

THE MAST

Pacific Lutheran University

**First Amendment
not dampened**
SPJ hosts First Amendment
Free Food Fest
PAGE 2

Splittin' hairs
Womens' soccer goes
1-1 for the week
PAGE 10

OCTOBER 16, 2009

www.plu.edu/~mast

VOLUME LXXXVI NO. 6

Multicultural Night displays diversity



Photo by Ted Charles

Seniors Jillian Foss and Melody Yeung of the Hawaii Club perform at the Multicultural Night Oct. 9 at South Hall. Food from a wide range of cultures and nationalities was sampled by inquisitive Lutes.

Erica Ellersick
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Approximately 100 students spent an evening of art, food, socializing, crafts and entertainment in South Hall's Main Lounge on Friday Oct. 9, which was transformed into a worldly experience as students stepped into a learning atmosphere outside the classroom walls.

This event was sponsored by PLU's Diversity Center and ASPLU Diversity.

Social Action and Leadership (SAL) planned the event, which was directed by Angie Hambrick, director of the Diversity Center. SAL is a leadership group of students who make use of

their voices, and take action at PLU and the greater Tacoma community.

The goal of Multicultural Night, said diversity advocate Ally Livingston, is to "celebrate the diversity we do have here and to have an opportunity to learn about other cultures."

Currently, more than 40 percent of students participate in a study abroad program before they graduate. More than 50 percent of students study abroad during J-term prior to graduation.

PLU students are drawn to understanding cultures worldwide. Junior diversity advocate Chenyu Xu believes that the event "provides a place for gathering and opportunity of cross-cultural sharing."

SEE DIVERSITY PG. 3

ELCA changes hit home

PLU student relates to national news topic

Carrie Draeger
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Thomas Voelp is used to people giving him funny looks when he tells them he is gay and wants to be a Lutheran pastor.

"People don't really know what to do with me," the sophomore said.

Some tell him that he should not go into ministry; others tell him he is not "gay enough."

"Homosexuals should not be afraid of religion, and religion should not be afraid of homosexuals," he said.

Voelp realized that he wanted to be a pastor at 11-- about the same time he realized he was gay.

His grandparents and mother brought him into the Lutheran faith at a very young age.

"My grandparents were very largely into the church," he said. "They showed how warm and inviting the church can be."

He did not come out until he was 17. When his mother and twin brother found out they were very supportive.

"I think the only person who had a problem with it was me," he said. "I didn't understand myself."

Voelp, 20, has come a long way since he was 17.

"If someone says I'm wrong (because I'm gay) I say, 'No I'm wrong for you,'" he said. "I have no problem reconciling my faith and my religion with sexuality."

PLU campus pastor Dennis Sepper said that the main issue with homosexuality in the church is in Biblical interpretation.

"There appears to be people who are more geared towards a literal interpretation of Scripture versus those who see the Bible as a 'Living World,'" Sepper said. "That has been a conflict and a tension going back for centuries."

PLU is one of 28 colleges and

universities owned by congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

This summer, members of the ELCA voted to allow "Lutherans in publicly accountable, lifelong monogamous same-gender relationships to serve as ELCA associates in ministry, clergy, deaconesses and diaconal ministers."

The assembly also passed a social statement that talked about human sexuality as a whole.

"It talks about human sexuality as a whole and how the Lutheran Church sees it," Sepper said.

The process took over nine years from start to finish, Sepper said.

"It's not just willy-nilly," Sepper said. "There's a certain social structure [to these decisions]."

More than 1,000 voting members attended the church-wide assembly. The ministry policies' decision passed by a narrow majority of 55 percent.

Sepper watched the assembly on the ELCA's live video feed the day the ministry policies passed.

He said he was impressed by how the voting members handled themselves.

"They took the issue seriously," he said. "You can't say that the ELCA took this issue cavalierly."

Sepper has struggled with the issue as well.

"I've wrestled with this," he said. "I've prayed on both sides of this (and) I think this is the right move."

"It's a matter of justice; it's a matter of Gospel inclusion."

The decision was not an easy one, Sepper said.

Sepper was a voting member at the 2000 assembly where the issue of gay clergy in committed relationships was first introduced to the ELCA.

He said that many of the arguments in 2000 were the same as this year, with

SEE ELCA PG. 3

Career options showcased

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PLU's Office of Career Development and Academic Internships are preparing for their Career and Internship Fair Oct. 28-29. The event is held twice each school year and will take place again on March 10 and March 11 at the UC in the CK.

The event will feature internships, job opportunities and graduate programs and is open to all members of the PLU community including students, staff, faculty and alumni.

Director of the office of career development Ruth Rogers said that due to the current economic situation in the U.S. "there has never been a more significant

time to attend a career and internship fair."

Although the amount of businesses and schools participating has declined slightly, the office of career development remains highly optimistic and expects approximately 70 participants.

"We have put together a wonderful assortment of businesses and schools [for this event]," Rogers said.

She encourages students to attend the fair both days.

Those who are unable to attend the event may access the College Central Network by registering online.

Once registered, members are able to upload their resumes so that it can be viewed by possible employers, receive e-mails about job

opportunities and search for jobs centered towards PLU.

"Don't wait till you are a senior to attend [this event]," Rogers said.

She says that attending earlier in one's school career will motivate students more to get involved and set up your future.

For those who would like to know more about the fair and how to prepare for it, the Office of Career Development has created a Facebook page.

For more information on the Career and Internship Fair visit www.plu.edu/intern/misc/Career-and-Internship-Fair/home.php or contact members of the Office of Career Development at 253-535-8268.



Photo by Ted Charles

Crowds of groggy Lutes streamed toward the Keck Observatory at 4 a.m. on the morning of October 9 to view the impact of a NASA satellite with the moon. Clouds prevented the moon from being seen locally through the observatory's telescope, so over 20 students squeezed inside with local media outlets to view NASA's satellite camera. There were so many students at the observatory that a group headed over to Morken to watch the celestial destruction.

Questions arise about loans

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Students with loans through Bank of America might be surprised the next time they take a gander at their student account summaries.

ACS, the loan management company that acts as the go-between for Pacific Lutheran University and Bank of America, has failed to post applications online this semester so that PLU's department of financial aid can verify payment, said Ron Noborikawa, senior associate director of financial aid.

This primarily affects returning students who already have loans through Bank of America.

"New students typically wouldn't run into this problem because when they apply for the loan," Noborikawa said. "They go to the bank's website and apply online that way.

"With continuing students who had loans through Bank of America last year, who have probably received communication from ACS about why or their disclosure notices, all of their applications have gone into the ACS 'black hole.'"

PLU uses an application verification website called ELM Resources to check the eligibility of students or parents who apply for loans.

However, not only have recent applications through ACS not been posted on the ELM website, ACS has been unable to pull applications from their database and forward it to the office of financial aid for it to be processed, Noborikawa said.

"It really comes down to bad customer service on the part of ACS," Noborikawa said. "In the past, other loan management services would have gone out of their way to make sure that loan information was retrieved."

Contact the office of financial aid by phone at 253-535-7134 or by e-mail at finaid@plu.edu for more information regarding student loans.

Cracking down on crime

Car thefts down on campus, survey says

By Erica Ellersick
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The 2009-2010 Pacific Lutheran University Crime Prevention Guide includes information regarding personal safety and crime prevention, as well as PLU's policies and procedures relating to security and safety.

Campus Safety and the Information Office publish the Crime Prevention Guide annually as required by federal legislation.

Chris Pollard, day operations supervisor with Campus Safety, said that "traditionally speaking, property crimes are always a focus."

Pollard said students could easily avoid property crimes. He said make "sure that you are secure in your residence halls by

not letting unknown people in." Some perpetrators never break in.

However, if residents allow entry to individuals, they might steal items.

To prevent this, keep doors and windows locked when you are not in your residence.

Another concern at PLU is the worry about parking tickets or car thefts.

The 2008 Clery Campus Crime Statistics said annual vehicle thefts have gone down between 2006 and 2008 from eight to three vehicles.

Pollard said the use of the Tinglestad Gated Lot has helped bring down car thefts.

"Parking in the Tinglestad Lot has gone up and it's a tremendous help," Pollard said.

It is Campus Safety's goal for the Tinglestad Lot to be at maximum

capacity to prevent crime.

Campus Safety recommends that students buy a decal and walk home with a friend or call for an escort.

Another way to be proactive in learning about crimes on campus is subscribing to emergency text alerts.

"The texting system works like the first rain drop in the storm," Pollard said.

Campus Safety hopes that students will receive an emergency text and then relay the message to other students by word of mouth.

"The system can be glitchy with all personal carriers such as Verizon, T-mobile and AT&T. It's almost impossible for the texts to be instantaneous," Pollard said.

Campus Safety can be reached at x7911 or in the Campus Safety Office on the ground floor of Harstad.

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Graduate School is not for the faint of heart.

