arland, a spokeswoman for the Washington State Gambling Commission. The federal government holds trust land for use by Indian tribes, whose own governments determine rules on the land. County health inspectors twice visited the Emerald Queen Casino in the week after the smoking ban took effect Dec. 8, according to inspection records. After an eight-minute inspection Dec. 13 and again in a 15-minute visit the next day, health officials cited the casino for allowing people to smoke inside the building and for failing to post "no smoking" signs. Since then inspections have been suspended until the attorney general's office responds to Morton's letter.

Slain woman's car found in Seattle: A car belonging to a slain Lynnwood woman was found in a parking lot in Seattle, a King County sheriff's spokesman said Feb. 22. The

2003 VW Jetta was impounded and sheriff's detectives were getting a search warrant, Sgt. John Urquhart said. Nicole Pietz's body was found Feb. 6 near Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. An autopsy determined Pietz, 32, had been strangled. She had been missing for more than a week. The sheriff's office refused to say exactly where the car was found but Urquhart said it was not along a route Pietz would have taken to a meeting in Renton on Jan. 28 - the morning she disappeared. Police say Pietz never made it to that meeting and did not meet her husband for a dinner party that night.

Supreme Court backs abortion protesters: The Supreme Court dealt a setback Tuesday to abortion clinics in a two-decade-old legal fight over abortion protests, ruling that federal extortion and racketeering laws cannot be used to ban demonstrations. The 8-0 decision ends a case that the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had kept alive despite a 2003 ruling by the high court that lifted a nationwide injunction on anti-abortion groups led by Joseph Scheidler and others.

Spy chief: Iraq may spark regional battle: A civil war in Iraq could lead to a broader conflict in the Middle East, pitting the region's rival Islamic sects against each other, National Intelligence Director John Negroponte said in an unusually frank assessment Tuesday. "If chaos were to descend upon Iraq or the forces of democracy were to be defeated in that country ... this would have implications for the rest of the Middle East region and, indeed, the world," Negroponte said at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on global threats.

Business update

With growing controversy in the Middle East, many investors are becoming increasingly concerned over possible effects of oil-price spikes, most notably an increase in inflation. According to Federal Reserve Chief Ben

Bernanke, however, recent oil prices have not had a significant impact on underlying inflation. In turn, this has allowed the Fed to increase interest rates in slower and more progressive stages.

Many investors are comparing the current situation to the energy crisis of the 1970s. Bernanke, on the contrary, asserts that the two periods are not comparable. "Oil-price increases in the past few years, unlike the 1970s, have not fed through to any great extent into longer-term inflation expectations and core inflation," says Bernanke.

Bernanke credits public confidence as the reason for the federal government being able to keep interest rates low despite the recent spikes in oil prices. Specifically, he said public confidence has caused inflation increases to be short-lived, which has prevented a rapid increase in long-run inflation.

Bernanke recently testified before congress that he believed rates must be increased in order to keep inflation at a manageable level. Other analysts seem to agree. "The data supports arguments that core inflation is at the high end of what the Fed will tolerate," said Dick Green, president of Briefing.com.

News of oil-prices and inflation data had a significant impact on stocks in the latter stages of February. A late February rally was caused chiefly by inflation news that was not as bad as many thought it could have been. Such news included the Labor Department's announcement that the core Consumer Price Index (CPI) actually rose by .02 percent.

The market has also been at the mercy of dynamic oil prices. As a result of the current controversy in Iran, the price of crude increased to \$70 a barrel in January. However, as the situation appeared to become more stable in February, prices decreased substantially. At current, prices have risen.

Business update compiled by Allen Unzelman.

SAFETY BEAT

CAMPUS SAFETY

Feb. 21:

Campus Safety (CSIN) was contacted at 12:15 a.m. by Pierce County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) about a vehicle break-in on 125th Street South. The vehicle was not registered with PLU.

While taking a report at 12:20 a.m., CSIN observed a vehicle that had been vandalized on 125th Street South. The vehicle was not registered with PLU.

CSIN responded to the Student Health Center at 11:15 a.m. to assist a student who was having an asthma attack. The student was transported by Central Pierce Fire Rescue (CPFR).

A student contacted CSIN at 4:40 p.m. about vandalism to her vehicle near Tinglestad Hall.

Feb. 22:

CSIN was contacted at 10:15 a.m. by a Pflueger Hall RA to assist a student who was experiencing dizziness and nausea.

CSIN was contacted at 10:20 a.m. at base by a student about an attempted robbery on Yakima Avenue by two Hispanic males in a red four-door Dodge Neon.

A student contacted CSIN at 11:30 a.m. about a bike that was taken out of the Hinderlie Hall first-floor lounge.

A student became belligerent at 8:25 p.m. when CSIN would not allow him access to a room in the Morken Center for Learning and Technology.

Feb. 23:

CSIN discovered 10 vehicles with broken windows at 6:50 a.m. All students were notified.

PCSD arrested three possible suspects a short time after these incidents.

CSIN and PCFR responded at 11:55 a.m. to a fire alarm in Pflueger Hall. It was discovered that a student had burnt food in a microwave she had hidden in her room.

CORRECTIONS:

On page three of the Feb. 10 issue of *The Mast*, Wanda Morken, who cut the ribbon in the photograph, was wrongly identified. On page five of the Feb. 24 issue of *The Mast*, senior Alvin Quicho said, "They think we have money in our pockets, but I only have \$2." *The Mast* regrets these errors.



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Plan to make resumes pop: 100-year anniversary of internships celebrated

Wednesday and Thursday's fair highlights opportunities

KAYLEE M. DAVIS
Mast news intern

This year marks the centennial celebration of cooperative education and internships for colleges and universities, and to mark this occasion the Career Development and Academic Internship Program will sponsor the Spring 2006 Career and Internship Fair, March 8 and 9.

Maxine Herbert-Hill, director of the Academic Internship Program, said cooperative education first began at the University of Cincinnati and was introduced by the dean of engineering, Herman Schneider. His idea behind cooperative education was to provide work experience in combination with education to engineering students at the University of Cincinnati.

Junior Aaron Brauer-Rieke works as an intern for lobbyist Rowland Thompson in the Washington State Legislature, for the current session, which began in January and will end in March. Brauer-Rieke and Thompson are currently working on passing a shield law that would protect journalists from being compelled to testify in court—a similar principle to doctor/patient or lawyer/client privilege.

Interning at the legislative level has been an "exposure experience," Brauer-Rieke said. "It is a lens into the power a lobbyist has in the political process that most people don't get to see. A lobbyist can literally change a senator's view in five minutes and that senator is a representative to thousands of constituents."

More than 500 colleges and universities in the United States offer internships today, according to PLU's Career and Development Web site.

PLU offers internships in a variety of areas: advertising, business, communication, computer science and information technology and marketing. Herbert-Hill said the Wang Center offers international internships and work-study programs worldwide.

In addition to those internship opportunities, and in conjunction with the Disney company, PLU students can apply for internships in the areas of information technology, human resources, communication, marketing software engineering, program analyzing, finances, operations planning and "Imageneering." PLU is one of a select few campuses in Washington state from which Disney recruits.

Disney will conduct an on-campus presentation April 6 with more information about their program.

Though an internship with Disney may be considered fun and games, "They have a very rigorous academic program," Herbert-Hill said.

Cooperative education and internships play an important role in a student's education, Herbert-Hill said.

"Internships are a radically different experience," Brauer-Rieke said. "It's a big shock to step outside the classroom and see how it really is."

Brauer-Rieke found out about his internship, offered by the Washington Newspaper Publicist Association, through his professor.

"I had to take a communication and editing test, provide a resume and interview for the internship," Brauer-Rieke said of the application process.

Herbert-Hill said internships are important in the career-selection process.

"For students studying liberal arts, language, philosophy and religion, internships help give a definite direction, and helps with the discerning process in their field of choice."

"Internships and cooperative education help students verify the application of their academic program with the field they are getting into," Herbert-Hill said. "With internships, students can verify their vision, that the field they have chosen matches their expectation."

Internships can also be valuable in determining what a student doesn't want to do.

"Internships help determine if their career choice sets their socks afire," Herbert-Hill said. If the internship does not work, "the Career Development Center is here to help students change their focus."

Internships and cooperative education also aid employers who want people with work experience. But as a college student, many times it is difficult to do both, Herbert-Hill said. PLU administrators help students obtain internships while retaining full-time status required for financial aid and university credit.

Currently, many cooperative education and internship opportunities are listed on the Career Development Center's Web site, but other internship opportunities are posted in the individual departments and on bulletin boards.

"Professors might receive internship opportunities that the Internship Office does not," Herbert-Hill said.

Herbert-Hill said she would like to see more coordination of internship opportunities.

"It would help in that there is a natural screening process involved. What one student sees on the Web site is only part of what is available to them so they might miss better matched opportunities," she said.

It is important that Cooperative Education and Internships are planned in advance, Herbert-Hill said.

"Many times, the student is qualified for an internship, but because of poor advanced scheduling, they are not available for the internship," she said.

Herbert-Hill said spring semester internships generally sneak up on students, when planning is most needed.

"An employer needs accounting students during tax season, usually during spring semester, and the same is true for internships during the legislative session," she said.

Herbert-Hill said students' academic advisors should help plan for Cooperative Education and Internships to occur during students' junior or senior year of college.

"We usually have Cooperative Education and Internship information available to us about a year in advance though some employers only post them at the very moment they need them," Herbert-Hill said.

For more information about cooperative education and internship opportunities, students can contact the Academic Internship Office, located at Ramstad Hall, Room 112.

Lecturer explores religions' futures



Photo by Hakime Lee
Lecturer Mark Nathaniel Swanson speaks Tuesday to a group of 150 community members at the Lutheran Heritage lecture series event "What Kind of Future? Christianity and Muslim Visions." Swanson discussed religious mindsets and looking ahead.

One explanation for popularity of 'Left Behind'

STEPHANIE MATHIEU
Mast news editor

As a Muslim student, first-year Abdullah Rauf said Tuesday's lecture topic jumped out at him.

"The topic of the future of Christianity and Islam is intriguing because I am curious about the future," Rauf said.

The future was speaker Mark Nathaniel Swanson's focus as he spoke at 7 p.m. in the Scandinavian Center to a crowd of approximately 150 people as part of the Lutheran Heritage lecture series, this one titled "What Kind of Future? Christianity and Muslim Visions."

"The future frightens us," Swanson said. "In any event, it frightens me."

Swanson lived with his wife in Cairo, Egypt for 14 years and was there again five months ago observing how religion plays a role in alleviating stress about the future.

He said he's seen two harmful mindsets both Christians and Muslims use when looking ahead. The first is the apocalyptic approach, meaning not worrying about fixing the future because there is so little of it left.

"The message is to stand fast, be faithful unto death," Swanson said. "It radically simplifies the world."

This way of looking at the future might be so popular because it is tempting to weave in apocalyptic passages from the Bible and the Koran with current events, he said.

"There is something deeply satisfying about being in the know," Swanson said. "Apocalyptic literature has been popular during times of trial," Swanson added, referencing the popular "Left Behind" book series, which places the second coming of Christ in a current context.

"These books and movies claim to be accurate," Swanson said, invoking laughter from the audience.

Throughout history, Western societies justified Muslim advancements, such as the Turkish siege of Vienna, as signs of end times, Swanson said. Muslims did likewise.

Swanson said while in Cairo,

he saw books titled "The Anti-Christ" and "Signs of the Hour."

The second mindset members of both religions fall into is what Swanson called the "theonomic approach," meaning that all guidance needed for correct living has already been revealed in the Koran or Bible.

This can be seen both in the movement for a Christian America seen in the 1980s and the advocacy of Islamic Law in Egypt, Swanson said.

The danger of apocalyptic and theonomic thinking is it takes energies away from tackling problems that take time, such as patient diplomacy, stable economy or a healthy environment, Swanson said.

They also "close the future against the surprises of God," he added.

Swanson said there are three major commonalities both religions have that could help them open up the future rather than simply surrendering it to the will of a deity. These commonalities are hospitality, dialogue and forgiveness.

Rauf said he agreed with everything Swanson said.

"All Muslims should seek knowledge, even if it takes you to China," Rauf said, referencing Muhammed.

