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MAY 9, 2008

www.plu.edu/~mast

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Gas prices climb, students react

Gas prices cause students to reconsider summer plans

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MAST NEWS INTERN
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College is an institution that causes many students to empty their pockets. This summer however, it will not be the college lifestyle that is robbing students of their money, there is another expense on the rise. Summer gas prices are skyrocketing and are expected to reach \$4 a gallon for regular unleaded. The cost of this basic commodity soaring through the roof has left many students worrying about the effects it will have on their everyday lives. Oftentimes, summer vacation provides students with the opportunity to get a job and save up for the upcoming school year, however this year, the cost of gas alone is digging deep into that savings.

Some students were planning on taking a road trip to visit friends or just take a vacation. Gas prices have curbed those plans. Students have either decided it might be worth just buying a plane ticket, while some scrapped the trip altogether.

"I was going to take a road trip to California, but with the rising cost of gas, it's cheaper for me to fly," first-year Jonah Oh said. "Now I am going to have to use the bus system once I get down there, while I would rather drive. Los Angeles is not the best place to ride the bus."

There are also some students who are staying on campus this summer and will be affected. First-year Patrick Kunkel, a George, Wash. native who will be working for the Science Department and living on campus this summer, said he feels forced to remain here because of the cost of driving back home.

"The cost of going home is so expensive that I probably won't make too many trips back this summer," Kunkel said.

Students are not the only ones forced to make changes in their daily lives. Communication professor Art Land said that it can affect everyone, having already made changes himself.

"I drive to campus from Seattle everyday, so it costs me a minimum of \$12 to come in," Land said. "This January, I bought a new car, and because of the gas prices, I looked for a car that got better mileage. I now buy gas in Tacoma because it is 8-10 cents cheaper than Seattle and am buying all of my produce at a market."

Last week Shell Oil president John Hofmeister said that a major solution to the issue of high gas prices is to drill more within the United States. Based on policy decisions, the United States has been relying on other countries to drill and is not willing to drill internally.

As it is a presidential election year, this has become a very important issue within presidential debates and policies. Ideas such as suspending the gas tax during the summer and drilling in Alaska have been tossed around. This topic could turn into a make-or-break issue for a candidate to be elected.

While this has become a serious problem for many, there could be light at the end of the tunnel.

"The higher the prices get the quicker we will find an alternative to oil," Land said. "I guess I am happy in that sense."

CORRECTION

The brief published May 2 (issue 21) by Liz Anderson under the headline "Students mourn together" was the wrong version and contained mistakenly plagiarized information. The correct version can be found online at www.plu.edu/~mast

Semester-long sojourners struggle



Photo by Chris Hunt

Sojourner Advocate Kate Geldaker works in the Wang Center Wednesday, May 7. The Sojourner Advocate is a year-long position that seeks students who have previously studied abroad to guide students looking to study away in the future. However, the Wang Center does not hire those planning to study during the year.

Students studying away face unemployment upon their return

Emily Hopper-Treichler
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For students who decide to study away during their education at PLU, the trip abroad comes with an unexpected price: fewer jobs to choose from on campus. Many of the largest on-campus employers are reluctant to hire students if they are planning on studying away in the near future, particularly those employers who hire on a yearly or even semester basis.

Sophomore Chelsea Linsley, who has studied abroad previously and plans to study away again for spring 2009 semester, has encountered multiple problems with on-campus employment due to her plans abroad.

"Some positions do hire at the semester, and I applied for quite a few upon returning from Norway,"

Linsley said. Linsley was unable to get a job on campus because she couldn't do interviews during J-term for a job spring semester.

"I had commitments at home, in the Midwest," Linsley said. "That situation was kind of exceptional."

However, Linsley ran into more trouble this semester while trying to get a job next year at the Wang Center.

"Even when I was a prospective student I thought that would be the best job ever to have on campus—working at the study abroad office," Linsley said.

Linsley said the Wang Center declined to hire her because she was unable to commit to working there for a year.

"Of course, the people who want to work there would be the avid sojourners like me, but having that job means no study abroad for a year," Linsley said, adding that "it does seem a bit counterintuitive."

Linsley also said that she does think it is reasonable to expect employers to take into consideration when considering applications whether an employee may not be able to commit to the job, especially due to expensive and

time-consuming issues like employee turnover and training.

"I certainly understand the reasoning behind it, but when I found out I couldn't do it, I was pretty disappointed," Linsley said.

While Kristin Labs, the Study Away Advisor for the Wang Center, did not directly address Linsley's situation, she did note that the Sojourner Advocate position is more tailored to a junior or senior student.