Mars Hill Graduate School is no exception to that rule. MHGS has invited me to step out of my comfortable theology and reformed my faith in a beautiful way. As a result, I have found new strengths and come to cherish profound weakness. *I am learning to listen well, speak truth, and to do so with the humility that comes from living the story of my gifts and failure.* These days many of us are about the work of redefining what it means to be the Church. We view the stories of God's people as gifts to the church of yesterday, today and tomorrow. *MHGS students like myself come to understand how to live out of the Biblical text in a way that responds to the call for continual healing in the Body of Christ.*

Abigail Jimenez
3rd year Master of Divinity Student



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Photo by Ted Charles

Senior Carissa Davidson and Junior Stacey Argueta pick up some pizza at the third annual First Amendment Free Food Fest Wednesday. Participants gave up their first amendment rights for pizza and candy.



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STATE, NATION and WORLD BRIEFINGS

Local to Global

German artist poses over 1,200 Nazi garden gnomes



Associated Press

STRAUBING, Germany (AP) — A German artist is posing 1,250 garden gnomes with their arms outstretched in the stiff-armed Hitler salute in an installation that he calls a protest of lingering fascist tendencies in German society.

Artist Ottmar Hoerl posed the gnomes in the historic central marketplace of Straubing, a town in southeastern Germany, on Wednesday. The exhibit called "dance with the devil" is to run through Oct. 19.

Most of gnomes are black plastic, but about 20 are painted shiny gold.

Displaying Nazi symbols is illegal in Germany but a court ruled earlier this year that Hoerl's gnomes were clearly satire and thus allowed.

Hoerl says: "the fascist idea, the striving to manipulate people or dictate to people ... is latently dangerous and remains present in our society."

AP Photo
Gnomes showing the Hitler salute are seen in the installation 'Dance with the Devil' of German artist Ottmar Hoerl at a square in Straubing, southern Germany, on Wednesday, Oct. 14. The exhibition with 1,250 gnomes will open on Thursday, Oct. 15.

Obama vows job creation

Christine Simmons
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SPRINGFIELD, Va. (AP)—Standing at the site of a highway project funded by his economic stimulus plan, President Barack Obama said Wednesday he is committed to exploring all avenues to create jobs.

Obama said his administration is going to keep going until "every single American in this country who's looking for work is going to be able to get the kind of well-paying job that supports their families."

Obama spoke from the top of a large mound of dirt and gravel, the site of a highway construction project in the Virginia suburbs outside Washington. He chose the site of the Fairfax County Parkway Extension project to feature the progress of the stimulus package passed earlier this year.

The project is the state's largest stimulus-funded project. When completed, it will connect both ends of Fairfax County.

While some businesses have credited the stimulus bill with preventing layoffs, the national unemployment rate stands at 9.8 percent. Many economists have said unemployment

could continue to rise.

The administration has stopped short of calling for a second economic stimulus package. But with the job picture slow to improve, Obama said his administration is moving forward on different fronts to boost the economy.

"We're going to continue to explore each and every avenue that I can think of that will lead to job creation and economic growth," he said while standing with Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and four construction workers wearing hard hats.

Obama first visited the Fairfax County Parkway Extension project in February, when work was just beginning. He said the progress that's been made since then is just one example of the work that's being done to turn the economy around.

"We are moving in the right direction," he said.

The site is one of 8,000 road and bridge projects approved under the \$787 billion economic stimulus bill Obama signed just after taking office. Construction is under way on nearly 5,000 of those projects. Obama said many are coming in 10 to 20 percent under budget, which will allow the government to invest in more projects.

Washington's R-71 campaign receives last-minute donations

Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — More money is flowing into the campaigns for and against Referendum 71.

R-71 asks voters to either approve or reject the Legislature's latest expansion of domestic partnership rights for gay couples.

Monday was the deadline for state campaign contributions of more than \$5,000 from any single source.

The campaign in favor of R-71, called Washington Families Standing Together, now has nearly \$1 million in

the bank.

Big donations include \$60,000 from a special fundraising committee set up by the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights group.

Microsoft Corp. CEO Steve Ballmer and co-founder Bill Gates each gave \$25,000.

The campaign against R-71 also has some last-minute donors.

A relatively new committee called Vote Reject on R-71 has collected about \$200,000 from the Family Policy Institute of Washington, a Lynnwood-based conservative religious group



Photo by Ted Charles

Junior Makara Thatch is spun in circles by senior Sojourner Advocate Liz Pfaff for the chance to win a Wang Center t-shirt. Thatch, while still dizzy from the spin, pointed out a continent on a world map with her eyes closed, and answered a question about the region.

DIVERSITY CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Multicultural Night allows students to see the traditions of students around campus.

Several clubs and individuals gave performances or had a table with crafts such as calligraphy and pictures.

Taquitos, Chinese chicken wings, Jewish challah bread and Moroccan pastries, as well as other staples were showcased to demonstrate the various cuisines of PLU students.

Senior Ally Livingston believes that people can use this forum to "advertise their club or culture."

Some of the clubs that participated in the event were the Step Club, Chinese Club, Hawaii Club, Harmony, Jewish Club and Asian Pacific Islander (API).

Highlights of the night include step performance and Polynesian dances.

In addition, Trini Posse/Lute Explosion performed African dances from Trinidad and Tobago.

Livingston said that it's "really important for PLU students to celebrate our differences and not be scared of our diversity."

Through Multicultural Night, we hope that people become more comfortable sharing and more willing to learn about others."

"Multicultural Night, like all events on campus, is open for all students," Xu said.

Check PLU's calendar for other events put on by the Diversity Center and ASPLU Diversity at www.plu.edu/dcenter or e-mail them at dcenter@plu.edu.

ELCA CONT. FROM PAGE 1

"It breaks my heart that it's as divisive as it is."

—The Rev. Dennis Sepper
On the ELCA ministry policy changes



in 2000 were the same as this year, with people lined up on both sides of the issue.

"I saw people who were not listening to each other, [but] we've danced around this issue enough," he said. "For some congregations it's been a very painful issue."

The ELCA has already lost congregations because of this decision, including its tenth largest congregation in Glendale, Ariz.

"It breaks my heart that it's as divisive as it is and I think the ELCA is going to take its lumps," Sepper said. "This is a time where we need to come together."

Sepper added that there are prospective students, donors and alumni who are struggling with PLU being a university owned by Pacific Northwest congregations of the ELCA, but there is not much PLU can do about

it.

"We don't have the option of pulling out (of the ELCA) like congregations do," he said. "In that sense it's kind of a moot question."

PLU is a very "open-minded" campus, Sepper said, and he doesn't see the ELCA's decision being a major issue.

However, he has had prospective students talk to him about not coming to PLU because of the decision.

"If they're not happy with it then they are not going to be happy with PLU," he said.

Sepper said the church and the ELCA should see the decision as a positive opportunity to move forward.

For Voelp, the decision is the next step towards becoming a pastor.

"It was sort of God's way of saying go forward with this," he said. "I'm very proud to be a Lutheran right now."

FOR MORE ON R-71 LOOK ON PAGE 4 FOR A COLUMN ABOUT WASHINGTON STATE'S R-71

From the editor



Thoughts from the Boss

Kari Plog

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Paradox of parody

I had an interesting conversation with a friend this week when discussing the most recent episode of Jon Stewart's "The Daily Show." She told me one of her professors during her first year at Pacific Lutheran University advised her to steer clear of parody shows such as Stewart's. This puzzled me. She elaborated by saying her professor coined "The Daily Show" as "fake news." I beg to differ.

The debate over polarization of the media is not new. Many argue that news organizations hold agendas and report slanted news stories that lean toward a certain bias. These biases, unless one is media literate and aware, may go unseen by the general public. Therefore, a larger question lingers that asks where parody falls into this paradigm. In my opinion, "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report" minimize harm in comparison to some "real" news organizations.

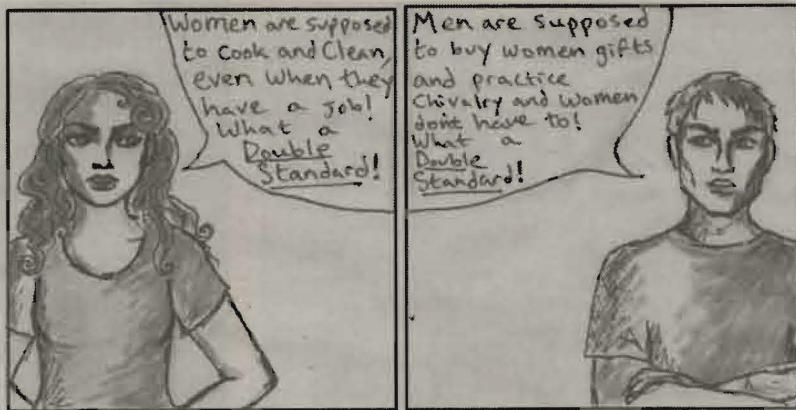
Tuesday's episode of "The Daily Show" immediately kicked off with highlighting one of the most prevalent news stories of the week—a march in Washington D.C. promoting gay rights. The story, which was entirely factual in outlining the course of events, added some pithy sarcasm that called out the Fox News network on its coverage of the event. Fox News, a "real" news organization that some believe sways toward right-wing political ideologies, was revealed to have covered the event in a grand total of three minutes and 12 seconds of the entire news broadcast day.