Rauf said he has a great deal of respect for anyone who would go through so much work to research and understand a different religion and culture.

Swanson's lecture was the third Lutheran Heritage lecture this academic year. The fourth will be April 5, when PLU religion professor Suzanne Crawford will talk about the poetics and politics of sacred spaces.

PLU alums John Aakre and Cindy Michael helped fund the event. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a financial planning company that Aakre is affiliated with, matched the couple's donation.

Aakre and Michael didn't control who Tuesday's speaker would be — that decision was up to the religion department — but Aakre said he enjoyed what Swanson said.

"We need more radical moderates in the world," Aakre said. Today it seems like people have the "for me or against me" attitude, he added, saying this mentality demonizes everybody else.

Aakre said he was also pleased with the turnout.

"Universities are for opportunities like these," Aakre said.

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Thursday, Mar. 9 5-6:30 p.m.
University Center, Room 208

Culture cocktail in The Cave

Community gets a hit of Carnival food, music tonight

KEVIN FORTUNE
Mast news intern

Sophomore Candice Hughes, a student from Trinidad and Tobago and ASPLU's International Senator, was instrumental in planning PLU's first ever Caribbean Carnival Show, tonight in The Cave.

The program is centered on Trinidad and Tobago Carnival, which many Trinibagonians describe as "the greatest show on Earth." The cocktail of cultures and traditions has evolved from mainly African and French influences.

"Fill your belly, and then come and enjoy the thing."

Candice Hughes
sophomore

The Diversity Center also sponsors the event. The center often hosts the Taste of Tacoma, which takes students to ethnic or diverse restaurants in the region. Today's Taste of Tacoma will follow the Carnival theme by going to Steffie's Restaurant, which serves authentic Caribbean food.

The show, beginning at 9 p.m., will consist of performances showcasing classic Carnival characters and other aspects of the culture.

The Island Jamz Steel Orchestra, playing the steel pan, and the "Music in Culture" class, which is learning about Trinidad music and culture, will present musical performances.

"Fill your belly," Hughes said, "and then come and enjoy the thing."

Caribbean Carnival Show

When: Tonight from 9 to 11 p.m.
Where: The Cave
The first 20 students to arrive at the event get free ice cream.

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Post-consumer potty products support sustainability

New restroom supplies installed to promote environmentally-sound university facilities

DAN NUTT
Mast copy editor

Students who have used an on-campus restroom during the last two months might have noticed a slight change in the facilities.

During winter break, Facilities Management undertook the task of replacing the soap, paper towel, and toilet paper dispensers in most of the lavatories across campus to improve sustainability.

While some students seemed to be aware of the changes, they were not sure why they occurred.

"Maybe it's like the Coke and Pepsi switch," senior Chieko Nagane said.

Sophomore Caitlin Stoskopf had a different theory.

"The other ones didn't work very well and the paper towels always got stuck," Stoskopf said.

The switch was actually one connected to the current drive towards sustainability also exemplified by the environmentally sound Morken Center, said Lori Prall, cleaning ser-

vices manager. The new dispensers, soap and tissue contain more post-consumer waste than their predecessors. Also, the paper towel dispensers offer only one sheet at a time to cut down on excessive use.

Students who noticed the changes generally said they were unsure why they hadn't been made aware of them officially.

"It would have been nice to know that," junior Anne Spillman said.

Nagane suggested that facilities could have put up signs on the restroom doors or the individual dispensers themselves, and sophomore Kyle Franklin said, that although he probably wouldn't have bothered to read an e-mail about the changes, "something would have been nice."

Some students indicated interest in sustainability at PLU.

"At PLU? Yeah, it's important all around the world," Stoskopf said.

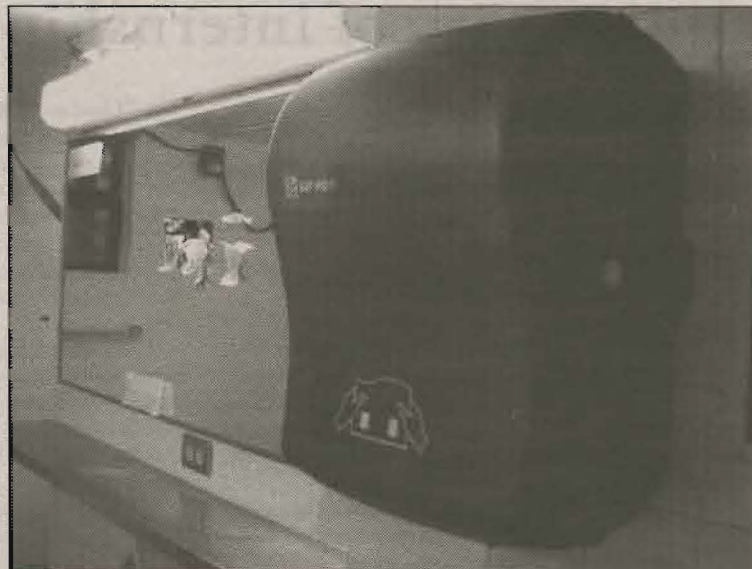


Photo by Roxanne Cooke
A new paper towel dispenser hangs on a residence hall bathroom wall. New paper towel, toilet paper and soap dispensers were installed over winter break in order to enhance PLU's environmental sustainability.

Junior Dan Hould said sustainability should be important to students.

"I think it's important that students are shown that sustainability is important and that they take that with them for the rest of their lives," Hould said.

Look for an in-depth report next week on exactly what these new supplies mean for waste-reduction at PLU.

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Photo by Kyle Duba

Names Fitness Center improvements were inspired by student feedback obtained during constituency meetings organized by ASPLU, which donated \$25,000 to the project.

Names
Continued from Page 1

ployee would be available to help those who need instruction with equipment.

"I think that'd be really cool," junior Amie Cuhaciyen said, "because the first time I came in here I didn't know how to do it."

A focus for Turner is to provide students with a facility to use when they are not in class or studying, she said.

"We have students that live here," Turner said. "What healthy alternatives have we provided them?"

The entire first floor of the fitness center has been dedicated to weight training, while all aerobic machines have been relocated to the upper level - including the four new machines, which make more available for use during peak training times, according to Turner's proposal.

"I have to be less conscious of the time

that I've come," junior Tiffany Millet said. "Now every time I've come there's been at least something open."

These improvements and additions are part of the long-range plan for the fitness center. The new equipment and equipment purchased hereafter will be moved to the new fitness center when it is built.

For now, Turner said she is looking for feedback regarding the changes to the fitness center. She said an ad hoc committee might be formed after spring break to track improvements.

"Are there some things that we can do right now to make a splash?" Turner said.

Turner came to PLU in July of 2005 with a goal of improving athletic facilities, she said.

"I think the university is ready and committed to improve facilities," Turner said. "We have a long list of ways to spend money around here."

NAMES FITNESS CENTER RECEPTION

When: March 10 at 2 p.m.
Where: Names Fitness Center
Refreshments will be provided while the fitness center improvements are revealed.

GIVE FEEDBACK

Let Laurie Turner know what you think of the fitness center improvements. E-mail comments or suggestions to turnerl@plu.edu.

Book

Continued from Page 1

dents are doing at PLU and that "they should feel pride" in themselves and PLU.

Whole-person development gets priority in PLU's mission, one student said.

"PLU is strong in emphasizing that students are not here to just be workers, and not just here to learn abstract, theoretical concepts," said junior Ronan Rooney, who talked with Braskamp when he visited campus in April 2004.

Braskamp and Ward, another of the authors, spent two days talking to students, staff and faculty about the PLU community and how it helps students develop beyond workers, as "family people, citizens, parents and people who understand good life," Braskamp said.

"Braskamp asked questions about our experiences with the university administration and about balancing academics and a religious background," Rooney said. "We felt PLU was good at serving both needs."

Rooney added that Braskamp asked "good questions," seemed to care about what he and other students had to say and "clearly" had explored the university.

Provost Jim Pence first encouraged Braskamp to include PLU in his study when Pence was asked to participate on a national board surveying chief academic officers at small, church affiliated colleges about their campus communities. The board met at Loyola University in Chicago, where Braskamp served as a professor and provost before retiring to work on this project. It was there the two originally met.

PLU's inclusion in the book signals its esteemed position within American higher education.

"We are situated in a very distinctive group of colleges and universities who care about holistic development in a church-affiliated setting," Pence said.

Pence also noted some dissatisfaction with the book's lack of specific examples about PLU, saying Braskamp visited PLU first and hadn't had a chance to refine his research questions.

The book doesn't give a completely accurate representation of PLU, according to Menzel. He cited an example where the book refers to PLU's connection with the community through downtown Garfield Street. Though the university has plans to update Garfield Street, Menzel said he felt this characterization portrayed PLU and Garfield Street in an inaccurate light.

Nonetheless, the book will act as a tool to help train new PLU deans, department chairs and others in positions of leadership. It emphasizes the importance of the four Cs to the PLU mission, Pence said.

It will also serve as a way to show prospective students what PLU is about, though Menzel noted that because of misrepresentation, the book shouldn't be given to prospective students, but used as an example to cite PLU's mission.

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Computers

Continued from Page 1

"The university is going to make a major effort to get back in front of the curve."

Chris Ferguson, associate provost of Academic and Information Services.

funds will be used to obtain a better management tool for the network, which will allow it to be monitored better, therefore catching and isolating viruses before they spread.

"We are looking to be proactive rather than reactive," said Keith Folsom, director for Systems and Communications.

In an attempt to meet increasing demands, the current eCourse system, Blackboard, will be replaced by a new system. The system, called Sakai, will allow for greater flexibility and evolution than Blackboard.

"The university is going to make a major effort to get back in front of the curve," Ferguson said.

From the editor

In pursuit of a crime-free campus

Walking to class from my apartment in South Hall, I occasionally see the work of a vandal in the cars parked along the golf course fence: cracked and broken windows, glass shards in the gravel, frustrated car owners on the phone with insurance companies. It seems like nearly everyone on campus has a story of waking up to find broken windshields—or worse, waking up to find an empty space where their car once was.

But lately, it isn't just car vandalization. If you read last week's issue of *The Mast*, you probably saw Laura Zaichkin's report on three different crimes that occurred in the vicinity of PLU, all classified as attempted muggings. One of these crimes resulted in a trip to the emergency room for one student.

Even if you didn't read *The Mast* last week, you probably noticed e-mails from Campus Safety in your Webmail account, which detailed the incidents and advised the community to be careful and alert. I am in my third year at PLU, and I have never seen so many Campus Safety Alerts in my inbox, much less in the course of three weeks.

Naturally, this raises questions from students and employees alike—is our campus safe? Is our neighborhood safe? And perhaps most importantly, what is being done to quell this apparent rash of crimes in the area?

Of course, there have always been crimes at PLU. It's one of the sad inevitabilities of life. Furthermore, there will be crime at every university, or anywhere you go, for that matter.

Nonetheless, crime is a problem at PLU. If you look on page 7 this week, you'll find letters from concerned students who want to know what the university is doing to reinforce the safety of the campus. And they are not alone in their unease. As reported in last week's issue, requests for Campus Safety escorts are up 89 percent in recent weeks.

I can only imagine the impact of local crime rates on prospective students, for whom safety would naturally be an important factor in choosing a college.