"One of the eligibility criteria for the position is to have spent a semester studying away," Labs said. "We also look for students with a rather high level of maturity, self-awareness, and of course, a passion for study away."

Although multiple study away experiences certainly enhance capabilities for the Sojourner Advocate position, the Wang Center only hires once a year, and thus looks for students who plan to be on campus for the entirety of that year.

Multimedia Services coordinator, Amy Robbins, said that most of the

See Jobs
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STATE, NATION and WORLD BRIEFINGS

Local to Global

Myanmar toll may reach 100,000



Workers pour rice into bags to be loaded on to a truck for distribution in Yangon, Myanmar, Wednesday, May 7, 2008. Cyclone victims in Myanmar's biggest city faced new challenges Wednesday as markets doubled prices of rice, charcoal and bottled water.

Carly Petesch and Lily Hindy
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

People swarmed the few open shops and fistfights broke out over food and water in Myanmar's swamped Irrawaddy delta Wednesday as a U.S. diplomat warned that the death toll from a cyclone could top 100,000.

The minutes of a U.N. aid meeting obtained by The Associated Press, meanwhile, revealed the military junta's visa restrictions were hampering international relief efforts.

Only a handful of U.N. aid workers had been let into the impoverished country, which the government has kept isolated for five decades to maintain its control. The U.S. and other countries rushed supplies to the region, but most of it was held outside Myanmar while awaiting the junta's permission to deliver it.

Entire villages in the Irrawaddy delta were still submerged from Saturday's storm, and bloated corpses could be seen stuck in the mangroves. Some survivors stripped clothes off the dead.

"I don't know what happened to my wife and young children," said Phan Maung, 55, who held onto a coconut tree until the water level dropped. By then his family was gone.

A spokesman for the U.N. Children's Fund said its staff in Myanmar reported seeing many people huddled in rude shelters and children who had lost their parents.

"There's widespread devastation. Buildings and health centers are flattened and bloated dead animals are floating around, which is an alarm for spreading disease. These are massive and horrific scenes," Patrick McCormick said at UNICEF offices in New York.

Obama grabs superdelegates, undecideds

Nedra Pickler
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Barack Obama's march toward the Democratic presidential nomination picked up support from four more superdelegates Wednesday, pushing him ever closer to victory over Hillary Rodham Clinton — even as their primary marathon staggered on.

She added two superdelegates herself in what has become the last big contest as their race winds toward a finish.

There are just 217 delegates to be chosen in the final six

primaries, and neither candidate can win enough of them to claim final victory. Meanwhile, 265 additional superdelegates have yet to be claimed, and their support will be the deciding factor.

Though Obama padded his delegate lead in Tuesday's primaries, most uncommitted superdelegates still want to remain on the sidelines. The Associated Press interviewed more than 70 undeclared superdelegates or their representatives Wednesday, and many said they don't want to get involved until the voting ends June 3.

However, the comments of

some of the uncommitteds were not encouraging for Clinton.

"I'm just wondering about the viability of Clinton's campaign at this point," said Laurie Weahkee, an add-on delegate from New Mexico. "I really want to hear from her more about if she wants to stay in the race — if the reason remains very concrete."

Pennsylvania Rep. Mike Doyle said Clinton's pitch to superdelegates has been that she can win the popular vote, but that was undercut when Obama netted more than 200,000 popular votes in the Tuesday contests.

Gates: "Key decisions" up to Balmer

AP Wire

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates said Tuesday that key decisions following the company's withdrawal of a \$47.5 billion bid for Yahoo will be made by CEO Steve Ballmer.

Gates said he was not sure about the software maker's bid for Yahoo, but he said the bid fell apart, including whether Microsoft would pursue another deal of the same size elsewhere.

Possibilities include large Internet companies like Time Warner Inc.'s AOL and News Corp.'s MySpace and startups like Facebook Inc. and LinkedIn Corp. Microsoft already owns a 1.6 percent stake in Facebook, the second-largest social network behind MySpace.

"Well, the key decisions on that will be made by Microsoft CEO Steven Ballmer, who took a look at Yahoo and decided that on our own he likes the stuff that we're doing," Gates said, according to a pool report.

"We need to show the innovation and it's a very competitive space," he added. "I wouldn't rule

out some partnerships but we don't have anything imminent there."

Microsoft Corp. made an unsolicited bid for Yahoo Inc. worth \$44.6 billion, or \$31 per share, in hopes of challenging advertising and search leader Google Inc. The value of the cash-and-stock deal declined to \$42.3 billion, or \$29.40 per share, reflecting the decline in Microsoft shares since it began pursuing the Internet pioneer.