Stewart cleverly juxtaposed Fox's coverage of the gay rights assembly with a measly middle school rally that had already ended, with only an empty sidewalk to show for it. The coverage of this insignificant assembly received a total coverage of more than eight minutes. Clearly, there are underlying implications regarding the choices Fox gatekeepers are making.

The irony in this scenario (and there are other countless examples on parody shows daily) is that Stewart uncovers biases within the realm of "real news" that actually makes it look harmful. Satire and parody stand out blatantly, and the audience can easily identify the entertainment focus of the broadcast. However, the biases within "real news" organizations are more subtle, and people who are not educated in the controversy surrounding media literacy and bias may not understand the underlying implications of these slanted reports. I believe that, of the two, the latter is more harmful.

In addition, the average person could not effectively follow the irony and sarcasm behind these parody shows without a basic understanding of the underlying issues. The humor of these satirical stories grows out of the assumption that the audience understood the issues prior to the broadcast. Otherwise, the show would lack sense and present itself as uninteresting to the uninformed viewer.

I believe that in a world of changing media, people have to adapt to the climate. Shows such as these have evolved as a way to keep people informed and engaged. If it takes manipulating the style of reporting to make sure people care about the necessary issues, then I advocate it whole heartedly. Until our country makes media literacy mandatory course study in all primary schools, I support Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert taking the task of informing the youth in their hands.



Comic by Rebecca Scarborough



Because things suck for everyone.

Don't abuse the uniform



Wading in the Issues

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President Obama and the Department of Defense are going to have their hands full during the next few weeks. As Obama reevaluates the situation in Afghanistan, tensions in Pakistan grow. While the Taliban has a presence in both countries, Pakistan has nuclear weapons, which we would obviously like to keep out of the hands of al-Qaeda. This is a tough situation for our leaders: finish the wars we started, or follow al-Qaeda from country to country? One thing, however, is certain: whatever the plan of action, many people won't be happy about it.

I still remember those days in 2003 when the United States began its invasion of Iraq. I was in middle school and living in Fort Lewis. I remember hearing about the protesters who often swarmed the streets of Olympia and Tacoma for their various causes. Most protests were peaceful—more of traffic inconveniences for the public than safety threats. Until my family found a pamphlet on our door advising us which days to avoid traveling off-post.

I Corps was concerned because military family vehicles had become targets for protesters, as the

Fort Lewis decal was prominently displayed, and had distributed warnings so that families wouldn't be harassed, assaulted or have vehicles vandalized. Apparently, these protesters were so bent on their cause that we couldn't leave our home at certain times for fear that our minivan (with car seats in the back) would make us a target.

Don't get me wrong: I'm definitely pro-free speech. However, I don't think it's okay to attack the men and women who volunteer to serve our country and give up their freedoms and lives just so that the public can get a point across. If we are upset with government policy, then perhaps protesters can get together and flood our congressmen and president with letters, phone calls and e-mails instead of berating those who serve. Don't forget that soldiers (and Airmen and Seamen and Marines) are the reason we have the right of free speech, as well as the other freedoms we enjoy as Americans.

Frankly, if you don't want to live in a country defended by a military, then you can leave. Because of the military, you have the freedom to go wherever you want.

With this in mind, I urge us all to think carefully about our actions in the coming weeks. It's quite possible that our foreign affairs will remain unchanged, but it's also possible that decisions will be made that not everyone agrees with. Instead of taking out anger and frustration on those in uniform, we should focus on more constructive ways of letting our lawmakers know our opinions.

Vote 'yes' on Referendum 71

Vote yes on Referendum 71, but don't think for a second that it's anywhere near enough.

Referendum 71 extends the rights of domestic partners to include survivor benefits, pensions, inheritance procedures and other pieces of legal lingo entitled to married couples. Expanding the rights of domestic partners to include these rights is important, but only as a way to ease more conservative voters into the idea that families headed by a same-sex couple are not doomed to immorality.

And the sad truth is that not much else can be done until Washington voters repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) enacted in 1998. Ten states have adopted DOMA, which bans gay marriage legislation without passing state constitutional amendments against it (which, for the record, 30 states have done).

DOMA states that marriage is only between a man and a woman. As long as it is a part of our laws so is implicit segregation. The blatant hypocrisy that exists between hate speech laws and DOMA and its compatriot measures renders me completely incredulous.

And what is the point of DOMA and all those "protect marriage" protesters? What exactly are they protecting marriage from?

From representing what the United States was supposed to stand for: liberty, justice and a



Frankly, Lutes...

Emily Hoppler Treichler
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separation of church and state? From being sullied by the connection to a culture of colorful, artistic, talented, honest, intelligent and innovative people who influence the American culture in a thousand little ways? At some point, these arguments against gay marriage (and domestic partnership rights) stop becoming old-fashioned and conservative and start becoming ignorant and downright demeaning to everyone.

We're already been down this separate but equal path, and it was deemed unconstitutional with Brown vs. the Board of Education in 1954. Why, 55 years later, are we pretending that separating domestic partnerships from marriage qualifies as an equal process?

There is only one answer when it comes to equal rights, and it is simple: equal. Rights. All consenting adults, no matter what sexual orientation or gender identity, should be allowed to marry any other consenting adult whom they choose.

That's equal rights, and that's what we should be fighting for.

Mast Staff 2009-2010

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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 500 words in length and typed. The Mast reserves the right to refuse any letter. Letters may be edited for length, taste and errors.

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Sustainable convenience:

Public transportation aims to eliminate car culture



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We call Washington the "Evergreen State," and not just because the state is full of evergreen trees. We have a reputation for loving our planet. We are "green."

Pacific Lutheran University recently received good marks for our sustainability efforts on a national ranking of U.S. colleges and universities. Out of 26 universities to receive "A" grades, three schools were in Washington: PLU, the University of Washington and Evergreen State College.

PEMCO Insurance runs geographic-specific advertisements, pegging the Pacific Northwest as an area of environmentally-friendly people wearing wool socks with our Birkenstocks while obsessively recycling. Stores everywhere encourage us to "buy green."

I find it very interesting that in an area that is so eco-minded, we have a horrible public transportation system. Efforts have been made to encourage people to carpool or ride bikes to work to cut down on vehicle emissions and gas consumption. The local public transportation systems have also done their parts by offering multiple routes and runs during peak commuting times.

The problem is that public transportation is useless outside of commuter times; most routes only run every hour or half hour. Public transportation can take up to twice as long as driving, and you often have to walk or take multiple routes to get to and from your destination. Like it or not, we are a car culture.

Despite these issues, the local transit systems have done an impressive job of serving an area that was built around the invention of the automobile. Light rail lines are being built throughout the region to make travel easier and more efficient. Bus lines connect every city to surrounding areas.

The biggest issue people face is the cost of fare. It used to be that riders had only the following options: pay exact fare, buy tickets at a set price or buy a pass at a set price that expired at the end of a set time.

The problem was that, if you had more than exact fare, you lost your extra cash to the machine. Tickets

were only good for one mode of transportation in a region and the passes had to be used a specific number of times in order to make the cost worthwhile.

These options and problems still exist, but I applaud Sound Transit on their release of the Orca Card. This easy means of paying offers a new incentive to ride public transportation. The card is free, and users may load the card with as much or as little money as they see fit. The card and money do not expire. Proper fare is merely deducted from the card each time transportation is used. The best part is that the card can be used on busses, trains or ferries throughout the Puget Sound.

The card may not reduce the issues of time consumption that our system is currently plagued with, but it offers a much more appealing method of payment. Combine this with the enticing arguments that public transportation is considerably cheaper than gas and parking, and that the time spent traveling is freed up for reading, homework or relaxing.

Between the two, it looks like we might be one step closer to a greener alternative to our car culture. Keep the Evergreen State green, and the Puget Sound a beautiful blue.

Not convinced:

Obama does not deserve Nobel Prize



Miller Musings
Kate
Miller
kim@plu.edu

Obama joins the prestigious group of Nobel Laureates for the Nobel Peace Prize, which includes Yasser Arafat, Nelson Mandela, Mikhail Gorbachev, the 14th Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, Mother Teresa and Martin Luther King Jr.

Obama was not convinced he deserved the Prize, but decided to accept it anyway.

"To be honest, I do not feel that I deserve to be in the company of so many of the transformative figures who have been honored by this prize," Obama said.

I agree with you, Mr. President. Nobel representatives said that there were 205 names submitted for the Peace Prize, of which 172 individuals and 33 organizations. All nominations were due to the Norwegian Nobel Committee on Feb. 1. Obama was inaugurated on Jan. 20. There were eleven days between his inauguration and his nomination.

There was a small window of opportunity for President Barack Obama to be nominated. Obama made promises

and started discussions, but he has not made any earth-shattering changes, at least not in his first 11 days in office. But I must be fair: the Nobel Committee must have considered his actions of the last nine months, regardless of whether the nominating individuals did.