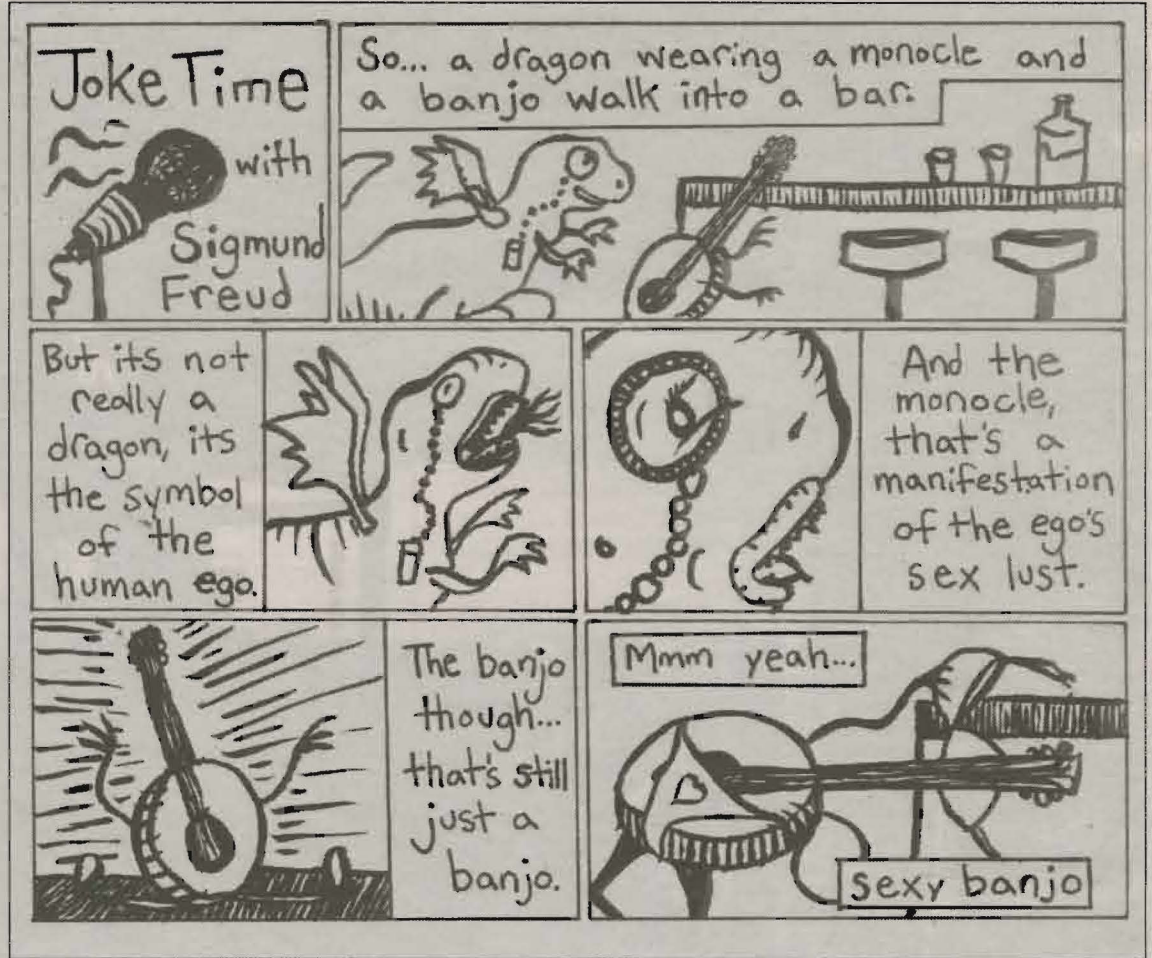
In response to these recent events, PLU has asked Pierce County Sheriff Department to increase patrols around the area, and Student Life is advocating the inception of the Safe Streets neighborhood watch program in the community. These are great efforts. I, for one, feel confident that the university is prioritizing the safety of the students and employees.

But I also wonder what else can be done to fortify the community. Neighborhood watch programs have proven to be effective in countless communities around the country, but their effectiveness relies on the continuity of local residents. How do these programs fare in areas with frequent turnover, such as the streets surrounding PLU, which are inhabited by students on a semester-by-semester basis?

Half an hour of informal research on crime prevention strategies produced with some plausible options that PLU should consider. Better lighting, for example. I transferred to PLU from Washington State University in Pullman, Wash. At WSU, you couldn't walk 25 feet without bumping into a blue emergency light. Here, the blue lights are mainly placed in parking lots and other out-of-the-way areas. Even more though, is the need for more lighting in general. There are several areas on campus, upper and lower, that are frighteningly dark at night, such as the sidewalk between Hauge and Stuen.

The improvement of sidewalks and shrubby areas would help improve the perception of personal safety on campus, as well. Uneven sidewalks force us to concentrate on walking carefully without tripping, shifting the focus from personal safety and awareness of the surrounding area. And although there is historically very little crime on the hill dividing upper campus and lower campus, this area is perceived to be dangerous because of the abundant foliage as well as narrow, uneven sidewalks. This issue was addressed during Master Planning meetings earlier this year, and it is my hope that all sidewalks and landscaped areas will be examined in regard to safety in the future.

Of course, there is only so much the university can do to ensure our safety—but there are many things students can do to prevent crime. Simple things, like having your keys ready as you approach your building, walking or jogging with a partner, and using the free escort service will reduce incidents in our community. It is of paramount importance to report crimes and even attempted crimes to Campus Safety and PCSD—if they don't know about it, they can't help. By making simple changes to our everyday lives, we can help ourselves and help each other keep PLU safe.



Cartoon by Calvin Moore

Imagining life without "Date My Mom"

A few hours without electricity gives a glimpse of life in simpler times

Two Fridays ago the power went out, and I learned two valuable things. One is that I like electricity. The other is that a lot of people like electricity way too much.

I'll be honest. I depend on electricity and like having it around. I had a hard time even comprehending what was happening when I first woke up in the dark. I turned on, and noticed the unresponsiveness of, two lights, a fan, and a set of speakers before beginning to realize what was happening. When the Internet didn't work, I finally became suspicious. It is not uncommon for the electrical equipment in our house to stop working, which is why I did not take notice immediately, but the pieces don't usually conspire to break simultaneously. They aren't that sneaky. The point is, though, that I take electricity so much for granted that it took me several confrontations with the lack of it to really come to grips with the fact it was gone.

Once I realized what was going on, I wasn't bothered by it much. Of course everyone was excited that classes were cancelled, but I quickly observed the initial elation wearing off as students slowly realized that they would not be able to watch television, check their e-mail, or play video-games instead.

This profoundly disturbed

some people. Some tried to wait it out by sleeping until order and technology were restored. Others fled. Pac Ave was a war zone. Of course, some of the traffic was caused by the stoplights being rendered to stop signs, but the majority of it seemed to be PLU students frantically getting the hell out and heading to more comfortable, powered hometowns for the weekend. Admittedly, the reason I know this is because we were driving to Fife for pancakes, as there was no food in our house that could be eaten without cooking.

After a meal at Denny's, we were able to entertain ourselves surprisingly easily without electricity. It was odd to sit around in the living room and not have the TV on, but board games and conversation can do wonders. You can always tape a picture to your blank TV screen if it makes you feel a little more comfortable.

From what I heard from other students, not everyone was so content with the situation. I expected that the campus atmosphere would be party-like, with people running and screaming around dark residence halls. While some of that went on, it seems that in some places the atmosphere was more comparable to a funeral, with residents mourning the loss of their afternoon plans to watch "Date My Mom."



Having My Cake and Eating Yours, Too

This is an acceptable reaction, I suppose, but it did frighten me just a little. The power didn't even stay off until it was dark. We really weren't inconvenienced by the outage much, but many were apparently devastated.

It shocked me to observe just how thoroughly we depend on electricity, myself included. What would we do if the outage had lasted longer? Would we know how to live for an extended period of time without power?

I don't suggest that we can't enjoy the benefits our technology affords us just because our great-grandparents weren't able to enjoy it when they were young. I certainly don't contend that we must live in caves and refuse to use refrigerators to experience what it was like back in the "good old days." But perhaps we could experience non-electric entertainment by reading a book that wasn't required for class once in a while, or muting the commercials between reality shows to talk to each other. Or we could just hope the power goes out again sometime, to remind us there is life without electricity.

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The Mast encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be submitted to *The Mast* by 5 p.m. the Wednesday of publication. Letters without a name, phone number, and identification for verification will be discarded. Letters should be no longer than 400 words in length, typed and double-spaced. *The Mast* reserves the right to refuse any letter. Letters may be edited for length, taste, and errors. Letters are printed in the order they are received.

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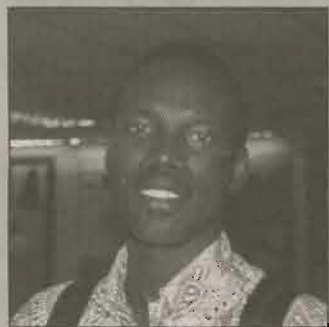
Sidewalk Talk:

How do you feel about getting a job after graduation?



Ashley Doedens, first-year

I have already been offered a job, for when I get out of school, at a vet clinic.



Dut Jok, sophomore

Well it would be nice. I mean to graduate and have a job there waiting for you.



Jillian Bartling, sophomore

I am a firm believer that things always work out for the best, whether it is travel, working, or spending time with friends.



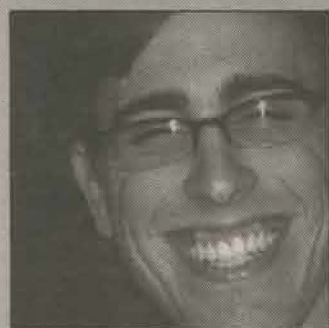
Nick Steele, senior

Hopefully I can get a job to pay off all my student loans.



Kareen Ottley, first-year

I am really looking forward to working because I will be independent, and it will be a break from all the school work.



Benjamin Rasmus, senior

I just want to find a woman with heaps of money.

An expert's guide to procrastination

Who wants to do homework when there's ramen to be made? The finer points of putting things off



Corinne HOLMBERG

All in All

That's right, readers. It's 3:00 Monday afternoon, my column is due in two hours and I have only just finished the first two sentences. It wasn't always this way.

I set out this weekend to get my column done early. I would start writing it on Saturday afternoon and finish it in only a couple of hours, leaving me the rest of the weekend to do my other homework. When Saturday afternoon rolled around, I was confident that all would go according to plan. So much so that I decided it wouldn't really hurt anything if I decided to lay down and take a nap for a while. I had a lot of time, I thought, an hour wouldn't hurt anything. I drifted off to sleep without a care in the world and dreamed of all that I would accomplish when I woke up.

I just happened to wake up at 9 p.m. This sort of threw a wrench into the works, but I wasn't worried. All I had to do was get some food (since I slept through dinner) and get started.

This proved to be more complicated than I originally supposed. Since the cafeteria was closed, I had to look elsewhere for sustenance. I eventually settled on a package of ramen noodles, but that necessitated a pot, which necessitated looking for a pot. And not just any pot, but the perfect, made-for-ramen, dwarfs-all-other-pots kind of pot. This took around five hours (or thirty minutes, as procrastination leads to exaggeration, I find) but it was worth it. I couldn't make my ramen in the wrong pot, after all.

Having procured my pot, I went to the kitchen and made my ramen. It was delicious, but when I was done I had to wash the pot. And the dishes, and the fork. If I let them sit there, they'd grow mold or something and if I ate off them again, I'd probably get sick and die. It had to be done.

All in all, ramen and ramen-related activities took about two hours. It was now 11 p.m. and I

still hadn't begun writing my column, but that was okay. It wouldn't take me very long if I just sat down and concentrated. I went back to my room and sat down at the computer, ready to go. But just as I put my hands on the keyboard, some extremely loud rap music started playing down the hall. I couldn't work in these conditions, so I decided to counter with some music of my own and cranked up Nirvana's "Incesticide." This just made the situation worse, so I decided that I would adjourn with the writing and have my very own mosh pit in the room until quiet hours forced the end of all music playing.

Sure enough, at midnight the music turned off and I was free to write in peace once more.

I realized that I really should take a shower so I wouldn't have to do it in the morning. So I collected my towel and all of my girly shower stuff and did just that, and what a wonderful, luxurious shower it was. But when I got done showering, I realized that it was kind of late and I obviously couldn't do my best writing in the middle of the night and thus decided to write my column after classes on Monday since I had about 14 hours of homework still to do Sunday.

And here I am now, with barely half an hour before the deadline. So let this be a lesson, readers. Procrastination doesn't pay, and flinging yourself about your room listening to Kurt Cobain, while certainly amusing, is not a viable alternative to actually getting your work done.

Letters to the editor

Not a semester passes at this University without at least one instructor making a speech about procrastination. It amuses me that instructors have such a problem with procrastination within a University whose officials themselves procrastinate.

I was sitting in class waiting for the instructor to arrive (late) when I overheard a student remark that crime in the surrounding area is no longer a perceived threat - it is a real one. I wondered exactly when it was a perceived threat. It has been remarked upon that Parkland has one of the highest crime rates in the state of Washington. Apparently the crime is only a perceived threat when cars are being broken into and students are being robbed. I suppose that perceived threat of crime only becomes real when a student is injured or dies as a result of that crime.