In a last-ditch effort to seal a deal, Microsoft raised its offer to \$47.5 billion, or \$33 per share, but Yahoo wanted more. Microsoft withdrew the bid Saturday.

Microsoft's intense pursuit of Yahoo is widely seen as an acknowledgment of weaknesses in Microsoft's solo Web search and advertising strategy, and the software maker now needs to prove it can innovate without Yahoo as a partner.

Gates said an investors' meeting in July would be Microsoft's chance to "really go through and explain why the work by Microsoft research makes us feel that in that online area where we're going to do some breakthrough work," Gates said.

Jobs

cont. from page 1

student employees who study away have already worked at Multimedia Services for a year or more.

"They always have their job waiting for them when they return," Robbins said.

Diane Harris, director of Circulation and Building Services at Mortvedt Library, agreed students don't have to worry about losing their jobs if they study away.

"We don't care if a student plans to study abroad, it is actually encouraged by the university so we support the program as well," Harris said. "We will guarantee that the student has their job when they return, especially if it is during J-Term."

Harris added that if a student decides to study away, especially for long amounts of time, such as a year or semester program, employment positions may be lost.

"If they were originally a desk worker, they may have to begin as a shelver depending on the hours available since we would have had to hire additional staff to cover while they were away," Harris said. Students are generally able to get the original duties and hours they had before they left over time.

Robbins also noted that although students studying away can create stress, Multimedia Services firmly supports studying away as a part of a student education.

"The student's education comes first no matter what," Robbins said. "If [students] have an opportunity to study somewhere else, they should take advantage of it."

Students studying away do have

one employer option that advocates studying away for its employees without loss of hours.

"Dining and Culinary Services is always willing to hire student workers and at any given time, we employ around 150 student workers," JJ Stolz, Dining and Culinary Services' marketing manager said.

Stolz said Dining and Culinary Services hires throughout the year and schedules on a semester basis, with J-term separate.

"If a student is studying away in fall, they are very likely to still find a job opening with us in J-Term and spring," Stolz said. "If a student works with us during fall and studies away in J-Term, we generally work to fill our spring schedules before Christmas break and they could have a schedule written and ready for when they return in February."

Dining and Culinary Services is hiring for fall semester and accepts online applications for positions at any of its locations including Old Main Market, the Commons, and Tahoma Bakery at www.plu.edu/~stuemp.

Linsley advised students who plan to study abroad, particularly for a semester, to prepare in advance for employment upon return.

"You have to be OK with the fact that you might not have a job during that year," Linsley said.

Although not having a job comes with an additional loss of money on top of the cost of studying abroad, Linsley doesn't regret the decision.

"I'd rather study abroad, though I doubt if a lot of others would say the same," Linsley said.

Your general edu. requirements may change next year!