The Nobel Committee applauded Obama for his efforts to reduce nuclear proliferation. During his 2008 campaign, Obama released a defense fact sheet where he promised to remove both Russia's and our own nuclear weapons from hair-trigger alert. This has not been done yet. In fact, of the 17 promises PolitiFact.com's "Obameter" identified as "nuclear" concerns, one is "compromised," and two are "in the works." The other 14 have been neglected.

This is not about Obama's politics; it

is about premature recognition of those politics. The Nobel Peace Prize should go to an individual or group whose continuous efforts have created effective, positive change, not to an orator who has made what are, thus far, hollow promises.

Other contenders for the award include Colombian Senator Piedad Cordoba, the contentious "woman of peace." She was instrumental in the release of 16 hostages in 2007.

Six members of the U.S. Congress nominated Greg Mortenson for the 84 secular schools his Central Asia Institute has built in predominantly Muslim regions.

Denis Wukwege has treated 21,000 Congolese rape victims—the only gynecologist treating these injuries in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mahatma Gandhi was nominated five times, but never received the award.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor of The Mast,

Stay Trashy, PLU! - That would have been a better-suited theme for this year's homecoming dance. Being a new student, the homecoming dance was the first I've attended at Pacific Lutheran University. I was excited to go and got ready with my friends, we were all eager to have a fun time.

Upon arriving, it didn't take long for me to realize this dance wasn't at all what I expected. Considering that the theme was "Stay Classy, PLU," I felt the whole facade was very ironic.

My friends and I arrived at the Tacoma Art Museum at

8 p.m., the time listed on our tickets. After waiting outside in the cold for over 30 minutes, the doors were opened. For a moment our spirits rose, because it was truly a beautiful and elegant location for the dance. However, in the next few hours my expectations of the dance and PLU were dashed once again.

As the dance began to progress, my perception of this school and its students changed dramatically. Firstly, I was appalled and disgusted to witness the extremely degrading dancing that took place. I acknowledge that not everyone was dancing in this

manner; I know my friends and I were not, but a majority of the students attending the dance were.

As I tried to enjoy the dance with my friends and block out the raunchy and highly sexual dancing taking place around me, I was dismayed when I felt someone come up behind me and proceed to grind on me. No, this guy did not ask permission to dance with me, nor did I give him consent to touch me in such sexual ways.

It didn't end there. I was shocked that PLU, a school that encourages pride in having a dry campus, would support serving alcohol at a school

dance. I understand we were not physically on campus, but I assumed that PLU's standards would hold firm in all school events. Not only did many students reek of alcohol, the DJ was encouraging people to drink more.

Despite the chaos, it was not a big surprise, considering the number of drunken students, to learn that someone pulled the fire alarm. I anxiously left the dance feeling violated and in shock of what the night had entailed. I was relieved to remove myself from such a repulsive event.

I assumed university values would be illustrated in the

character of PLU and reflected in all school events. I felt that by attending a private, Lutheran university I would be coming to a school with moral boundaries and a student body that consisted of men and women with high expectations for themselves, who want to live above the influences of the typical college experience.

I found the incidents that occurred at the dance to be unacceptable. I hope that this dance was not a true portrayal of what PLU is like.

Sincerely,
Kirsten Johnson

Sidewalk Talk

What do you think about Obama winning the Nobel Peace Prize?



"I think it's a little premature. Maybe someday he'll earn it, but not quite yet."

Thomas Robinson
first-year



"It is a great challenge for his potential. I'm glad he won, but I'm glad for America too."

Boo Dodson
sophomore



"Obama watched college football for the first time the other day and won the Heisman trophy."

Hannah King
junior



"It should have been connected to something more tangible. I wish it would have come later in his term."

Emily Marks
senior

DO YOU KNOW THE THE FEMALE LEA

“The achievement of democracy presu
women in the conduct of the affairs o
- complementarity, drawing mut

-Univers



IRELAND
PRESIDENT MARY McALEESE
ELECTED IN 1997
RE-ELECTED IN 2004



INDIA
PRESIDENT PRATIBHA PATIL
ELECTED IN 2007



LIBERIA
PRESIDENT ELLEN JOHNSON-SIRLEAF
ELECTED 2006



ICELAND
PRIME MINISTER JÓHANNA SIGURDARDÓTTIR
ELECTED 2009



THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENT GLORIA MA
ELECTED 2001
RE-ELECTED 2004

U.S. not up to par in representation

Kate Geldaker
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR
geldakkh@plu.edu

Women are not equally represented in the politics of most countries, such as in ministerial positions or representative bodies - parliament, the house or senate. Elected female heads of government or heads of state hover around four to five percent of all elected executives.

The women shown on this page are most, but not all, of the current female executive leaders in office.

The U.S. and Canada are among the nations of the world that have never elected a woman to the highest executive office, but nations such as India, Israel, Liberia, Pakistan, the United Kingdom and Argentina have. That is not to say that the United States is void of powerful women in politics.

Of Forbes Magazine's 100 most powerful women in the world 2009, many are politicians from around the world. Three such politicians ranked from the United States are Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives who sits at 35, Hilary Clinton, Secretary

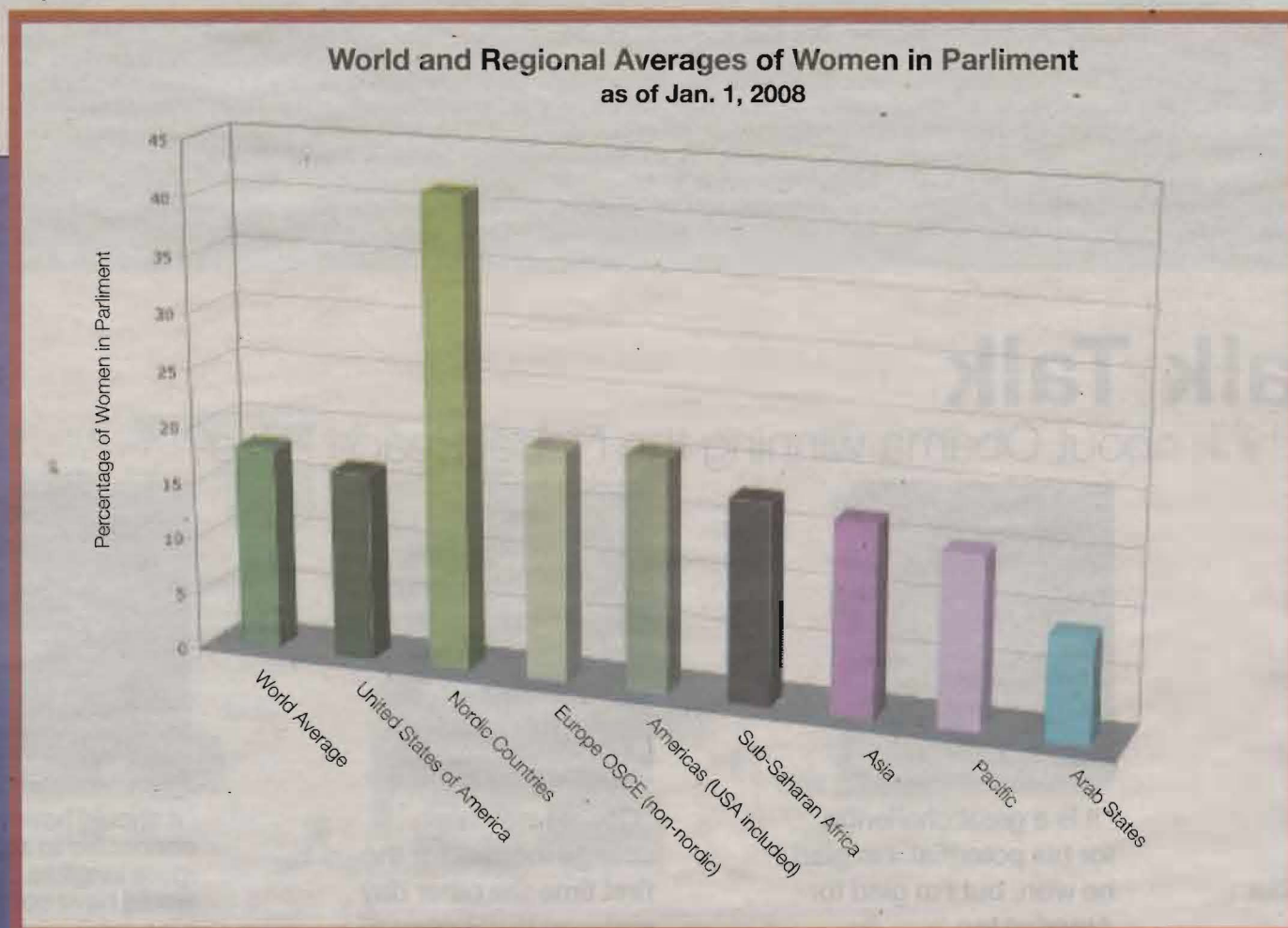
of State at 36, and Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security at number 51.

As of January 1, 2008, Rwanda had the most gender-equal representative body with 48.8 percent women. At that same time, the U.S. had 16.6 percent women in Congress - 73 women of 435 members in the House of Representatives and 16 of 100 in the Senate.