I want to ask if we really thought we were fooling the criminals by parking a Pierce County Sheriff's car on Park Avenue. I noticed when it suddenly appeared out of nowhere and breathed a sigh of relief that these procrastinating officials were doing something. That relief lasted a week until I discovered that the cop car had never moved and I had never seen an officer in the vicinity of that vehicle and concluded that it was a

sham. Apparently criminals aren't from around here and don't see the same bogus cop car that I do - they simply stop in, commit crimes, and leave without paying attention to their surroundings.

I have been attending PLU since September of 2004. My car has been broken into twice; Campus Safety caught the thief only once, giving them a generous 50% success rate. I say generous because I'm not taking into consideration that the monetary loss was far greater during the first incident when the thief was not caught.

I have parked illegally five times and have received five parking tickets, giving this campus a 100% success rate at generating additional revenue, even after raising my tuition.

Following the information I have just volunteered, I must ask - what is the main prerogative of this University?

I would like to conclude by stating that the crime and violence in this area has never been a perceived threat. It has been and will continue to be a very real one. Don't wait for the worst case scenario before you do something about it, just as I won't wait until the last week of class to write my term paper.

Jessica Overturf

As a student of the PLU community, I am wondering what action will be taken in regards to the recent "spree" of violence surrounding our campus. This could take the form of a student forum, of campus safety offering practical tips of protection (call 911 instead of approaching someone who appears to be injured - apparently helping people isn't safe anymore), etc. My South Hall roommate is afraid to walk a block away from campus anymore, or even around campus after dark. A friend who lives off campus has a spurt of anxiety anytime a car slows near the corner by her house. The stress level of students appears to have risen. Is there any plan to help students cope with this new (for some) realization that the whole world isn't under the cover of the "Lutedome"?

Thanks,

Tifanie Krebs

So mad you can't see straight?
Write a letter to the editor.
 Put it in 400 words or fewer and you might see your thoughts in *The Mast*.
 Letters are due by 5 p.m. the Wednesday before publication.
 Be sure to include your name, phone number, and identification.

mast@plu.edu

Learning

Stepping into the World



Photo by Tiffanie Clark

Resident Assistant, Cindel Tobias and sophomore, Joslin Echavaria take some time to study together. Cindel also works as a math tutor for academic assistance and occasionally finds herself giving her residents some study tips.

Busy students strive for balance between school, work, and play

KRISTEN HOLLAND
Mast Intern

Life comes at you fast. Balancing and prioritizing schedules is a must to becoming a successful college student. Students at PLU are busy with school, work, and extracurricular activities. A full-time student usually has many hours of class time and homework during the week. How to balance both school and work when there are only so many hours in a week is an important question that students are faced with on a daily basis.

One student in particular, Cindel Tobias answered this question and many others about being a working student. Cindel is a sophomore and is double majoring in math and psychology. She is a full-time student and has three jobs competing for her time. Cindel works in Academic Assistance as a math tutor, as a Resident Assistant in Foss Hall, and works for Mathematical Engineering Science Achievement (MESA).

With such a busy schedule, Cindel says she is "planner dependent." The best way to stay organized is to use a planner to manage time the best one can. There are just not always enough hours in a day to accomplish everything that could be done, but by organizing and prioritizing tasks, more can be done than without a plan.

There are always pros and cons to being busy, but

she said that she loves working with other people. Even though she enjoys her jobs, she said, "I wish I had more time to play ultimate frisbee."

Kelsey McGovern, sophomore is a full-time student and works about nine hours a week in the Athletic Department. She credited her friends as being good motivation for her to work hard and accomplish all of her tasks.

"I use my free time wisely," Kelsey said, by going to the library or going to a café close to campus. She also said that her job works with her to create a work schedule that best suites her academic schedule. Kelsey said that there are many positive aspects to her job like flexible hours, earning money while going to school, a good boss, and being able to work on campus.

These students are able to succeed in both school and work because of the methods they use to get things done. There are many resources on campus to help with finding a job, getting help with a course, or to help with time management skills. The Academic Advising Office in Ramstad and the Academic Assistance in the Library are resources for more information on developing these important skills.

Student finds perfect fit in the great outdoors

TIFFANIE CLARK
Luteliflife Editor

Imagine getting paid to do what you love. Junior David Christal has had the opportunity to do just that through his involvement with Outdoor Recreation (OR). Despite popular belief, OR is not a club but an auxiliary of ASPLU, PLU's student government. Each year ASPLU hires directors to head up it's auxiliaries and this year David Christal was lucky enough to be hired as the Associate Director.

Partnered with Director Ian Corbridge, Christal has helped lead a team of over fifteen guides through wilderness and first aid training. Junior John Steene was one of those guides and loves the program. "It gets me out and about and it's a good service to the PLU community," Steene said. This is Steene's first year as an Outdoor Recreation Guide but he's been involved with their trips since his first year at PLU.

Over J-Term, Steene took on a bigger role, filling in for Corbridge while he was away for the month. As temporary director Steene learned about OR's connection with ASPLU and how the two work together.

Aside from sharpening his wilderness skills, Steene has learned more about the Pacific Northwest. He accompanied OR on several trips to Mt. Rainer to ski, snow shoe and hike. He's also been on camping trips in the Olympic National Rainforest and led kayaking trips at Vashon Island. Outdoor Recreation not only offers participants the experience to learn about the wilderness but leadership skills and the chance to make new friends. Applications for the director positions will become available March 15 in the SIL office and are due March 30. Guides for next year will be hired sometime after Spring Break. For more information contact Outdoor Recreation at (253) 536-5087.

10 tips to make getting through a job interview as easy as going to class

TIFFANIE CLARK
Luteliflife Editor

No one wakes up in the morning and thinks, "Man, I can't wait to go to my job interview today," but luckily the Career Center in the Ramstad Commons is a resource overflowing with ideas on how to successfully handle a job interview. They have provided these helpful tips:

1. Before you apply for a job consider scheduling an informational interview. Doing this allows to you ask questions about the company, to network, and to figure out if it's a really a place you'd be interested in working.
2. Once you've decided if it is a place you'd like to work and have scheduled a job interview, start practicing your answers to typical interview questions. Some questions to consider: What characteristics do you think are important for this position? What are your "team player" qualities? What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?
3. Get ready to speak about your qualifications and experiences. Think of specific stories that showcase your skills.
4. Remember to dress professionally. Comb your hair and brush your teeth; you know the drill.
5. Arrive early to your interview.
6. During your interview, be confident and concise with your answers. Speak clearly. Remember that it's okay to stop and take time to think.
7. When providing stories remember to use the situation-action-result method. Explain the situation, the action you took, and the positive result.
8. Make eye contact and use appropriate body language.
9. Express interest and enthusiasm.
10. After your interview follow up with a simple thank you note.



Photo by Tiffanie Clark

Working for Outdoor Recreation isn't all fun and games. Junior, John Steene gets to work looking over the inventory.

1	Employee	2	ID	3	Pay #	Pay Period	4	Deposit #	Deposit Amount
1	Doe John A.	2	Z00009999	3	2	01/03/04 01/16/04	4	1001	2,581.87

Rate	Amount	Deductions	Current	Year-to-Date
	4,372.10			
		Non-ProTaxable		
		Fed Inc	642.39	2,70
		QABR-LTC	14.40	8.30
				5.42
			2,992.2	32.36
				15.96

Earining of Student Employment



Photo By Brett A. Patterson
Sophomore Andrew Lucchesi doesn't mind getting his hands dirty. Environmental Services takes care of all recycled materials on campus.

A day in the life of a capitol intern

LIZ LAMB
Mast Intern

5 a.m.: Wake up to the loving call of birds on my "natural sounds" alarm clock. Drag myself out of bed and get ready for the day.

6:30 a.m.: Leave for work. Most likely need to get gas along the way, so wind up on I-5 at about 7 a.m.

8 a.m.: Arrive at work. Check e-mail. Receive about 20 e-mails from the office of the chief clerk of the House, informing me which bills the House went through last night as well as when they will be back in session the next day. Delete all of these e-mails, most of which just go along the lines of:

Subject: Following Bills...
2574
1438
4538

8:30 a.m.: Read through the daily "E-Clips" for items to use in my capstone paper. These E-Clips consist of news articles collected by the Office of Public Research that deal with the happenings of the State Legislature. I'm focusing my capstone on women in politics, and it is rather hit or miss as to how much I can glean from these.

9 a.m.: Create to-do list for the day. Casework and constituent correspondence takes up a great deal of my time. I work for two offices; one is that of a Republican representative, and the other that of a Democrat representative. I spend this time finishing up a few letters that I have started the day before. They need to be proofread and sent back to the offices they're from.

9:35 a.m.: Head over to the House Republican Caucus in the Legislative building. My Republican representative is the caucus chair, so when her legislative assistant cannot be present, I sit in on the caucus. In caucus, the representatives go through bills and discuss how the caucus will vote. Occasionally, representatives opt to vote against the caucus depending on how their respective districts would want them to. This is either incredibly interesting or ridiculously BORING.

11 a.m.: Back to the John L. O'Brien building, where my office is located, to write some letters before lunch. Here is when I work on casework items and try to call places such as DSHS (Department of Social and Health Services) and various municipalities, such as Bonney Lake and Buckley, that are in our district.

12 p.m.: LUNCH! It's nice to be able to walk to lunch or take the bus into downtown, although I usually bring lunch with me to save some cash.

1:15 p.m.: Return to my desk. Continue working on a casework project for a woman who owns a mobile home park in Bonney Lake. We're trying to figure out how her private park complies with the ordinances for the city. This is a long project to work on; but after three days, I can officially say that I am an expert on mobile homes in the area. To collect the information, I have spoken with the mayor of Bonney Lake, his city clerk and his head of economic development.

4 p.m.: Almost done! It's about that time when all of the interns start getting antsy to go home. We're all in the same office, and it tends to seem more like a dorm at times. We've gotten very good at office basketball, meaning we throw old copies of memos into the trashcan. Procrastination is truly an art form.

5 p.m.: Should be done, but am not. Several people are heading home, but because I work for a leadership office, I've got constituent letters coming out of my ears!

5:30 p.m.: Finally head home. It's a long walk in heels from the building where I work to the parking garage, so I take the legislative employee bus. The "bus" is actually a Chrysler Minivan, but it's much nicer than me trucking it 10 blocks in my oh-so-cute but oh-so-impractical shoes.

5:45 p.m.: Actually get on the road. It's been a long day, and the only things I want to do are put on sweats and sneakers and make dinner! Unfortunately, I get to sit in my car another 45 minutes to an hour and listen to the radio as I make my way home. Usually, I forget how long the drive is and forget to make a potty pit-stop before I head out, making the drive all that more interesting!

6:30 p.m.: Arrive home, thank goodness! Time to sprint to a PLU meeting of some kind or another. It's a long day, but I love what I'm doing. And the bonus is that I get to do it again tomorrow.

Saving the planet, one bottle at a time

ANDREW LUCCHESI
Mast Intern

My clock shows 6:45 a.m. This is the hardest part of my workday. This trial humbles many of my co-workers, and occasionally me as well. I struggle. I consider. I endure.

Finally, I get out of bed and walk to work. There I meet a half dozen other sleepy-eyed students, barely victorious in their own personal battles for punctuality.

While the campus still sleeps, we, the Environmental Services Techs, prepare to tackle another workday.

Splitting into groggy twos and threes, we set out on the opening tasks of the day.

While retrieving cardboard from the UC alone any given morning, we fill our full-sized pickup truck completely, sometimes twice. I have had to go back three times on the worst days. Each and every piece of this cardboard is flattened, sorted out from its non-recyclable counterparts and fed into our cardboard "muncher" (a hellish contraption that turns the boxes into one massive 300-pound bale).

Our other early-morning tasks include: returning the garbage totes, already emptied that morning, to their proper places; emptying some of the campus garbage cans; and retrieving recyclables from PLU's outer buildings.