Proposal details are available at www.plu.edu/~gened

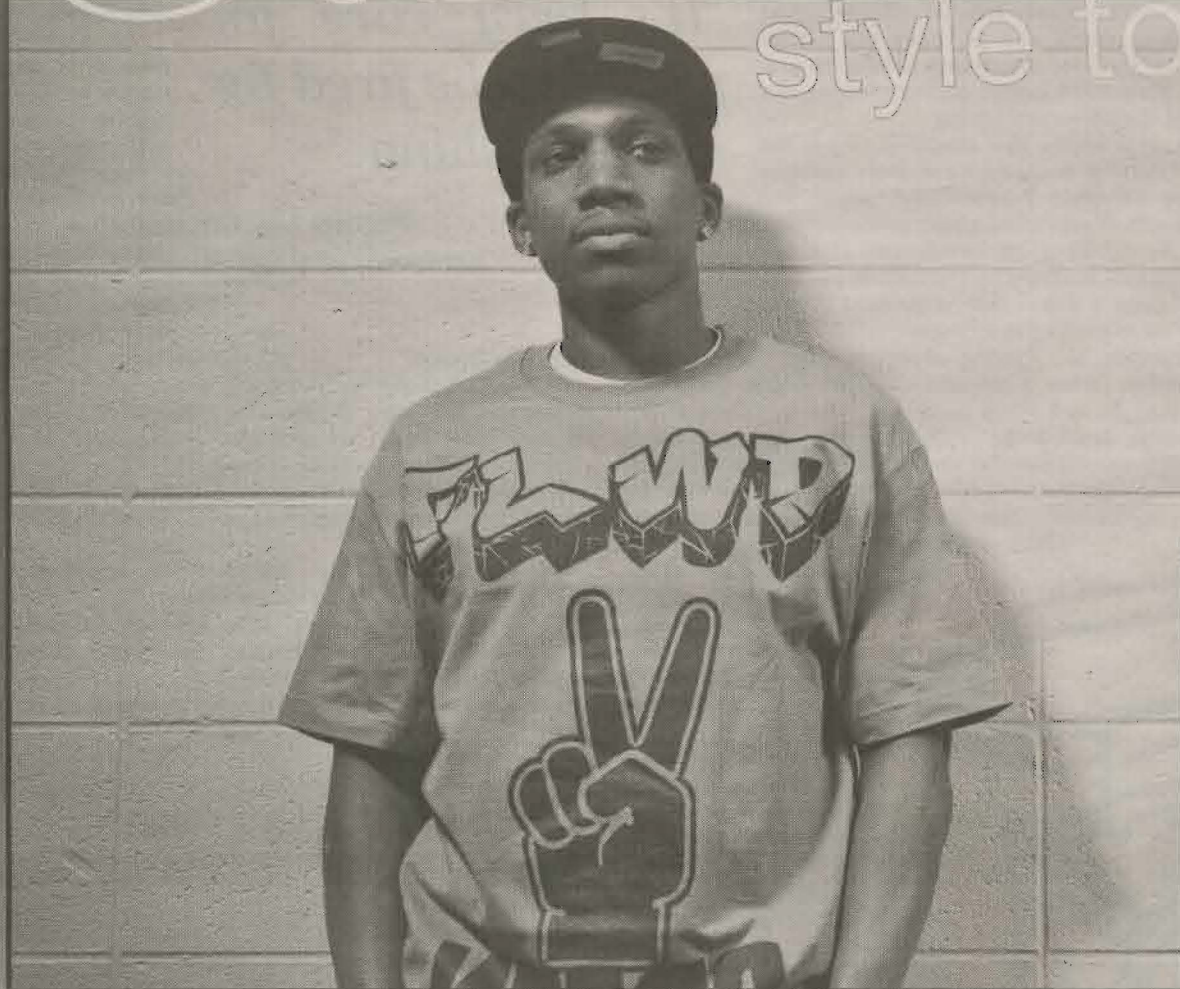
A faculty committee votes today on the future of general education. Check www.plu.edu/~mast for a report on the results next week.

international migratory bird day



Meet tomorrow at noon at Rieke on Foss Field side

Student brings style to PLU



Photos by Chris Hiett

Jacob Greene
MAST NEWS INTERN

Perris Wright was initially recruited to PLU to play point guard for the basketball team. Wright, then a senior at Foss High School in Tacoma, decided that he would attend PLU, but not for sports. Despite Wright's decision not to play, the sophomore has still found ways to make an impact on campus.

While most college students take jobs at restaurants or retail stores to afford the expensive college tuition, others work summer jobs such as construction to save up enough money. Perris Wright took a different approach, deciding to use his interest in fashion to make money. The result was a streetwear clothing line dubbed "Flawed 2 Perfection," Wright's own creation.

"Flawed 2 Perfection" was started in 2006 by Wright and childhood friend Umi Wagoner, currently attending Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles. The clothing line was originally called "Verseau," which means "Aquarius" in French.

"Umi and I started the brand to be able to express our style through various t-shirt designs," Wright said.

The products can be seen worn around campus, such as the crewneck reading "I [heart] Street Culture." This design

has been popular and was designed in collaboration by Wright and Wagoner.

Wright has used his local style sense to make the brand appealing to people from around the Northwest. More recently, with Wagoner in Los Angeles, the brand has added a touch of style from a city that is known for fashion.

"I like the brand because it has a unique style that is very personalized. It's a local brand and it's good to be able to support a small business," said senior Adrian Hedwig, who has supported "Flawed 2 Perfection" since the beginning.

Hedwig is not alone in his support and respect for the brand. "Flawed 2 Perfection" is gaining popularity in the Tacoma area as well as in Los Angeles with Wagoner's efforts. Some people have become aware of the brand thanks to local hip-hop artist Clemm Rishad, a childhood friend of the owners and a representative of the line. The brand has also been aided by MySpace, which Wright and Wagoner use to spread its name and gain a following.

Wright, a business major with a focus in marketing, has been actively designing and selling products both by hand and online.

"With studying marketing, I will be able to understand how it works and learn techniques," Wright said. "I'm able to use the brand to get experience by marketing to stores and our target market

to sell clothes."

The duo has released three lines in the past two years which have included shirts, sweatshirts, jackets and hats.