However, there is a reason that Rwanda has so many women in parliament. Women must hold 30 percent of seats in the Rwandan parliament, as required by the current

constitution. If this were not high enough, the elections in fall of 2008 brought the actual number to 55 percent - the first parliament in history to have a female majority.

The U.S. ranked mediocre (number 71 of 135) in parliamentary representation by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women in February 2008. That means there are many countries that are ahead of us and many that are behind, including a number with no female representation.



GERMANY
FEDERAL CHANCELO
ELECTED 2005 & RE

LEADERS IN POLITICS

...poses a genuine partnership between men and women of society in which they work in equality and mutual enrichment from their differences."

...al Declaration on Democracy, 1997, Principal No. 4



...CAPAGAL-ARROYO



ARGENTINA
PRESIDENT CRISTINA FERNÁNDEZ DE KIRCHNER
ELECTED 2007

CHILE
PRESIDENT MICHELLE BACHELET JERIA
ELECTED 2007



BANGLADESH
PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA WAJED
ELECTED 2009



FINLAND
PRESIDENT TARJA HALONEN
ELECTED 2000
RE-ELECTED 2006



HAITI
PRIME MINISTER MICHELE PIERRE-LOUS
ELECTED 2009



AP Photos

...R ANGELA MERKEL
...ELECTED 2009

Merkel Reelected: Understanding politics of Deutschland

Josh Hammerling
MAST INTERN
hammerja@plu.edu

Waiting patiently for our guide to give us the cue that it was time to enter Berlin's Bundeskanzleramt, my fellow American students with the Institution for International Education of Students and I passed the time by taking photos of farmers who had gathered in front of the building to sing and protest against the falling prices of milk.

The Bundeskanzleramt is Germany's equivalent to the White House.

While walking around the building, I wondered how the average German citizen feels about the current political situation and the recent reelection of Angela Merkel, Germany's Bundeskanzlerin, or Federal Chancellor.

Forbes magazine named Merkel the world's most powerful woman for the fourth year in a row. But that is not to say that her power makes her universally popular.

Most Germans calmly explained their various points of contention to me. A few threw fists in the air while yelling about the horrors of capitalism, and only one arbitrarily shrugged his shoulders and walked away. It is no surprise that there were differing opinions with regards to the election in Germany.

Such disagreement was also present during the U.S. presidential election of 2008, but the U.S. government functions a bit differently in Germany.

To put it in perspective, the Democrats in the U.S. received close to 53 percent of the votes in the 2008 presidential election, while the Republicans got 46 percent. No other party had a chance of getting elected. In Germany this year there were five parties that received over 10 percent of the vote.

The Christian Democratic Union (CDU), the Christian Social Union (CSU) and the Free Democratic Party (FDP) then formed a coalition in order to attain the majority needed to win the election. Merkel's party, the CDU, received the most votes. She

was reelected Bundeskanzlerin and once again has far-reaching power to instigate government policy.

All three of the coalition parties are known for their conservative and free-market ideas, which tend to not sit well with Germans who think more should be done within the country, not just on an international scale.

One self-proclaimed leftist from Freiburg's Vauban district said that he had nothing against Merkel personally, but really wanted the old Mark back and to not have the EU anymore. He said that he was sick of having to give so much money to the East and to recent additions to the European Union.

I asked him to tell me more, but I was interrupted by one of his friends who started ranting in nearly incomprehensible German.

His friend exclaimed that the real problem is capitalism and that he plans on leaving Germany to find work after he graduates on account of the "unbelievably high taxes and debt in this country."

This sentiment was expressed by a number of young Germans.

The Economist predicts that public debt in Germany will rise from 66 percent of the GDP to 84 percent in the next two years. Merkel has some tough work ahead of her.

While some call for radical change or fiscally motivated migration to more fruitful lands, one thing is clear: a majority of Germans wanted Merkel to remain in power, and she will be there for the next four years.

When I asked my old host dad, in the district of St. Georgen, about this statistic and the tax angst expressed by the students he looked at me and said, "Josh, Merkel's done some great work for our country, and yes, we do give out quite a bit of money, but that money helps out the other countries who simply don't have as much money as us. What's wrong with that?"

I could not think of anything.

Josh Hammerling is studying away in Frieberg, Germany.

'Wintertime' bares it all

First play of season offers skin, laughs, love



Queerfully Yours

Jake K.M. Paikai

paikaijk@plu.edu

"This show contains adult language and situations." What a delicious pretext under which to enter a theater. And although the advertising for "Wintertime" disclaims mature situations, walking into Eastvold, you won't come upon a scene that seems adult or risqué. The set, designed by Henry Loughman, lives up to the play's name—the setting a brilliant, wintry white, a stark canvas upon which Brian Desmond has built yet another success for the main stage.

Perhaps I too should offer a disclaimer of my own: because our newspaper does not produce during the week of mid-semester break, I was given the opportunity to see "Wintertime" during its final dress rehearsal so that I could write a review for this edition of The Mast.

The play, if I had to sum it up, is a postmodern fable for love, which pushes past the boundaries of traditional love (i.e. heterosexist man and wife) and reaches deep into human consciousness to find something truer and more meaningful. So, even though parts of the set and costumes went unfinished, I was very pleased. The rough-hewn edges added to the complicated ambition of "Wintertime," which was to make tangible the often difficult and illusive subject of love.

"Wintertime" tells the story of a family and the trials that beset lovers: the son Jonathan and his intended fiancé Ariel, his mother Maria and her French paramour François, his father Frank and his blond beau Edmund, and even the German, lesbian neighbors Bertha and Hilda. The characters of "Wintertime" are torn apart by jealousy and petty betrayals, which culminate in interesting and often hilarious interactions.

I am usually very critical of gay characters in theater or film because often they are used for comedic effect

or to lend a sort of liberal "street-cred" to the director or cast. But Desmond's directorial decisions shine through my skepticism, not merely for the gay characters, but also for straight ones. "Wintertime" is about love, no matter what kind of love. Whether between parent and child or lover and lover, each love was valued for what it was and treated as such.

For me, the stars of "Wintertime" were definitely the characters of Edmund, played by sophomore Jordan Beck, and Maria, played by senior Kristina Corbitt. Corbitt, as usual, did a fabulous job of really inhabiting her character and her performance was in the details. From the flinch of a hand at her lover's back to her on-point facial expressions, she made the character real.

It was, however, Beck's performance that really got to me. Beck's stage presence was palpable—I felt at times completely captivated by the raw force of his performance. He was believable, sincere, his emotions raw and bloody. Beck, who I remember from last Spring's "A Dream Play," has certainly ramped up his game and delivered one of the best performances I've ever seen on the PLU Main Stage. Both delightfully funny and heartbreaking, Beck, at times, stole the show.

His counterpart, Frank, played by David Ellis, was the perfect foil to Edmund's frustration and anger, and together the two shined as my favorite of the couplings. I was also pleased by senior Paul Richter's performance as the man-you-love-to-hate François and no-muss-no-fuss-straight-and-to-the-point lesbian Hilda, played by sophomore Abigail Pishaw. Both provided many laughing points and delicious one-liners.

Some of Desmond's casting choices



Photo by Jordan Hartman

François (senior Paul Richter) demonstrates his stripping prowess for scorned Edmund (sophomore Jordan Beck) who reluctantly indulges his French friend. The play's subject matter ranges from the strange to the heartbreaking.

★★★★★

TheaterReview
 "Wintertime" (2009)
 Directed by Brian Desmond
 Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24 (7:30 p.m.) and Oct. 25 (2:00 p.m.)
 \$5 w/ student ID, \$8 general

were, for me, not on par with other's performances, but it's my inclination that by showtime Friday night, you will see a cast that, on the whole, has got things down pat.

Although there were less than ten of us in the room, this rehearsal of "Wintertime" felt fluid, having a symmetry about that felt at once classic and modern. Loughman's stark use of white and black gives the play a hard, modern edge, while Kathleen Anderson's costume design, along with the lighting, softens the space of the stage. The creative direction of "Wintertime" relishes in dichotomies—white and black, light and dark, male and female, silence and noise,

love and despair—which match right up with the playwright's intentions and ambitions.

When it comes to rating the theater, I am like one of those professors who gives a C for meeting expectations and judges A-papers as the pinnacle of achievement, a *bande à part*. For me, even though I was seeing "Wintertime" in the raw, I still am left wanting. The ending, although effervescent, is preceded by a second act that feels too abrupt. The first act, which has an elevated tone, falls abruptly in the second act, which makes the play feel, at times, a little flat. While parts of "Wintertime" earned four and sometimes five stars, on the whole, I felt that some of the issues may outlast even this raw state.

Desmond and others of this cast are real gems of our theater department and stage, and I think that everyone should see this play. It is for its issues and not its successes that I give "Wintertime" 3.5 out of 5 stars. And who knows—maybe come Friday, it will deserve all 5.