Every building on campus has recycling points in it, and residence halls generally have one room on each floor devoted to this purpose. Our next task is servicing these facilities, a job that usually takes a good deal of the day. Academic buildings are the first to be grabbed up by crews, who are eager to avoid the potentially nasty work involved in collecting materials from a residence hall. We patrol the halls, giant bags in hand, and collect our treasure to bring back to base.

It is not really a terribly taxing job, but it is one that requires some common sense and a good ability to work with one's peers.

On the subject of residence halls, I feel I should offer a few tips to those who wish to make this process we call "recycling" run a little more smoothly at PLU.

Point number one: pizza boxes. Your pizza box is, as a general rule, about as recyclable as the pizza that was in it. When the cardboard has been

soaked with grease, it loses its ability to be recycled. So please, either rip off the section that is unusable, or throw the whole thing in the garbage. There was a time when pizza boxes still bearing the labels of delivery would be returned to their former owners to enforce this point, but these times have long since passed.

In all student recycle rooms on campus, there are five specific bins: newspaper, corrugated cardboard, mixed paper, aluminum/tin cans and glass/plastic bottles. It is beyond my comprehension how someone might confuse one of these bins as a good place to deposit things such as urine, vomit and other myriad non-recyclable waste products. Yet it does, from time to time, happen.

A lesson I have learned about the PLU students, and some faculty members, is that they are conscientious drinkers. I am not claiming that they always drink responsibly, and I am not even stating an opinion on PLU's alcohol policy. I am merely observing that the rates at which alcohol bottles come through our system is impressive, to say the least. I find it commendable that most students, at whatever level of intoxication they may be, will walk down the halls with their contraband with the sole purpose of recycling it. Oftentimes, we get anonymous donations of this kind directly at our glass bins at Facilities Management. But while this is appreciated, please remove the caps first. It saves us a lot of time.

I should probably point out that I really enjoy my job. If it sounds like I am trying to sour you on working for Facilities, that is not the case. It is not all grossness and manual labor—far from it.

My co-workers are smart, eccentric and fun to work with. My boss, Barb McConathy, is one of the best employers I have ever worked for; she truly cares about her crew.

The experiences I have had at Environmental Services will stick with me for years to come, and so will the friendships I have formed there. If you are interested in working outdoors, keeping active and helping out the planet as well, this job may be for you.

As I am finishing up my first full year of employment, it is clear that it is the right fit for me.

PLU represented in national pageant programs

Two PLU women have recently won pageants and will be competing in further contests

KAT JENKINS
Mast reporter

Numerous scholarship competitions are held across the country each year. Known to most

as beauty pageants, these competitions raise awareness for issues, showcase talents, and provide scholarships to their participants. This year, members of the PLU community are participating in pageants.

Jackie Mendez, a sophomore communications and business student, is vying for the title of Miss Pierce County. That competition will be held Saturday, March 4 at Mt. Tahoma High School at 7 p.m. The Miss Pierce County pageant feeds into the Miss Washington competition and then to the Miss America pageant.

PLU alumna, Tiffany Doorn, currently holds the title of Miss Washington USA, and will be competing in the Miss USA pageant. The Miss USA pageant will be broadcast live April 21, on NBC. The winner of the Miss USA pageant goes on to compete in the Miss Universe pageant.

Mendez has been competing in pageants since her senior year of high school, when she entered the Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program. Placing as second runner-up in that pageant encouraged her to continue in the pageant system, and she eventually became Miss SEAFair 2004.

Some people scoff at competing in pageants, but in reality, they have a lot to offer their participants. Mendez reported that she has earned a total of \$7,000 in scholarship money from the programs, as well as other skills.

"Running in pageants has given me interview skills that I would have otherwise

paid thousands of dollars to gain training in," Mendez said. "There are not many instances where you get paid to learn interview skills, proper etiquette and you are given the opportunity to serve your community in the best way you know how."

All pageant contestants choose a platform to support. Mendez's platform is "Funding for a Cure," emphasizing the importance of cancer research.

Through her pageant participation, she has also been able to work with the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Lab and the Candlelighter's Childhood Cancer Foundation.

There is often a stereotype associated with the type of people who enter pageants, but these contestants said it generally isn't true.

Mendez said, "The most common question I get asked is, 'are the girls really catty?' and I would honestly have to say that most of them are not. You can choose to fall into the stereotype or you can choose to be the independent, compassionate, genuine young woman the Miss America Program is actually about."

Doorn graduated from Wood-

ville High School, and from PLU in 2004. She now teaches preschool in Woodinville, and hopes to work with terminally ill children and women's cancer research.

Mendez is from Graham, Washington, and is pursuing degrees in business administration and public relations while at PLU. In the future she hopes to own her own business. Even if she does not go on to the Miss Washington pageant, she will continue to devote time to raising money and volunteering time for the fight against cancer.

Participating in a pageant is a lot of work. Mendez emphasized the time management necessary to stay up on current events

for the interviews, advocate for a platform, exercise and go to pageant activities as well as getting her homework done. But the rewards seem to outweigh the time demands.

Mendez said, "I feel the Miss America Program has given me the confidence to feel comfortable with who I am and what I stand for. I hope to make waves in this world and I hope to touch some lives before my time is over. If nothing else, I just want people to remember me as a genuine, caring and good person."

As of press time, Tiffany Doorn was not available for comment.



Photo courtesy Joanne Lisosky

24-year-old alumna Tiffany Doorn is pictured after winning the Miss Washington U.S.A. pageant.

Get involved!
Cheer on Jackie Mendez as she competes to win Miss Pierce County.
Sat. March 4, 7 p.m.
Mt. Tahoma High School
4634 S 74th St

Award-winning author shares work

Visiting professor David Long will read from his latest novel "The Inhabited World"

MELISSA HUGGINS
A&E editor

From the beginning of David Long's latest novel, "The Inhabited World," the reader is aware of a singular reality: the narrator is not alive. As the story opens, the protagonist Evan Malloy is stuck between the worlds of the living and dead since he fatally shot himself. Evan's problem, however, is that he cannot remember why.

To give PLU students a sneak preview of this intriguing novel, which will not be released until Summer '06, visiting professor of English Long will be reading from "The Inhabited World" Wednesday, March 8 at 8 p.m. The latest installment of the Visiting Writer Series, his reading will take place in the Scandinavian Cultural Center.

Through the course of the novel, the story shifts back and forth between Evan's viewpoint and that of a woman named Maureen, who lives in the house where Evan lived and died. Maureen is experiencing her own life struggles, and as he observes, Evan's ideas about his own

"The story is an artifact you build over the course of many work sessions. You have to be willing to keep coming back to it day after day, you have to revise and revise."

David Long,
Professor of English

life and death are influenced by her attempts to get out of the transitory stage she finds herself in.

Long hopes that readers will not only enjoy the story, but draw their own conclusions from it.

"The novel has certain observations to make about being at the end of one's rope," he said. "I think ultimately it's a life-affirming story, but I leave it to readers to take what they will from it."

One of the goals of the Visiting Writer Series is to allow students the opportunity to gain advice about writ-

ing. From his experience guiding students through the process, Long tries to inform students of the same ideas about writing he has followed.

"The story is an artifact you build over the course of many work sessions," he said. "You have to be willing to keep coming back to it day after day, you have to revise and revise."

While many writing students find revising their work to be tedious, Long admits that revision is actually his favorite part of the process.

"Every new project is difficult because so much of the story is hidden at first," he said. "Once I get a finished draft I'm pretty confident that I can fix it. Generally, revising is more fun than composing for me."

Long believes that the Visiting Writer Series serves an important function for aspiring writers.

"It's important to see writers as actual people, to demythologize them, so to speak," he said. "It's important to think of literature as having a public aspect; to hear writing spoken aloud."

Long has authored two other novels, "The Daughters of Simon Lamoreaux" and "The Falling Boy," as well as a collection of short stories entitled "Blue Spruce."

He received the Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Award for Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1998, as well as an O. Henry Award and a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

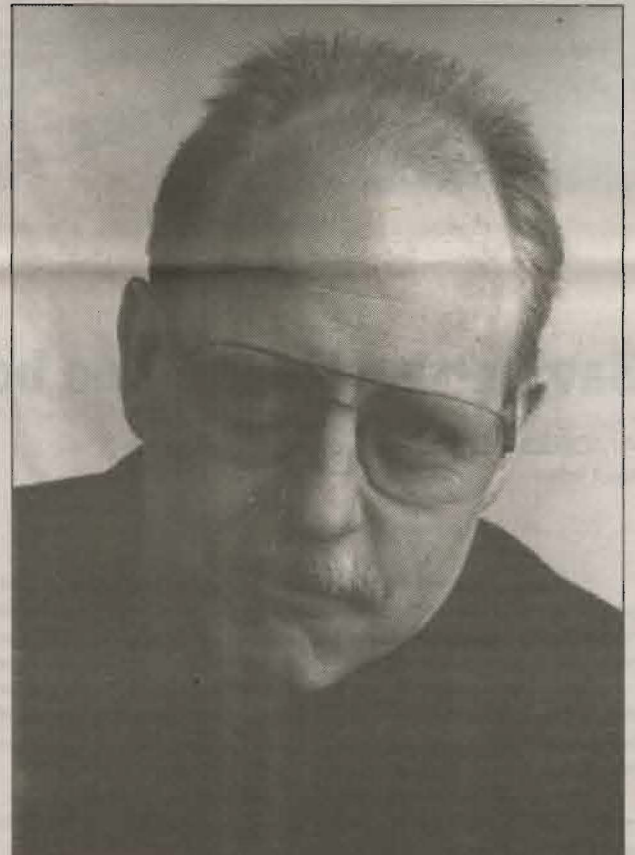


Photo courtesy the English Department

David Long, a visiting professor at PLU, will be reading from his forthcoming novel "The Inhabited World."

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Mrs. Henderson Presents (R)

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Sat/Sun: 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45
Mon-Wed: 4:15, 6:30, 8:45
Thurs: 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45

Transamerica (R)

Fri: 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
Sat/Sun: 12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
Mon-Wed: 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
Thurs: 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20

Brokeback Mountain (R)

Fri: 4:00, 6:45, 9:15
Sat/Sun: 12:30, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15
Mon-Thurs: 4:00, 6:45, 9:15

Just around the corner



Top 10: Places to make new friends

We aren't really sure when we became Dear Abby, but lately all we've written is love advice. As good as our advice has been, we realize that maybe it doesn't work for everyone... or anyone for that matter.

So after our eighth Friday in a row playing Uno by ourselves, we realized that there was something missing in our lives. With our crippling fear of being knifed looking for entertainment off campus, we decided we needed to find some new friends to occupy our time on campus. Without further ado, here are the ten places where we had our greatest success finding people to talk to us.

1. Library: Most people go to the library to study, but we go to meet new and interesting people. Problem is, most are too distracted to talk to us. We've found that a loud cell phone ring or dropping a book is an excellent way to get someone's attention. Just keep your distance from the library employees; they seem nice, but the second time 'My Humps' starts ringing, watch out.

2. Front desk: Most residence halls have a substitution sheet behind the desk. Sign up for a few hours and watch the people flock to you. However, most people give you funny looks when you don't actually live there.

3. Strip club: Classy, highly sophisticated social scene. The waitresses are extremely friendly, and the food is moderately priced. The lighting is a little dark, and the music is loud, but overall we found our experience generally pleasing.

4. Class: So get this: we actually went to class, and there

were other people there.

They were nice, although the person at the front thought that we were talking too much. We don't think we'll try this one again.

5. Fitness center: We don't work out, and hardly condone it, but we hear that other

people do. We tried talking to some people on the tread mills, but they ignored us. Later we saw an iPod commercial and realized out why. Make sure that they can hear you when you talk to them.

6. Facebook: We started searching Facebook in search of people that we might not actually meet in person. Between the two of us, we've befriended the entire Gonzaga basketball team, Butch the cougar and Paris Hilton. We're still waiting on the Olsen twins.

7. Retirement home: Nice people who love our favorite past times: Bingo, sit-and-be-fit, and Cribbage. They don't always hear what we say, and don't always remember us the next time, but an enjoyable experience all around. Actually, we're thinking about retiring next year. This dang weather is wreaking havoc on our arthritis.

8. Self help meetings: No, we did not get the idea from "Fight Club." But seeing as how we were referred there anyway, we made a few friends. First you have to admit that you have a problem, then hugs from everyone.