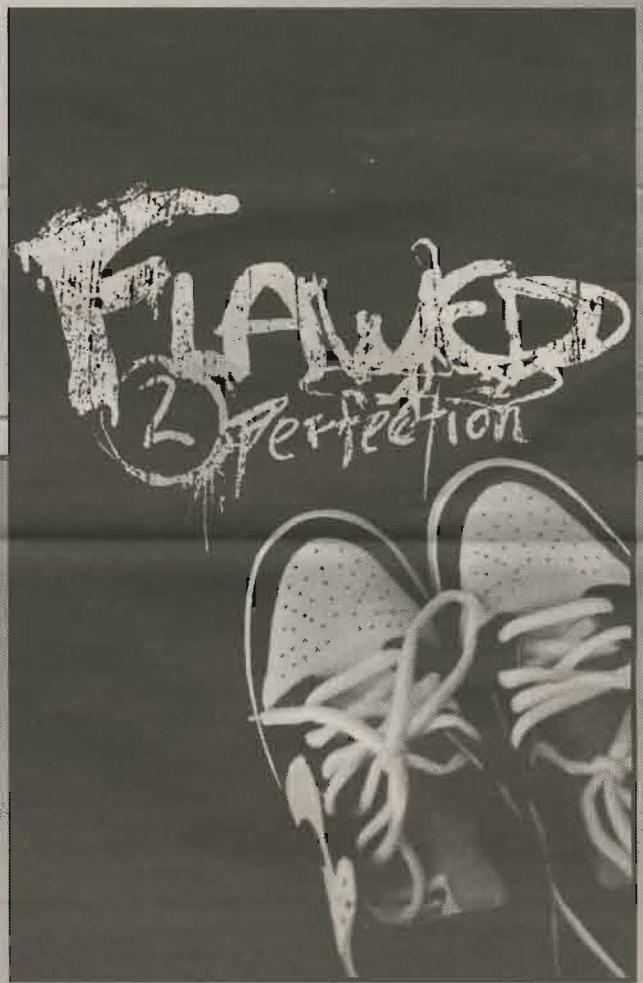
"We haven't had just one influence in our products, we've used all types of brands to help design concepts," Wright said.

Wright has no plans to stop his work anytime soon.

The next step for the company is their fourth line coming out this spring and getting their products in local boutiques such as "Goods" in Seattle and "Sureel" in Kirkland.

"We hope to eventually open a boutique and have stores around the country, maybe even overseas," Wright said.

Aside from the brand, Wright has also been active in intramural sports on campus, including football, basketball and softball. In intramural basketball he helped lead his team to win the spring championship. Along with sports and fashion, Wright has a large interest in music, particularly hip-hop and rap. He



recently worked to help friend Clemm Rishad sell copies of his EP titled "Image of Me."

Next year Wright will attempt to spread his style to a new area as he plans to transfer. He will head to either Eastern Washington University or Howard University in Washington D.C. where he plans to complete his degree in business marketing and pursue further success for "Flawed 2 Perfection."

Visit Flawed 2 Perfection at MySpace.com

Sticking around this summer?

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If you are...

Interested in writing

Need experience

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The Mast is offering positions for online-only content!

Professors pressured to publish

Faculty who publish make universities more competitive

Ana Ramos
MAST NEWS REPORTER
ramosav@plu.edu

As finals near, students aren't the only ones working on large papers and projects—so are the faculty.

Outside of the teaching curriculum, professors are also working on publishing material relative to their field. At certain institutions, the number of publications could make or break a professor's career in a phenomenon known as "publish or perish."

As Derek Bok wrote in "Universities in the Market Place: The Commercialization of Higher Education," elite institutions are increasingly focused on recruiting those individuals more in touch with research than the student body.

Why Publish?

Even graduates are subjected to publishing pressures while still in school as they look toward to a future career in the teaching profession.

Although this can bring prestige to both the person and the hiring university, critics say it simultaneously reduces quality in the publishing world and decreases the professor-undergraduate interaction needed to provide a purposeful aim for students within and beyond the university setting.

In response to this academic trend, the book "Putting Students First: How Colleges Develop Students Purposefully" shows the importance of providing a more student-based focus by profiling 10 universities that not only engaged students in curriculum but also helped them to define their vocation. PLU was one of those profiled institutions.

According to "Putting Students First," the profiled universities follow a three-tier system: attract particular student types and shape them into what is valued at the university; develop the student's moral sense and intellectuality simultaneously; and place the responsibility of nurturing—not catering to—the whole student within the university community, that is, professors, student affairs and coaches.