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THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE (PG-13)
 Fri-Sun: 12:50, 3:00, 5:00, 7:10
 Mon-Thurs: 3:00, 5:00, 7:10

THE BOYS ARE BACK (PG-13)
 Fri-Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
 Mon-Thurs: 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

CAPITALISM: A LOVE STORY (R)
 Fri-Sun: 1:00, 3:40, 6:15, 8:50
 Mon-Thurs: 3:40, 6:15, 8:50

IT MIGHT GET LOUD (PG)
 Fri-Thurs: 9:15

Visiting author blends science, memoir

David Shields kicks off Visiting Writer series

Julia Bakewell
MAST A&E INTERN
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When writer David Shields gave his reading Oct. 1 in Ingram 100, the audience of 40 students and faculty responded with warmth and laughter. This might seem odd, considering that Shields read a compilation of excerpts from his most recent book, "The Thing About Life is That One Day You'll Be Dead." Yet the reading was anything but dark, although it certainly dealt with death and the process of dying. Junior Kellen Hawley said the reading was "crazy interesting and fun."

Shields writes in a postmodern aesthetic. His book is written in the genre-defying form of the lyric essay; rather than a chronologically constructed narrative, the material orbits an idea and connects through thematic undercurrents. He draws on aphoristic wisdom, personal memory, smart rhetoric and medical statistics.

In particular, Shields is interested in how we are all born from sex, but as soon as our bodies are unable to reproduce they begin to shut down, and thus sex controls our births and deaths. In his review of Shields' forthcoming book, "Reality Hunger: A Manifesto," J.M. Coetzee writes that it is a book for "a new century, an all-out assault on tired generic conventions, particularly those that define the well-made novel."

For his reading, Shields even made a collage, taking around fifteen different sections of his book and combining them into a super-condensed, 40-minute, verbal version of the whole work.



Photo by Joshua Aton

David Shields, noted for his blending of science and memoir in his "The Thing About Life is That One Day You'll Be Dead," reads in front of a periodic table in Ingram 100.

"His reading gave a conversational quality to the work," senior RJ Adley said. "As an audience member I felt like I was participating in it as he laid all his cards on the table."

Earlier that day, Shields participated in a question-and-answer session called "The Writer's Story" at the Garfield Book Company, which is a mainstay of the Visiting Writer Series. During this session, he provided eager writing students with tidbits about his methods and shared his opinions on "the writerly personality."

He talked about how writing requires both the right brain, which generates content, as well as the left brain, which systematizes and edits. He got a few laughs when he told students that, as a younger writer, he used to chew three by five note cards when he wrote, although now he knows that it "was really bad; so many chemicals and nasty things are in paper."

He also shared his own motivation to become a writer, which centered largely on his childhood stutter.

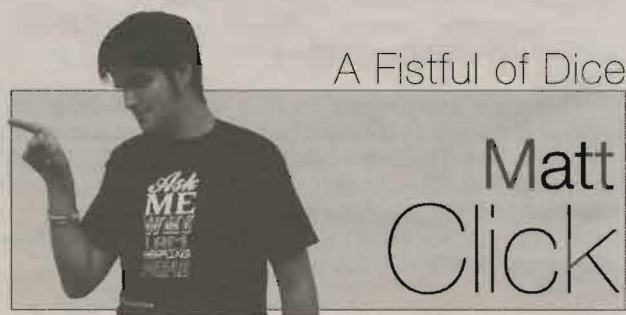
"It was a wound that I was able to turn into a bow," Shields said.

This references the Greek myth of Philoctetes as well as 1997 book "The Wound and the Bow," in which Edmund Wilson suggests that all great art comes from great personal loss. In Shields' case, he was able to transform his childhood personal barrier with language into the medium of his artistic success.

The next writers in the series are poets Oliver de la Paz and Jason Koo, who will speak together Nov. 5.

Role-playing game serves up fun, imagination

Dungeons and Dragons still going strong after decades



clickmt@plu.edu

I'm going to give you a phrase right now and I want you to react to it honestly. This phrase is loaded. It is so laden with images and stereotypes that it buckles under its own weight and threatens to collapse under a burden of misrepresentation and misunderstanding. Ready? Here it is: Dungeons and Dragons.

Now, what came to your mind? Be honest. Sweaty college dropouts holed up in a basement? Card tables littered with Taco Bell wrappers, colorful dice and half-empty Mt. Dew cans? 47-year-old men pretending to be buxom, blonde Elven priestesses (and loving every minute of it)? Satanism? Social ostracism?

These are images bred of misinterpretation, spurred on by shoddy portrayals in the media and a general lack of exposure and awareness. Dungeon and Dragons (D&D) isn't the pinnacle of nerd-dom, nor is it the strange and disturbing after-hours boys' club held in game store backrooms and parents' basements that it is so often painted. Sadly, D&D and its players are often portrayed derogatively.

On the contrary, D&D is a healthy, oftentimes hilarious way to spend an evening with friends, stretch your imaginative muscles and have a good time. Obviously, play-styles run the gambit—from casual dungeon-running to intense, in-character role-playing sessions. But even the hardest of the hardcore D&D players are a lot more grounded and down-to-earth than one might think—it is, after all, just a game.

"It's fun because it happens mostly in your head," senior David Treichel said. Treichel first played D&D with his gaming group on campus. "You have a certain amount of control over it."

Allegations of players being unable to separate fantasy from reality have long been debunked. Various psychological research studies, the most famous of

which was carried out by Armando Simon in 1987, have conclusively found that there is no correlation between role-playing games and mental illness or psychological disturbances. On the contrary, D&D promotes creativity, face-to-face social interaction, problem-solving, arithmetic and organizational skills.

In today's age of video games and near-exclusive text communication, why not promote D&D as a healthy alternative pastime?

"D&D isn't necessarily in competition with video games," Treichel said. "It's just an alternative."

Dungeons and Dragons was first released in 1974 by Tactical Studies Rules, Inc. (TSR). It was developed and designed by the late, great fathers of the modern role-playing game (RPG), Dave Arneson and Gary Gygax. It was the first of its kind. D&D introduced tabletop gamers to leveling up, hit points and character stats and abilities—things anyone who has played a role-playing game of any kind, tabletop or digital, is familiar with.

In D&D, the player creates a character, choosing from a multitude of fantasy races, classes, feats and abilities. This character starts off at level one—a meek, weak hireling with little strength or magical prowess. As the players run the character through adventures, vanquishing foes and solving puzzles, the character is able to level up, gaining new abilities, becoming stronger and more capable, all the while rolling handfuls of many-sided dice to determine the outcomes of actions.

An estimated 20 million people have played D&D since its debut in 1974, with more than \$1 billion spent on books and gaming peripherals.

"It was the first really interactive game," author Brad King said. "If you play board games there is always an objective or goal. D&D is the opposite. It's about sitting



Image courtesy of Wizards of the Coast

down and telling stories with your friends."

And that's what draws so many to play the game—the social aspect.

"It's just nice to hang out with people and play," Treichel said. "A lot of other stuff is going on besides the game while you play."

With Fourth Edition, the newest version of the game, out in game stores now, and a thriving, active player base with a renewed interest in pen-and-paper role-playing games, D&D shows no signs of slowing down.

"There is something in D&D that strikes a chord in many people—the call of adventure," co-creator Gygax said before his death in March 2008. "I am certainly happy that it has made people happy and brought so many people together. There is a great fellowship among role players."

Lutes SPORTS SCHEDULE

Men and Women's Soccer

Men at Whitworth Oct. 17, 2:30 p.m., at Whitman Oct 18, 2:30 p.m.
Women at Whitworth Oct. 17, 12 p.m., at Whitman Oct. 18, 12 p.m.

Volleyball

PLU vs at Pacific Oct. 16, 7 p.m.
PLU at George Fox Oct. 17, 7 p.m.

Football

PLU at Willamette Oct. 17, 1:30 p.m.

Cross Country

Puget Sound Invitational @ Fort Steilacoom Park, Lakewood Oct. 17, 10:30 a.m.



AN ASTERISK REPRESENTS A PLU HOME GAME

Lute athlete tackles more than football

Mast Sports Insider



Tyler Scott

scotttj@plu.edu

When Pacific Lutheran quarterback A.J. Palazzolo went down in the Lutes' first game of the 2009 season, he worried that he might be done for the year.

Calling to mind images of NFL quarterbacks Tom Brady and Carson Palmer, Palazzolo feared that he had suffered total tears of his ACL and MCL, knee ligaments that would require surgery and a lengthy rehabilitation process.

"I've always just wanted to be one of the kids," Palazzolo said. "I didn't feel bad for myself, but I knew in the back of my mind that I had limitations."

Those comments were not in reference to his recent injury. Palazzolo was diagnosed with ALL Leukemia when he was 8 years old. He spent much of the next three years shuttling between the hospital, school and athletic practices.

"It's my life. I don't know any better," Palazzolo said. "It brought my family closer together and made my faith in the Lord stronger."

After three years of chemotherapy, doctors delivered the good news that Palazzolo was in remission. The cancer has not returned, but the leukemia damaged his body, causing internal bleeding and the need for a splenectomy—surgical removal of his spleen—when he was 14 years old.

The operation took eight hours instead of the usual four. Palazzolo chuckled when he speculated what his parents must have been thinking at the time.