9. Your room: Being renowned columnists, we've decided that if we wait long enough, people will actually come to meet us. We're still waiting.

10. Laundry room: You can tell a lot about a person from their underwear. Just don't go snooping through their laundry baskets to find this out. Also, if you have enough quarters, anyone will be your friend.

Hest strums his way into audience's heart

New York City artist and PLU alumnus team up to showcase their latest music

MARTA LARSON
Mast intern

Nearly 200 people packed into Chris Knutsen Hall Feb. 22 for a concert featuring Ari Hest and Justin Klump, two widely known musicians.

Both Hest and Klump are singer/songwriters who perform with acoustic guitars. Klump is a local artist, while Hest hails from New York City.

Opening the show was Justin Klump, a PLU alumnus ('05) who works at St. Martin's University in the Office of Campus and Residence Life. The majority of his songs are self-composed, but he also covered some well-known songs such as "Stir It Up" by Bob Marley. Klump played an acoustic guitar and sang, while a drummer, piano player and female singer accompanied him on several songs.

"It's very freeing, being able to express yourself up onstage," Klump said. "That's got to be my favorite thing about performing."

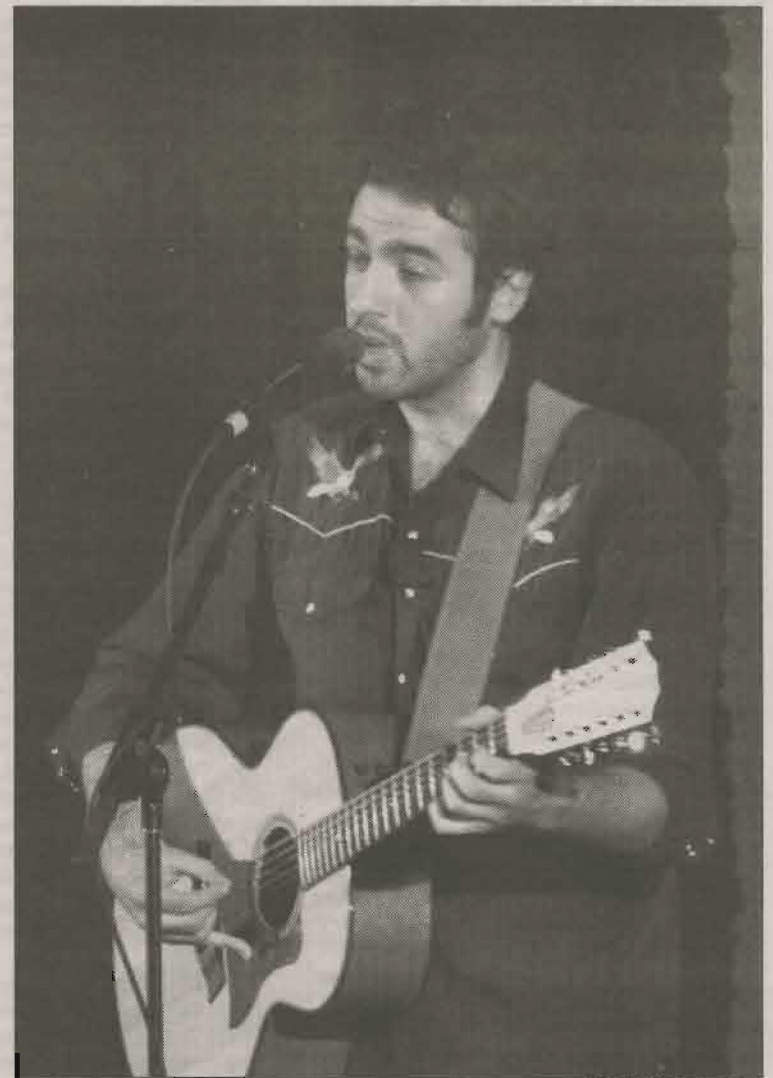
His original songs ranged in subject, from past relationships to figures from the Bible. One crowd favorite was a song called "Judas," a non-vocal piece that showcases Klump's guitar-playing abilities.

Klump said he gets his inspiration from bands such as U2, Nickel Creek, Damien Rice, Pink Floyd and The Dave Matthews Band. He has been involved with music his entire life, eight years of which he has spent playing guitar.

His new album, "Something for September," will be released in April 2006.

The concert's featured artist was Ari Hest, a 29-year-old songwriter who has traveled all over the country to perform his own music.

Hest played acoustic guitar and sang solo on several songs, and had a bass player and hand drummer accompany him on others. He impressed the audience with his large vocal range, singing incredibly low one minute and extremely high the next. He covered popular songs such as "Roxanne" by The Police. He said he likes doing cover songs not only to please the



Ari Hest sang solo for several songs and was accompanied by a bass player and hand drummer on others. His single, "Anne Marie" is being played by radio stations across the nation.

audience, but because he enjoys performing them.

"It's an incredible thing, getting the chance to take a song that you already know so well and rework it into something completely different—to make it yours," Hest said.

Hest said he has been playing guitar professionally since he was 19 and is looking forward to the day when he will get the chance to leave the country to tour internationally. He has already been all over the United States, he said.

Hest and his small band showed great musicianship at the PLU concert. Their performance was tight and in sync, indicating that they had spent many hours practicing and performing together.

One quality that makes Hest unique among musicians is that he enjoys being on the road, he said. For example, the night before he performed at PLU, he was in Pullman putting on a show and then had to drive six hours that

night. He actually looks forward to spending hours in vehicles, which is a great advantage when it comes to touring, he said. He doesn't feel worn out or tired after a long drive from one concert to the next, he said.

The Hest and Klump concert lasted two-and-a-half hours.

Hest made himself available for fans to come talk to him after the show or to buy his album, "Guilty Hearts," for \$5. Although some of the crowd shuffled out the doors when the concert was over, a large number of fans lined up behind Hest's merchandise table to buy his cd.

"There should be more good music events like this here," first-year Adrienne Cryer said. "It was really a great concert."

For more information about Ari Hest and his music, or to find a copy of his EP, visit www.arihest.com. You can also find Ari Hest's music on iTunes.

'Twelfth Night' takes the stage at Woodstock

Spring play transports the Bard to the 1960s

MAX AUGUST FALKENBERG
Mast contributor

Sophomore Tristan Morris sings Jimi Hendrix — "Manic depression is touching my soul / I know what I want but I just don't know." Psychedelic lights infuse the stage as he seamlessly transitions into iambic pentameter, "if music be the food of love, play on..."

Morris plays Orsino in the PLU Theatre Department's new production of William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night; or, What You Will." But this version is not in the 17th century, and no one wears tights.

Theatre professor Brian Desmond said he took the "What You Will" subtitle quite literally, transposing the action of the play into California circa 1969.

"It's an emotionally complicated year, in which the light and dark wage an increasingly public battle," Desmond said.

"Twelfth Night" is indeed a Shakespearean comedy, but it was written at a pivotal point in the Bard's career, around the same time he created some of his great tragedies. In the play, music and love are crossed with a bitter sadness. The actors face a delicate balance between antiquated verse and sundry Beatles songs.

The plot is vintage Shakespeare: Two shipwrecked

twins (one male, one female), both thinking the other is dead, end up in the realm of Illyria. Viola, the woman, disguises herself as a boy and falls in love with her master, Orsino—himself already in love with the noble Olivia, who will have nothing to do with him but instead harbors a secret desire for Viola/Sebastien, though she doesn't realize our heroine's true gender. Manic chaos ensues, with a slightly darker twinge of panic than might be found in Shakespeare's earlier offerings.

"I was very excited to do period Shakespeare," first-year Niclas Olson said, "but I've seen [anachronistic productions] work, and I'm really excited."

Though reactions to the play's tampered nature vary among the cast members, most agree that "Twelfth Night" will be unlike most Shakespeare productions.

"This is not the Shakespeare I studied in high school and fell asleep to," sophomore Kimberly Henry said.

The cast and crew of the play have spent the last week pulling late nights in Eastvold, constructing a set that consists of two separate houses (one of which has two stories) and a southern California boardwalk.

They said they are excited to see all of their efforts coming together. "This vision, you know, it starts off as an idea and then it becomes a reality," junior C.J. Butenschoen said.

PLU's "Twelfth Night" has undeniably embraced its



Guest performer Jim Worlein, first-year Niclas Olson and senior Maren Ham rehearse a scene from the spring production of "Twelfth Night."

particular reality, from a light-up sign that says "The Duke of Delirium" to its diverse wardrobe: diving flippers, Eastern-influenced garments and tight, thigh-embracing, yellow pants.

"Twelfth Night" opens tonight, and runs March 3-5 and 10-12. Performances begin at 8 p.m., except for the Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$5 for PLU students and faculty, or \$8 for the general public.

A tale of Scandinavian struggle

Solveig Torvik's novel traces three generations of women from Norway to Finland and Idaho

ANDREW LUCCHESI
Mast intern

A small but excited group of spectators sat in the Scandinavian Cultural Center as author Solveig Torvik took the stage. Knowing she had spent the last fifteen years of her life slowly attempting to uncover the mysteries of her family's past, those who attended her reading Sunday, Feb. 26 were excited to gain insight into her first book, a novel based on her family history.

Torvik's read excerpts from her book, "Nikolai's Fortune," which follows the struggles of her ancestors, and answered questions from the crowd. Speaking eloquently, she showed the strength and importance of her story, and the feeling of intensity that characterizes this book.

This novel revolves around the women of her family, Torvik's great-grandmother, her grandmother, mother and herself. Following the family from Finland to Norway, Norway to Idaho, this expansive narrative uncovers stories long lost to history. Each of these women went through amazing struggles in their lives, and Torvik portrayed this quite well in the passages she chose to read at her

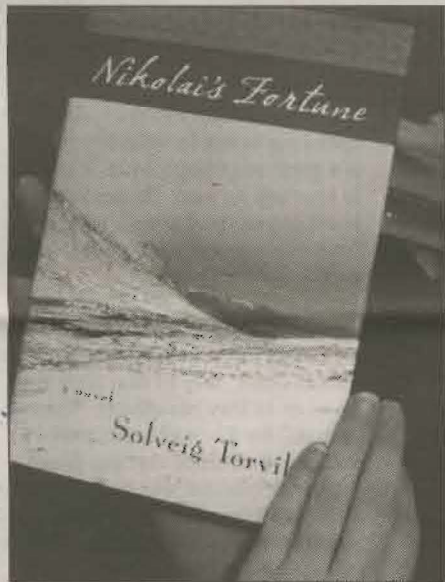


Photo by Melissa Huggins

Torvik's debut novel is based on her family history. She traveled the world tracking down the information.

lecture.

Kaisa, her great grandmother, endured a love affair outside of her station with a man named Nikolai. He, unaware that Kaisa had become pregnant with their child, leaves for America to find his fortune in Oregon. Torvik sets out to uncover their fate to try to give closure to a family story long forsaken as a lost cause. Rape, xenophobia, poverty, betrayal and hardship are all present in this book.

When asked what she got out of the lecture, first-year student Garbri Kirkendall said, "I am Norwegian, and this is a part of my history, but there is so much history that is not taught. The plights of these women... it is important to tell their stories."

More than just well written, this book touches themes relevant today. I had the opportunity to speak with the author after her lecture and ask her how she thought her novel would speak to a college-age student today. After a moment's pondering, she said, "It will teach you that your life is rather soft. This life people suffered through wasn't in the dark ages, in fact it wasn't so long ago at all... I would hope it gives people your age an appreciation of the life you live now, and the people who came before you."

Torvik was an editor and reporter at the Seattle Post-Intelligencer for over thirty years. She writes with the experienced style of a journalist melded with the weighty, almost poetic, descriptions of a novelist. Even from the small passages she read at her presentation, Torvik showed her mastery of her subject.

"[The lecture] conveyed the spirit of the book very well," said Janette Ruud, President of the Scandinavian Cultural Center's executive board. "[She showed] the strength of the women in the book and the fact that she doesn't glamorize or gloss over the troubles of the characters. I don't think there are many college-age students who ever have a clue what hardship is like. It is a very eye-opening experience, especially for women. It can be used as a reflection to look at what we have now, compared to how badly women were off back then."