PLU is a university that takes into account three aspects when recruiting and promoting faculty: teaching, service and professional development or scholarship. Of these aspects, "teaching is number one" said Jon Grahe, associate professor of psychology.

While he maintains his own scholarly research, his priority tends to return to students and getting them involved, even in their own publishing aspirations and research.

"Teaching is more important, my focus is advancing the student's career," Grahe said.

Professor Dennis Martin of the English Department also agrees that teaching is highest on the agenda at PLU, an aspect that he said has helped maintain an enjoyable 32 years at the university for him. He said, the mantra at PLU is best said as "teacher or perish."

Pressure Unavoidable

While the university emphasizes student's first, it is expected of professors looking for tenureship to publish, said Sid Olufs, professor of political science. The level of expectation can vary by department and university.

As Grahe explained, a school ranked as R1—the highest grade—may require that a potential tenure candidate has published 10-15 works in psychology. A lower grade may not require as many publications

"It's very rare for people to be fired for not publishing."

Dennis Martin
professor of English

from the faculty.

While PLU might not necessarily require an entire book for a tenure candidate, it would be interested in looking at the candidate's entire research plan, which could include work on a soon-to-be-published book.

In the English Department, the published works can be anything from art to poetry collections to an entire book, said Martin.

Publishing requirements are admittedly lower at PLU than at other institutions in the US.

"It's very rare for people to be fired for not publishing," Martin said. Still, there is the "pressure to be professionally active."

Such pressure, said Martin, is important since it contributes to growth in the respective field.

Asking Questions

Part of that growth is asking questions. One involves feedback on published works.

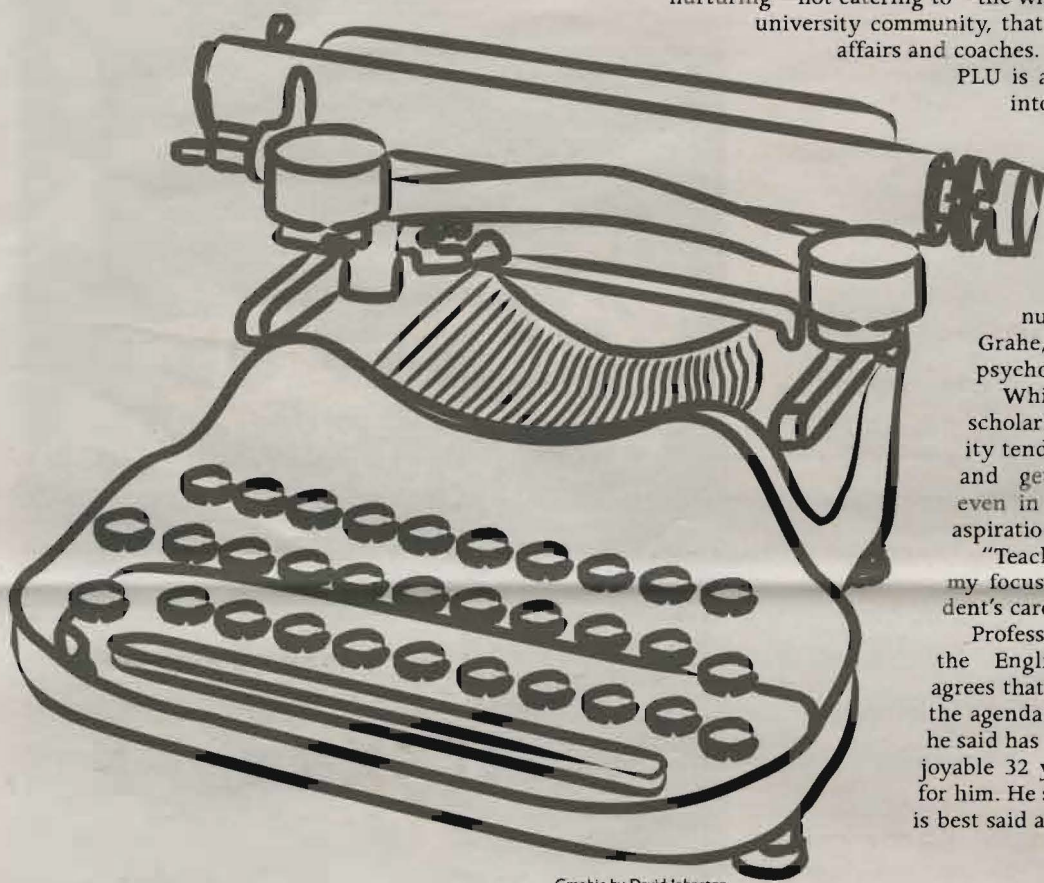
Most individuals that publish do not get much of a response back from their audience, said Olufs. He recalls writing to one scholar who was delighted to have received insight. Olufs has since maintained contact with that scholar as a result.