"My family's phenomenal. I've just had so much support," Palazzolo said.

A self-described "happy" guy, Palazzolo's joy for life manifests itself in his attitude toward his teammates and in the way he talks about his family. One glance at his interaction with teammates whom



Photo by Ted Charles

A.J. Palazzolo scrambles out of the pocket against Lewis & Clark earlier this season. He passed for 181 yards in the game.

he has only known for a couple months proves that he walks the talk.

He credits PLU head football coach Scott Westering for creating an environment that "made me feel special. The Lutes are a special bunch."

"I love the people," Palazzolo said. "There's just something about this place, something pretty special."

Palazzolo transferred to PLU after spending one year at California Lutheran University. He is a redshirt first-year for the Lutes after injuring his hand early in the 2008 season. In that short time, he has come to appreciate what it means to play PLU football.

"I play for the EMALs," Palazzolo said. "I play for the brothers. We're a family."

After another injury threatened to keep him out of his second year of collegiate football, Palazzolo refused to let anything drag him down. His life experiences have granted him a perspective to see through the struggles.

"I'm thankful for my family," Palazzolo said. "I'm thankful for my friends. I'm just thankful because life is good."

Palazzolo has even come to view his life experiences as being vital to the man he has become.

He credits his cancer with granting him maturity and strength of will that has helped him endure through injuries and the process of transferring schools. Most of all, he thanks God for helping him and his family thrive throughout the struggles.

"I was always put at ease," Palazzolo said. "I feel like God's hand was on my life. I feel like He had a plan."

Palazzolo recently used his experiences to comfort a family in the hospital. While awaiting an MRI on his knee, he saw a young boy with his parents. He noticed the boy's baldness and approached the parents.

After asking if the boy had cancer, Palazzolo shared his own story of survival and encouragement. He cried with the family and prayed for the boy's treatment. Simply put, Palazzolo was himself.

"It's just a gift. It's a blessing," Palazzolo said. "Every day's a dream for me."

His hospital encounter may have been nothing out of the ordinary for Palazzolo, but it may have changed the lives of the boy and his parents as they search for hope in the midst of struggle.

In terms of Palazzolo's football career, his worst fears about the knee proved to be overblown. He missed only one game with a partial MCL tear. Splitting time behind center against Lewis & Clark and Gustavus Adolphus, Palazzolo has passed for 389 yards and five touchdowns, completing 26 of 33 passes.

Palazzolo's knee appeared fine as he carried the ball four times for 15 yards and extended several plays with his athleticism in the pocket against Lewis & Clark.

But even if it had been worse, Palazzolo has been through far more serious health issues in his 19 years.

Women's soccer splits weekend

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The Pacific Lutheran women's soccer team broke even this weekend with a 1-0 victory over George Fox on Friday and a 2-0 loss to Willamette on Saturday.

PLU's sophomore Jordan Daniels

scored the only goal of the game, which she earned in the 35th minute.

Daniels was able to head the ball past Bruins' goalkeeper junior Autumn Van Meter after a corner kick from PLU junior Courtney Walker.



Daniels

The PLU defense faced a great amount of pressure but was able to hold its own. The Lutes faced 13 shots throughout the game and were only able to produce eight.

PLU sophomore goalkeeper Lauren Chambard made two saves in the game and was assisted by senior defender Meredith Newby and sophomore defenders Daniele Williams and Kristina Snaring.

The Lutes improved their record to 2-5 in the conference and 3-8 overall. With Chambard's goalkeeping, they earned their second shutout.

Although the Bruins looked more aggressive in the first half with nine shots, PLU changed tactics and was able to keep their defensive zone vacant.

The Lutes were granted another chance to score in the second half, but Van Meter stepped in to deny the goal.

However, the goal by Daniels sufficed to earn the Lutes their second Northwest Conference win.

"The win was great," senior Meredith Newby said. "I think that one of the main reasons we were able to achieve it is the energy that we brought and maintained throughout the entire game. We were having fun, and it showed."

PLU suffered a different fate in their contest against Willamette.

Willamette's junior Emily Wigington earned the Bearcats their first point when she pounded a loose ball just out of reach of Chambard four minutes into the match.

The Bearcats' offensive dominance continued throughout the game. They turned out eight shots in the first half to PLU's three.

Walker came close to tying the game on a free kick, but Willamette's junior keeper

Kelli Gano hammered the ball out of threatening territory.

While the Lutes were able to apply pressure at the beginning of the first half, the Bearcats' sophomore Stephanie Skelly scored in the 60th minute of the game, allowing her team to clinch the win.

"It took us a bit of time to find our rhythm," said Newby. "As time went on we had some good chances at goal but were just unable to capitalize upon them."

Skelly scooped up a loose ball at the top of the penalty box and poked it past Chambard.

Although the Lutes

revamped their game in the final minutes, Willamette's defense proved impenetrable.

The Lutes ended with ten shots, compared to the Bearcats' 12. Chambard made three saves.

"We're working this week on fixing the little things," said Chambard. "That will help improve our overall play and refocus our mindsets for two big games this weekend. We hope to come out with a couple wins."

Newby talked about capitalizing on scoring opportunities.

"We're starting the second round of conference, so we know exactly what we're up against," Newby said. "For next weekend, we are going to continue working on our attack so we can put some balls in the back of the net."

PLU continues conference play next weekend with contests against Whitworth and Whitman.



Chambard

Volleyball

8-0 NWC

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The Pacific Lutheran volleyball team has been relentless this season when playing other Northwest Conference (NWC) teams. The Lutes hosted two matches this weekend and defended their perfect season.

"I think our team's success lies in the fact that we all care so much about the game and so much about each other," senior captain Brenna Archibald said.

Last Friday, the Lutes pushed past the second-place team in the NWC, Lewis & Clark. They lost to the Lutes in all three sets in Olsen Auditorium: 25-17, 25-15, 25-18.

"There is never a time we don't put our whole hearts into what we are doing, this is rare on a team," Archibald said.

Junior outside hitter Beth Hanna contributed 12 kills. In addition, senior middle blocker Kelcy Joynt had a .375 attack percentage and 11 kills.

Sophomore setter Sarah Beaver tossed up 30 assists to her teammates and had four kills to end the game. Beaver finished with an impressive .571 attack percentage.

Sophomore middle blocker Erin Bremond had a strong defensive performance with two solo blocks and four block assists. Archibald completed the match with 12 digs.

On Saturday the Lutes played Willamette and came out ahead in three straight sets: 25-22, 25-22, 25-17. Willamette is in the lower half of the NWC standings, but they gave Lutes a competitive match.

"It was good to have a game where we weren't so sure of ourselves the whole time," Bremond said.

Against Willamette, sophomore outside hitter Kelsie Moore and Kelcy Joynt led the Lutes with strong contributions. Moore had 12 kills with a .333 attack percentage; Joynt helped with 12 kills herself with a .286 attack percentage.

Junior outside hitter Beth Hanna had a balanced performance with nine kills and led the team with 16 digs.

"I'm proud of us for staying consistent and keeping our composure when things got tight," Hanna said.

Beaver delivered 40 assists and Archibald passed up 14 digs.

"Everyone on our team has worked as hard as they can since the beginning of the season and we hope to continue through conference as strong as the past matches," Beaver said.

The Lutes completed half of their conference schedule and are looking forward to playing the NWC teams again.

Currently, PLU's volleyball team is 12-5 overall and 8-0 in conference games.

PLU plays today at Pacific (Ore.) and tomorrow at George Fox.

Men's soccer tops rival

Lutes axe Loggers for first time since 1991

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The Pacific Lutheran men's soccer team won Saturday against the Puget Sound Loggers at their home field for the first time since 1991.



Zaccagnini

PLU beat the Loggers 4-1. Each goal came from a different player.

PLU sophomore Spencer Augustin, who earned the Lute's first goal, towered a shot over Logger keeper senior Greg Saetrum.

A second goal came just shy of the 60th minute. Sophomore Chad Kearns received a cross-pass from junior Alex Schisel and fired a left-footed shot into the netting.

"Training all last week prepared us for this past game," said junior Daniele Zaccagnini. "This was mainly in terms of adjusting to the

opposition's tactics and fine tuning our own style of play to create chances."

PLU faltered in their conquest soon after, allowing Loggers' sophomore Sean Rice to maneuver around PLU keeper junior Brian Kostol and poke the ball in for a goal.

PLU's third goal came when Zaccagnini collected a blocked pass from sophomore Surafel Wodajo and placed a successful shot past Saetrum.

The fourth and final goal of the game came when PLU's senior defender Scott Parsons won a free kick to Wodajo, who managed a pass to senior Andy Hyres.

Hyres netted his third goal of the season.

The Lutes produced 15 shots, seven of them on net. The Loggers managed only eight shots, two on net. However, the Loggers held an advantage in corner kicks, kicking seven to the Lutes' three.

"I believe that the whole team contributed to this win, whether it was during the game for during the weeks, and months of practices

before," said senior Jason Bjorgo. "Everyone is looking forward to getting on the same path we were on before the two losses last weekend."



Hyres

Bjorgo also mentioned practice for this next week.