This was among the first stops for Ms. Torvik on her book tour. Those who missed her lecture and would like to hear her speak, can see her at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle at 2 p.m., March 5. The book itself can be purchased at the PLU Northwest and Scandinavian Gift Shop on Garfield Street, which will also be selling a number of copies signed by the author.

Upcoming events at the Scan Center include hosting the Reykjavik Wind Quintet March 29, a Nordic Fashion Show April 22, and their annual Norwegian Heritage Fest on April 29. The center's website at has more information at www.plu.edu/~scancntr.

Bringing home the gold

Weighing in on the 78th annual Academy Awards



Someone sneezed in my popcorn

It's that time for the little gold man to make his appearance once again. Yes, its Oscar time-when people spend three hours wading through all of the lame categories to get to the only ones people care about at the end of the night. Sunday, we will find out who the best are according to the people who were in all those movies. But while the ceremony has been dull in the past, hopefully it can be filled with some entertainment considering the always-hilarious Jon Stewart will be hosting.

Here are my Oscar predictions. Now keep in mind these predications are completely without merit. If you haven't figured it out, I have no idea what I am doing, so please try not to make any wagers based on these predictions. Disclaimer aside:

Best Picture- The obvious favorite is "Brokeback Mountain," and considering the awards it has earned already, I have a feeling that it is already decided. However "Crash" was another excellent film that I feel deserves the Best Picture Oscar and may surprise some people if it is called. "Brokeback" is going to run away with it, but "Crash" is the a close contender.

Best Directing- This one is tough. Most years the winner for best picture also wins for best director. Ang Lee for "Brokeback" is the leader in this category, but I wouldn't put Paul Haggis, whose elaborate coordination of story and actors in "Crash" was a tremendous accomplishment, too far behind. Similarly, the Academy seems to love George Clooney, who has created a lot of buzz for "Good Night and Good Luck" and shouldn't be discounted.

Best Actor- Again, looking at the other awards shows it would be safe

to say that Phillip Seymour Hoffman's portrayal of Truman Capote will earn him the Oscar this year. Heath Ledger would be the only other actor that would be able to upset this streak. The buzz for his performance in "Brokeback" increases each day. In contrast, as much as I liked Joaquin Phoenix in "Walk the Line," this is just not his year.

Best Actress- Without a doubt it is going to Reese Witherspoon for "Walk the Line." The other actresses were good but none of them hold a candle to this amazing performance from an actress who, until now, had only given us ditzzy romantic comedies.

Best Supporting Actor- My gut tells me that Matt Dillon from "Crash" will come up golden. However, "Brokeback" fever may sway towards Jake Gyllenhaal. I would like Paul Giamatti to win it simply because he was snubbed for a nomination at last years Oscars for "Sideways." But look for Dillon to grab the statue.

Best Supporting Actress- This is the one that I am sure will go to Michelle Williams for "Brokeback Mountain." The fact is that for the actors in "Brokeback" there is more competition from other films in their categories, where as Michelle is a shoo-in to bring at least that award in for Brokeback.

Original Screenplay- "Crash." Pure and simple.

Adapted Screenplay- "Brokeback Mountain" is the forerunner with "Capote" very close behind.

And now the category that everyone is on the edge of their seats for... **Best Sound Editing!**

I am not really sure what it's for, but it is between "King Kong," "War of the Worlds" and "Memoirs of a Geisha." I hope "King Kong" wins because it deserves something and "War of the Worlds" was highly overrated.

There you go: completely unfounded predictions to discuss as you watch the ceremony this Sunday. Print out your own ballot at Oscar.com and see how far off I am when the envelopes are opened.

Catch the Fever!
Who do you think will triumph at the Oscars?
Oscar party at the Cave
Sun. March 5, 5 p.m.- 10 p.m.

International trend dances onto campus

'New and improved' Discoteca keeps students dancing

JON HARTHUN
Mast intern

Discoteca. A word both foreign and familiar to me. I had seen it plastered around campus for weeks before the event, but hadn't, known until recently exactly what it entailed.

The widely publicized event was held in the Cave from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. Friday, February 24. Attendees were greeted with glow sticks, flashing lights and colors, decorations, and most importantly, refreshments and people dancing.

To learn about Discoteca before I attended the event, I decided to hit up my good friend Google. I found a number of translations including 'record library' (discus + bibliotheca, Latin) and the more general 'disco' (Spanish). I was also led to the somewhat more familiar discothèque, which was defined as 'a nightclub of flashy décor, featuring elaborate lighting and dancing.' Discoteca

is an international concept, and Hong an international hall. The pieces were starting to come together.

To educate myself even further I spoke with Hong's Hall President Claire Marie Krug, to see what she had to say.

"Since last year, we have come up with a bunch of new ideas. It's the new and improved Discoteca," Krug said. Hong's Residence Hall Council, worked the past few months putting the event together. Krug also mentioned the international appeal of dance, and how it was only appropriate to make Hong's school-wide event a Discoteca.

"The chocolate fountain was a big attraction for me... It was everything I could dream of in a chocolate fountain."
First-year student
Krista Dunham

A big hit of the evening turned out to be the chocolate fountain, which was ambushed by students dipping in fruit, pretzels and cookies that surrounded the base of the fountain.

"The chocolate fountain was a big attraction for me; better than my experiences with the infamous Nestle," first-year Krista Dunham said. "It was everything I could dream of in a chocolate fountain."

The DJ played everything from techno to rap, pop and rock. He even mixed in songs of other languages and cultures, which went well with the international flags strung all around the room. As lights flickered and bodies moved to the beat, many people continued to shuffle in.

As time slipped by, the combination of heat, sweat, blinking lights, chocolate, and dancing got the best of me. By the time I left, everyone seemed to be having a ball.

On my way out the door, I asked one student for his summary of Discoteca.

"I had a great time. It certainly gave me something fun to do on a Friday night," junior Vincent Learned said. "The music was pretty good, and the fountain wasn't too bad either. I just wished PLU did something like this more often."

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Olympics: Golden moments or constant boredom?

Amid controversy and disappointments, Olympics shine

NICK PAGE
Mast sports columnist

The Olympics have come and gone. The torch has passed on to Vancouver and Beijing. We are now going full speed into what I like to call the "sports desert."

The Olympics were full of controversy and negative publicity this year, which puzzles and disappoints me.

American Bode Miller put a damper on the Olympics when he became the Terrell Owens of Alpine Skiing.

For every Bode Miller, there is a Ted Ligety or Shizuka Arakawa. For every Lindsey Jacobellis, there is a Shaun White or Hannah Teter.

For every golden triumph, there is a colorless disappointment. The storylines everyone wanted to happen didn't. The United States didn't win gold in women's figure skating, but the storylines were there.

American Julie Mancuso won gold in the women's giant slalom, and essentially came out of nowhere and terrible weather to get it done.

Todd Hays, who revived the U.S. Bobsledding program, announced his retirement before his final two Olympic runs.

Hockey turned into a compelling tournament when the U.S. and Canada were both knocked out of the games before the medal rounds.

To us these sound like disappointments and failures, but to borrow a cliché, that's how the ball bounces.

In sports, anything can happen. That's why events and games are actually played—because if we knew who was going to win before the games even started, why would we watch?

The Olympics didn't go the way they were expected to. So what?

The games accomplished what they are supposed to accomplish. They bring the world's nations together through competitive sport, something that no other event has been able to do. Not through wars, diplomacy or treaties does the world come together as it does for two weeks each Olympic year. The feats may seem superhuman, but are carried out by people who just love their sport. For that reason alone, the Olympics are special.

The XX Winter Olympic games achieved everything they were supposed to. They brought the globe together, even if it was for only a few short weeks.

Some people say that in the grand scheme of things sports don't matter; those people have obviously never seen the Olympics. The passion displayed by both the athletes (excluding Bode Miller) and their fans is something you can't find anywhere else.

As an athlete, I can honestly say that there would be no greater accomplishment than to become an Olympian.

Olympics stand for everything that is good in humanity.



Third and long and we're swinging for the fences

Americans ignore Olympics in favor of "American Idol"

TIM KELLY
Mast sports columnist

I love my country and I love sports.

I'm sure many Americans do, but we all

simultaneously forgot to tune into the Olympics last week to watch our fellow Americans compete.

Normally, I would watch some of the events, but I don't think I watched more than 10 minutes in one sitting.

I did watch the United States hockey team play Kazakhstan, and I was laughing hysterically because I kept thinking of Borat from Ali G yelling, "High five!"

I don't know how many people found that funny, because most were tuned into "American Idol."

"American Idol" consistently beat Olympic coverage in the television ratings.

The Olympic games seem to have lost some of their meaning and prestige.

In our generation, we've seen professional sports and athletes making the big money and stealing all the headlines. Those same athletes are not allowed to compete in the Olympic games.

Of course, there are some exceptions. Many of the NHL's players were competing for their countries. Then again, hockey has fallen from being an elite sport.

The athletes competing in these games are not very well known. This adds to the problem of the Olympics' dwindling popu-

larity.

Athletes, such as skier Bode Miller, create hype for themselves by ripping other athletes. They want to see their names in the spotlight.

American athletes have embarrassed themselves in these games.

Our hockey team, which I mentioned before, was made up entirely of professional players.

Yet, they failed to even medal.

Bode Miller was favored to take the gold in five events, and he failed to win all of them.

In fact, in one event he didn't even qualify, and in another he didn't finish.

Snowboarder Lindsey Jacobellis screwed up a backslide grab, losing her chance at winning the gold.

It's all right, though.

It's not like we haven't had other embarrassing showings at the Olympics before. We are still licking our wounds from the embarrassing finish of our basketball team in the 2004 Summer Olympics.

The Olympics are a great competition that brings out the best in each sport.

However, it seems to me that the American people are not in touch with the winter games.

Perhaps it is because most Americans do not participate in these more expensive winter sports.

The summer games will always have fan support because the events are more user friendly.

Pop Quiz:
How many medals did American athletes win in the 2006 Winter Olympics?

Answer on page 14

Two tough tournaments...

Baseball slides into 5-4 record

SEAN MCILRAITH
Mast sports reporter

*From a previous trip to sunny Arizona, to a trip down the I-5 corridor into Oregon, the Lute baseball club finally returns home for some needed rest.

The Lutes have played in two tournaments that kept them on the road seven out of 10 days.

The most recent trip took the Lutes to Newberg, Ore., where they competed in the Yamhill County Spring Classic.

Like the Desert Classic, Yamhill was full of tough competition.

PLU came out of the tournament winning one of four, putting its season record at 5-4.

"The nine games we played to open up the season were probably the toughest our program has played in years," head coach Geoff Loomis said. "The sole purpose was to prepare our team for conference play. Going 5-4 and playing the teams we did is not bad at all."

The first match-up took place Feb. 23, with the Lutes losing a close 4-2 game against the University of British Columbia.

UBC scored consecutive runs in the sixth, seventh and eighth innings to take a 3-1 lead.

PLU tried to rally back in the ninth inning after Chris Bowen drove Justin Whitehall in with a two-out double, but that was all the Lutes got before they fell 4-2 to the Thunderbirds.

The Lutes played Corban College — formerly Western Baptist — Friday, but errors proved fatal as the Lutes fell 7-5 to the Warriors.

Corban managed to capitalize on four Lute errors, scoring four un-earned runs. Ryan Thorne went 2-4 with an RBI and two runs.

PLU concluded the weekend Saturday with a 14-3 loss to conference-rival George Fox, as the Bruins used

two big innings to defeat the Lutes.

PLU went on to a positive finish with an 11-2 victory over Concordia University.

In the Concordia game, the Lutes used the second inning to get ahead and finish off the Cavaliers.

PLU sent 14 batters to the plate and scored nine times.

Eric Stanczyk went 4-5 with an RBI and two runs, while Bobby Benes went 3-5 with three RBIs.

Brandon Sales and Jordan Post each contributed two hits. Aaron Fulmer (2-0) was the winning pitcher for the Lutes, going six and third innings, giving up four hits and striking out four as well.

"We played tough teams both weekends," catcher

David Fox said. "I liked our competitiveness last weekend even though we didn't come out on top."

Coming up next for the Lute Baseball Club is a visit from the Whitman Missionaries.