The other part of scholarly development involves managing to get a work published at all.

It is a "real accomplishment [to get published], Martin said. "It's very competitive, very difficult."

There are different publisher grades of competitiveness, too. When it comes to collaborative works with students, Grahe said he would aim for a lower ranking publisher for these pieces.

Getting published means that "we did something," that students asked relevant questions, Grahe said. That is part of the student-learning process, being able to not only answer questions but also being able to ask the right ones, Grahe said.



Graphic by David Johnston

Info Session
May 14
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Pacific Lutheran University
University Center (213)
Tacoma, WA

This event is free
and open to anyone who
is interested in learning
more about
the Peace Corps
experience.

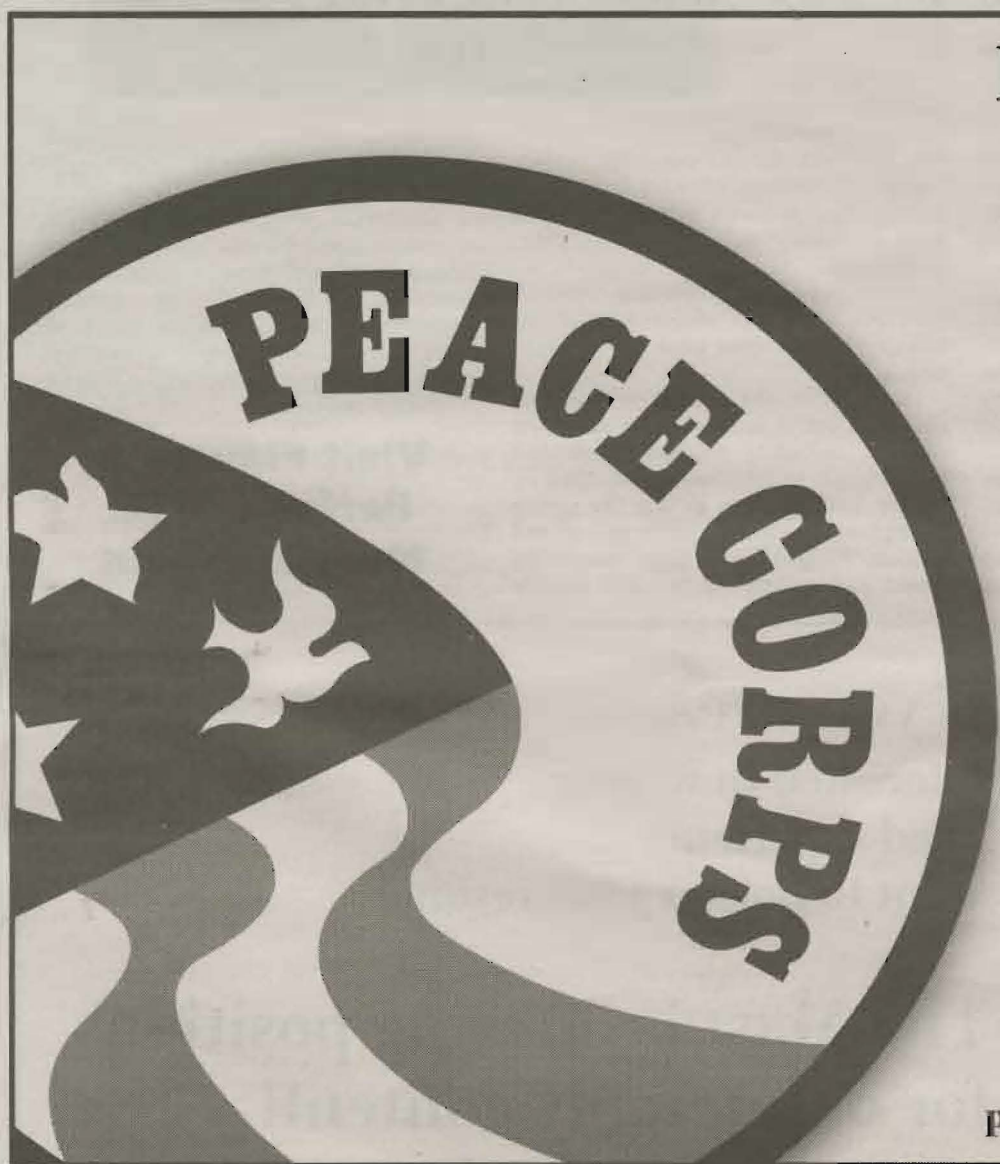
800.424.8580
peacecorps.gov/application

K
C
C
R

Comedy
Night

May 15, 7-9 p.m.
CK room, UC

\$3 w/ student ID
\$5 general



PLU theater continues growth



Photo by Chris Hunt

Junior Brian Wehmhoefer and senior Julie Wolfson act out a scene in the final play of this year, "Noises Off", makes its debut May 9 at 8 p.m. in Eastvold. The play is running for two weeks and was written by Michael Frayn and directed by associate professor of theater Jeff Clap. Tickets can be purchased at Campus Concierge. The last show is at 2 p.m. on May 18.