"We will be practicing hard with some fitness just to make sure that Whitworth knows who is better," Bjorgo said.

"This week we've got one goal in mind: to prepare ourselves for another huge weekend against two quality teams," said Zaccagnini. "A lot of hard work and determination, along with some arrogance and a swagger, will prepare us for what we need to accomplish this upcoming weekend."

PLU continues Northwest Conference competition next weekend against Whitworth and Whitman.

UPCOMING FAIRS

FALL 2009

OCTOBER 28 - WEDNESDAY

- CAREER & INTERNSHIP FAIR 11AM-2PM
- SCHOOL DISTRICT FAIR 3PM-5PM

OCTOBER 29 - THURSDAY

- CAREER & INTERNSHIP FAIR 11AM-2PM
- GRADUATE PROGRAM FAIR 11AM-2PM

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Scorecard

Men's Soccer

as of 10/14

NWC Standings				
Team	NWC	%	All	%
Whitworth	6-1	.857	8-2-1	.773
Pacific	5-1-1	.786	9-2-1	.792
PLU	5-2	.714	8-4	.667
UPS	3-4	.429	6-7	.462
Linfield	3-4	.429	4-7-1	.375
Whitman	2-4-1	.357	3-6-2	.364
Willamette	2-5	.286	3-9	.250
George Fox	1-6	.143	4-8	.333

Team Points Leaders

Spencer Augustin - 13, Chad Kearns - 12, Daniele Zaccagnini - 11, Andy Hyres - 10

Team Goals Leaders

Chad Kearns - 6, Daniele Zaccagnini - 5, Spencer Augustin - 5

Team Assists Leaders

Surafel Wodajo - 5, Andy Hyres - 4, Jason Bjorgo - 3, Spencer Augustin - 3

Team Saves Leaders

Brian Kostol - 48, Kit Deming - 2

Women's Soccer

as of 10/14

NWC Standings				
Team	NWC	%	All	%
UPS	8-0	1.000	11-0	1.000
Whitworth	7-2	.778	10-3	.769
Willamette	6-3	.667	7-5-1	.577
Pacific	4-4-1	.500	5-6-2	.462
George Fox	3-6	.333	6-7	.462
Linfield	3-6	.333	6-7	.462
Whitman	3-6	.333	4-7-1	.375
L&C	2-5-1	.312	3-5-4	.417
PLU	2-6	.250	3-9	.250

Team Points Leaders

Olivia Lee - 7, Karli Hurlbut - 5, Monica Beard - 2, Karin Hatch - 2

Team Goals Leaders

Olivia Lee - 3, Karli Hurlbut - 2, Monica Beard - 1

Team Assists Leader

Courtney Walker - 2, Mimi Granlund - 1, Karli Hurlbut - 1, Olivia Lee - 1

Team Saves Leaders

Lauren Chambard - 65, Ivory Harvey 11

Football

as of 10/14

NWC Standings				
Team	NWC	%	All	%
Linfield	2-0	1.000	5-0	1.000
Willamette	2-0	1.000	5-1	.833
PLU	1-0	1.000	1-3	.250
Menlo	1-1	.500	2-4	.333
UPS	0-1	.000	0-4	.000
Whitworth	0-2	.000	2-4	.333
L&C	0-2	.000	0-4	.000

Passing Yards/ YPG

Jordan Rasmussen: 636/159
AJ Palazzolo: 534/178

Rushing Leaders

Drew Griffin: 19 attempts for 107 yards
Sean Snead: 10 attempts for 52 yards

Receiving Leaders

Greg Ford: 32 catches, 703 yards, 6 TD
Kyle Whitford: 15 catches, 186 yards, 2 TD

Defensive Leaders

Andy Sturza: 27 tackles
TJ Suck: 23 tackles, 1 TFL, 1 sack, 1 INT
Erik Magnussen: 18 tackles, 4.5 TFL, 1 sack

Volleyball

as of 10/14

NWC Standings				
Team	NWC	%	All	%
PLU	8-0	1.000	12-5	.706
George Fox	6-2	.750	13-3	.812
L&C	6-2	.750	10-7	.588
UPS	5-3	.625	11-5	.688
Linfield	3-5	.375	6-9	.400
Whitworth	3-5	.375	7-12	.368
Pacific	2-6	.250	7-9	.438
Willamette	2-6	.250	5-11	.312
Whitman	1-7	.125	4-10	.286

Team Kills Leaders

Beth Hanna - 206, Kelcy Joynt - 153, Kelsie Moore - 132

Team Assists Leaders

Sarah Beaver - 535, Beth Hanna - 21, Kristi Neubauer - 19

Team Blocks Leaders (by Total)

Erin Bremond - 56, Beth Hanna - 30, Kelcy Joynt - 27

Team Digs Leaders

Beth Hanna - 197, Brenna Archibald - 190, Kelcy Joynt - 139

Cross Country outlegs opponents

PLU men's and women's teams claim first place



Photos by Ted Charles

Top Left: Junior Mary Wuest leads a small group of runners at PLU Saturday. **Right:** The lead group in the PLU Invitational runs tightly packed in Saturday's competition. PLU junior John Phillips finished fifth overall for the men while sophomore Sean Andrascik finished seventh.

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The men's and women's cross country teams took both titles on Saturday at their own invitational at Pacific Lutheran University.

PLU's men's team racked up 31 points this weekend. An alumni group ran also and scored 45 points.

Pacific placed third with 63 points. Puget Sound took fourth with 124.

Clark College also attended, but could not score points due to a lack of

runners.

Lutes alum Destry Johnson won the 8000-meter race for the men, with a time of 27:43.74. Johnson was followed in this race by PLU alums Lance Thompson, Floyd Bangerter and Pat Dill who fell within the top 14 places.

Shane Weldon of Clark College placed second with a time of 26:06.65.

Junior John Phillips of Pacific Lutheran finished fifth overall with a time of 27:10.59.

Sophomore Sean Andrascik finished two places behind in 27:24.55. PLU sophomores Orion Bras, Justin Barth and

Anthony Horton also placed in the top 20.

The women's team tallied 34 points in their efforts and were followed by Pacific which took 48.

Puget Sound was next on the list with 71 and Clark College was just behind, with 74.

Pacific graduate Kelsey Owens won the 6000-meter race, finishing in 22:20.16. Brittany Henderson from Clark finished in 23:19.43 and took second place.

PLU first-year Suzy Olsen took third place with a time of 23:31.04.

Sophomores Katie Gebert, Erica Johnson and first-year

Kayley Turner all finished in the top 15.

"The team's conditioning contributed to our win, but [head coach Heather Kreir] gave us an inspiring speech the day before that gave us the fire to go out and win our home meet," Phillips said.

Turner agreed. Olsen

"Our team works together both in our training and

conditioning, and in races," Turner said. "We pick each other up and work hard in practice to get ready for race day, whether it's out on the track, in the pool or spinning on the bikes."

The men's cross country captain Sean Andrascik talked about the team as a whole.

"Although my time was not as quick as I would have hoped, I'm more concerned with the placing of the overall team," Andrascik said. "That's what's going to get us to the regional meet in California."

PLU will travel cross-town next Saturday for the Puget Sound Invitational.



PLU falls to Gusties

Last-second touchdown spoils Lute non-conference road victory

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The Lutes' football team traveled to St. Peter, Minn. last Saturday with high hopes of following up its strong Homecoming win over Lewis & Clark with a victory against Gustavus Adolphus.

The Lutes' offense put up some impressive numbers to go with its 33 points, but was lost in the closing seconds by a game-winning touchdown.

The Lutes endured frigid temperatures and a hard-nosed rushing attack by the opposing offense.

"Even though we lost, we didn't feel defeated afterwards, we played a good game," first-year Ryan Ransavage said.

Head coach Scott Westering kept with the strategy to utilize both of his quarterbacks.

The double-quarterback attack of junior Jordan Rasmussen and sophomore AJ Palazzolo unleashed its fury on the Gusties, racking up a whopping 415 yards through the air and five touchdowns.

Junior wide receiver Greg Ford gained 292 of those yards on 13 receptions.

Ford also scored four of the Lutes' five touchdowns. His 292-yard day broke the previous record of 272 (also set by Ford) and his 13 completion came one short of breaking the single

game record of 14.

On the ground, the Lutes covered 84 yards with their running game led by senior Drew Griffin.

The Gusties defensive backs did little to stop the airborne onslaught, giving up pass plays of 57 and 33 yards.

Even when double-teamed, Ford still managed to find a way to burn them and make the catch.

Gustavus Adolphus proved to be a handful on the ground, rumbling for 122 yards.

Quarterback Jordan Becker threw for 310 yards and five touchdowns including a heartbreaking 1-yard scoring pass with twelve seconds left, ending the Lutes' chances of victory.

Sophomore Nick Oglesby was quick to give credit to his teammates for "getting their nose in it."

He praised the play of senior Justin Jenkins.

"We had a three man line out there for a lot of the game and Justin was taking on double and triple teams and he was holding his ground against kids way bigger than him," Jenkins said.

The Lutes return to action at Willamette University tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.



Ford

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