The Lutes play a doubleheader tomorrow at noon and a single game Sunday at noon.

Although Whitman comes in with a 3-6 record, the Lutes said they know the Missionaries have the capability of playing good ball.

"Whitman is a well-coached team and plays fundamentally sound baseball," Loomis said. "They are coming in a little down, but with conference play opening up, they could turn it around."

The 2006 Northwest Conference baseball season is expected to be full of stiff competition, but the Lutes are no stranger to this.

The club's players said they are ready to play conference ball and play it at a high level.

"It's great to be home," Fox said. "We hope to use our big inning against Concordia and carry it on to this weekend. Hitting is contagious, and when one person hits well, it can carry on to others."

"I liked our competitiveness last weekend even though we didn't come out on top."

David Fox
Catcher

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Noon Saturday vs. Boise State
8 a.m. Sunday vs. University of Portland

Softball swings into three victories

Lutes continue conference play tomorrow against Lewis & Clark

BREANNE COATS
Mast co-sports editor

Despite some shaky playing and bad weather, the Lute softball team came out on top in its two doubleheaders against St. Martin's University last weekend.

The Lutes won three of four games against their non-conference competitors and are heading into the conference matchups this weekend with an overall record of 3-1.

"We felt like we did pretty well. Winning three out of four games is successful," catcher Lisa Gilbert said. "Yet we're not satisfied. It's just that we know we can be so much better."

The Lutes came out strong Saturday. They defeated the Saints 8-0 with the powerful pitching of Ashley Lopez, who earned a three-hit shutout.

"It was exciting to be out there," Lopez said. "I've been working real hard. I just want to pitch at a higher level this year and become a better pitcher."

The Lutes took the early lead, and by the second inning held the score at 4-0. They scored two runs in the fourth inning and two more in the sixth from infielder Theresa Tauscher's double. The game was called because of the eight-run mercy rule.

The second game was much closer in score and resulted in the Lutes' only loss of the weekend, ending 2-3.

"We had a bad transition between the games [and] didn't really prepare for the second game," Lopez said. "We just played down to their level."

The Saints jumped into the early lead and pulled ahead 2-0 when the Lutes went to bat in the third.

Yet the Lutes fought back, earning a run in the third off infielder Gretchen Ruecker's RBI single.

Ruecker came back in the fifth inning with an RBI double that tied the score at 2-2.

The Lutes held the Saints, even when they were in scoring position, throughout the next couple of innings.

However, St. Martin's infielder Holly Morris broke the tie in the ninth inning when she hit a game-winning homerun.

Going into Sunday's games, the Lutes had a lot on their minds, Gilbert said.

"We were presented with an even harder challenge," she said. "We were playing a team we knew we should beat, and the weather was rainy and miserable."

The game remained close at a 2-2 tie until the fifth inning, when the Lutes took off and earned five runs in the same inning.

Gilbert was told to pinch hit for the Lutes while the game was still tied 2-2, yet she was not nervous, she said.

Head coach Rick Noren had been giving Gilbert instructions, she said, until she interrupted him: "I wasn't listening to anything you said. I'm just going to hit the ball."

And hit the ball she did. Gilbert hit a double that brought in two runs for the Lutes. Another pinch hitter for the Lutes, pitcher Cathy Kirkenvold, hit a single that scored two more runs. Lopez scored off an error.

The Lutes won this game 7-4, and pitcher Rachel Hatlen picked up her first win of the season.

The Lutes did not lose their edge in the second game. The team remained consistent and scored in every inning of play, including a two-run third inning.

Kirkenvold pitched into the sixth inning and picked up the win. Lopez, who came in with the bases loaded, was able to keep her composure and earn the save.

"It was a little difficult because I wasn't fully warmed up," Lopez said.

Lopez said that playing in the field before pitching helped her because she was able to figure out what kinds of strike zone the umpire was calling.

The top offensive players of this game were Gilbert, with two hits; Ruecker, with two hits, including a solo homerun; and Lopez, with two hits and three RBIs.



Photo by Missy Waldron

Outfielder Jackie Cornwell bats in the fourth inning of the first game of a doubleheader against St. Martin's Sunday.

peze, with two hits and three RBIs.

"We were very happy we saw a smile on [Noren's] face," Lopez said. "As Joe Montana said, 'When the game is over, I just want to look myself in the mirror whether win or lose and know I gave everything that I had.' Every [player] did their job and tried their hardest."

The Lutes play in their first conference game tomorrow at 1 p.m. against Lewis & Clark, then take on George Fox Sunday at noon.

"It's a different mindset, going into a game that can determine if you get a title," Gilbert said, "but we have a relaxed confidence."

Lute tennis teams slam into action

Men's team faced nationally-ranked teams in Minnesota

MEGAN WOCHNICK
Mast co-sports editor

The men's tennis team took a break from conference action and got a taste of national competition Feb. 24-26 at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's National Indoor Tournament, hosted by Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn.

The Lutes lost their first-round match-up with fourth-ranked Gustavus Adolphus, 7-0, which eventually won the tournament.

The top doubles team, Justin Larimore and David Miller, displayed strong play throughout the set, but ultimately fell 8-6. Matt Larimore and Ricky Butenko were down 5-4 in their match and did not finish the match because the team point had already been decided.

The final doubles team of Ben Schaefer and Jeff Loranger dropped their match, 8-3.

"We had the disadvantage of playing the home team and eventual [tournament] champion in the first round of the tournament," junior Tyler Ochsner said. "Gustavus Adolphus probably had 150 fans compared to our 15 fans."

The Lutes were unable to respond during the singles matches, with all six players losing in straight sets.

The closest match for the Lutes came from Ricky Butenko, who lost to Gustavus's Loren Collins, 6-4, 7-5.

The second day of action provided a much-needed lift for the Lutes, as they defeated California Lutheran, the 15th ranked team in the nation, 5-2.

The Larimore/Butenko team defeated Jacob Jensen and Ryan Felix of CLU, 8-2 and Schaefer and Loranger teamed up to top CLU's Paul Wetterholm and Ryan Mattila 8-4.

The victory over California Lutheran was history-making for PLU.

"We became the first team from the Northwest to win a match at the national indoor tournament in the six years of its existence," Ochsner said.

In singles play, four of the six Lute players won their

matches the second day. Loranger and Justin Larimore defeated their opponents in three sets and Miller and Matt Larimore won their respective matches in straight sets.

PLU ended the tournament with a 6-1 loss to Trinity University (Tex.) to finish in sixth place.

"Our team was very competitive with Trinity in the fifth-sixth place match," Ochsner said. "Down 3-1, we won the first set on two of the other three courts. Unfortunately, we lost three close matches, giving Trinity the win."

Matt Larimore and Butenko won the only doubles match for PLU, as they defeated Oliver Gaines and Ryan DeSantis of Trinity, 8-2.

Larimore then went on to beat Gaines in the singles match 7-6 (7-3), 2-6, 6-3 to earn the only team point for the Lutes.

Of eight teams invited, five were ranked in the top eight nationally. PLU was the sixth seed going into the tournament and ranked 10th in the nation.

The Lutes continue their season when they host Whitman and Whitworth Saturday at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., respectively, on the PLU tennis courts.

Women's team dismantles Pioneers, fall to Loggers

It was a tale of two matches for the PLU women's tennis team.

The Lutes handily beat Lewis & Clark 8-1 Saturday, but weren't able to take the momentum into Sunday as the team lost to Puget Sound 5-4.

"We played really well [against Lewis & Clark]," junior Bria Smith said. "It was a real good confidence booster, especially going into Sunday."

The Lutes won all three doubles matches and five of their six singles matches. Nicole Petrezelka and Erika Feltus defeated Jessika Morales and Liz Nguyen, 9-7.

Amanda Anuraga and Smith teamed up to beat Lauren Hashimoto and Clio Beatty, 8-4, while Katie Ogini and Tracy Fujitani defeated Aleta Storch and Farah Virani, 8-6.

All of the singles matches were won in straight sets,

led by Petrezelka and Feltus, who beat their respective opponents, 6-0, 6-1 and 6-1, 6-2.

Taking on the Loggers Sunday, Smith and Liz Currey teamed up for an 8-6 doubles victory over Puget Sound's Molly Clevenger and Alyssa Newton.

In singles, three Lutes were victorious as Nicole Petrezelka defeated Melissa Snyder of UPS 6-0, 6-7, 6-1.

Erika Feltus then beat Alyssa Sidoff 6-4, 7-5, and Katie Ogini beat Alyssa Wolf 6-3, 6-1.

Smith said the match with UPS was the fourth time in a row the Lutes have lost with a score of 5-4.

"We could've won another doubles match," she said. "That put more pressure to do well on the singles."

PLU evened its record to 2-2, and will travel to Walla Walla to take on Whitman today. The match is set to begin at 4 p.m.

**Answer:
The United States
won a total of
25 medals
in Torino.**

Attaway, Lutes!

Women's Basketball Dances into National Tournament



Photos by Chris Hunt

ANDREW CROFT
Mast sports reporter

As the sun set and the temperature dropped Saturday night, fans caked on their black and gold paint and lined up to watch the Lute women's basketball team take on the Puget Sound Loggers in the Northwest Conference Tournament finale, which was to be one of the most rewarding games of the year.

The Lutes cut down the Loggers in a less-than-dramatic 69-55 victory to clinch a berth into the NCAA Division III National Tournament.

"Our team deserves this," head coach Gil Rigell said. "This is a player's game, and our players have worked so hard to get here, they deserve every bit of it."

The first half held low scoring and ended in a 25-21 lead for the Lutes.

It was a close battle, until NWC Player-of-the-Year Nikki Johnson hit three jumpers in a row and guard Trinity Gibbons nailed a three, putting the Lutes up by nine.

However, the Loggers went on a run of their own, and at the end of the half pulled within four points after sinking two free throws.

"Even though they had the spurt at the end of the half, we felt as if we had it under control," wing Kelly Turner said.

As the second half began, the Lutes went on an 18-4 run to gain their largest lead of the game at 14. They never looked back.

"The game was toe to toe," Rigell said. "It broke down to the matter of whoever would break out first, and we did."

"We felt like we needed to go on a run," Johnson said. "We wanted to take off."

That is exactly what the Lutes did. The closest the Loggers ever got was within 10 points. The Lutes increased the lead back to 14 as the clock hit zero and the buzzer sounded. The fans erupted in a sea of black and gold as the Lutes

secured the title in the NWC and a berth to the National Tournament.

"Our fans were amazing," Rigell said. "It was the first time this year we could really feel them. It was a huge difference for us."

"It feels great to accomplish this. It was one of our goals all year long," Turner said as she hung around her neck the net that the team members had cut down as a symbol of their victory.

"I've never cut down a net before," she said. "It symbolized a benchmark in our season."

But after all the nets are cut down, the tears of joy are dried and cheers from the fans quieted, there are still more games to be played, Rigell said.

"There is still work to be done," Rigell said. "Now that we are in, we need to play to win."

The black and gold train is running full steam on coals of momentum, and plans to take on anything that lies on the tournament tracks.

The Lutes head into the tournament opener as a team ranked 15th in the nation.

Along with the tournament berth, they will be hosting a four-team regional at Olson Auditorium tonight and tomorrow. The four teams in the regional are PLU, UPS, Chapman University and California Lutheran University.

UPS plays Cal Lutheran at 6 p.m. and PLU plays Chapman at 8 p.m. tonight. The winners of the two games will play tomorrow at 5 p.m., sending the other two teams out of the tournament. The winner of Saturday's game will go on to the sectional game March 10 or 11.

The Lutes faced Chapman earlier in the year at the University of Redlands tournament, and came away victorious, 64-50, and went on to win the tournament.

"Playing a team that we played earlier in the season doesn't mean anything," Turner said. "We have improved and obviously they have as well. It's just nice that we know a little something about them and their players going into the game."



Above: Post Kezia Long goes in for a lay-up during the first half of the Lutes' 69-55 victory over Puget Sound Saturday. With the victory, PLU earned an automatic berth to the NCAA Division III Tournament.

Right: Wing Kelly Turner cuts down part of the net after PLU's victory. Each member of the team took part in cutting down the net, which is the traditional celebration of the winning team.

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