Final performance wraps up successful year for Theater Department

Bryanna Plog
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The PLU community will have its final chance this year to see a PLU theater production when the main-stage play "Noises Off" holds its final performance Sunday May 18 at 2 p.m. When the curtain closes that afternoon, it will end a successful theater season that has seen an unprecedented expansion of theater opportunities, shows and talent.

This year has given PLU theater students opportunities to showcase their talents through not only the three Theater Department main-stage productions but smaller student-produced work as well.

The newly established theater club Vpstart, pronounced "upstart," Crow was created fall 2007 by seniors Tristan Morris and Julie Wolfson. The organization has been part of this expansion and helps fund student-produced theater on campus.

"Students have taken the initiative and created a variety of opportunities for student-produced theater at PLU," Wolfson said.

Vpstart Crow supported a number of shows on campus this year starting with "The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe" early last fall which earned Wolfson and Morris a grant to continue helping to fund student shows at PLU.

"These shows have allowed several students acting opportunities," Wolfson said. "But they've also involved students as directors, assistant directors, stage managers, props masters, set-building crew members, lighting and sound technicians, writers, producers and more."

Vpstart Crow is a reference to what Shakespeare was called before he was established. The club has been working closely with another student-run organization on campus, Alpha Psi Omega, a national theater honor society.

Junior Jackie Roberts served as vice president of the club this year and was recently elected president for next year.

"APO has allowed more funds and more opportunity to all theater majors and minors," Roberts said. "There is much opportunity for student directing of full length productions. By having other shows that aren't main-stage there is also more chances for costume, lighting and set design."

APO became an official club this past fall for the first time at PLU since the 1970s. APO has helped put on such shows as Night of Musical Theater, three plays including

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead," two musical showcases entitled "Not Your Grandma's Show Tunes," a live radio play and "Trapped," three one-act plays directed and produced by PLU students.

The newly created student improv group, the Clay Crows, is also a part of APO and has held numerous shows this spring.

Many APO productions have been produced with the help of Vpstart Crow and all have given theater students unique opportunities to work in leading roles creating, coordinating and performing shows.

"Because the department is growing so quickly, it is becoming more and more competitive to be cast in the main-stage shows or to direct the APO show in the fall," junior Eddie Dorn said.

Dorn has performed and helped out in both APO and main-stage productions including "Not Your Grandma's Show Tunes" and the student-directed play "Love Letters."

Theater opportunities have grown in part because of the increasing need for more theater outlets on campus. In recent years, the number of students majoring or minoring in theater has grown as well as the number of faculty in the department.

"Suddenly it seemed that there weren't enough opportunities for everyone," Wolfson said.

Along with the commitment of the students, Wolfson said she appreciates the support from the Theater Department and all its staff and faculty.

"The students and faculty have been working together to create more opportunities for theater to be produced," Wolfson said.

Before, the only way students could participate in theater at PLU outside the main stage productions was through their capstone projects.

As a supporter of all theater students, APO also has helped with senior capstones of theater majors. Any theater major or minor can go to APO with a proposal for a theater project or production.

"If it is agreed among the officers that the project will help spread the importance and passion of theater, then we will do everything we can to see that that project is realized," Roberts said.

After such a successful theater season this year, all involved hope that next year will continue with many productions giving PLU students a chance for hands-on learning and to showcase their talent.

Roberts has been impressed by the evolution of theater at PLU.

"This year has pretty much exploded with theater," she said.

"Noises Off" begins its official two-week run in Eastvold Friday May 9 at 8 p.m. This play-within-a-play runs May 9, 10, 16 and 17 at 8 p.m. and May 18 at 2 p.m. Tickets can be bought at Campus Concierge in the UC.

PLU THEATER DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS:
NOISES OFF

EASTVOLD AUDITORIUM
MAY 9, 10, 16 & 17 - 8 P.M.
MAY 18 - 2 P.M.

\$ 5 AT CAMPUS CONCIERGE

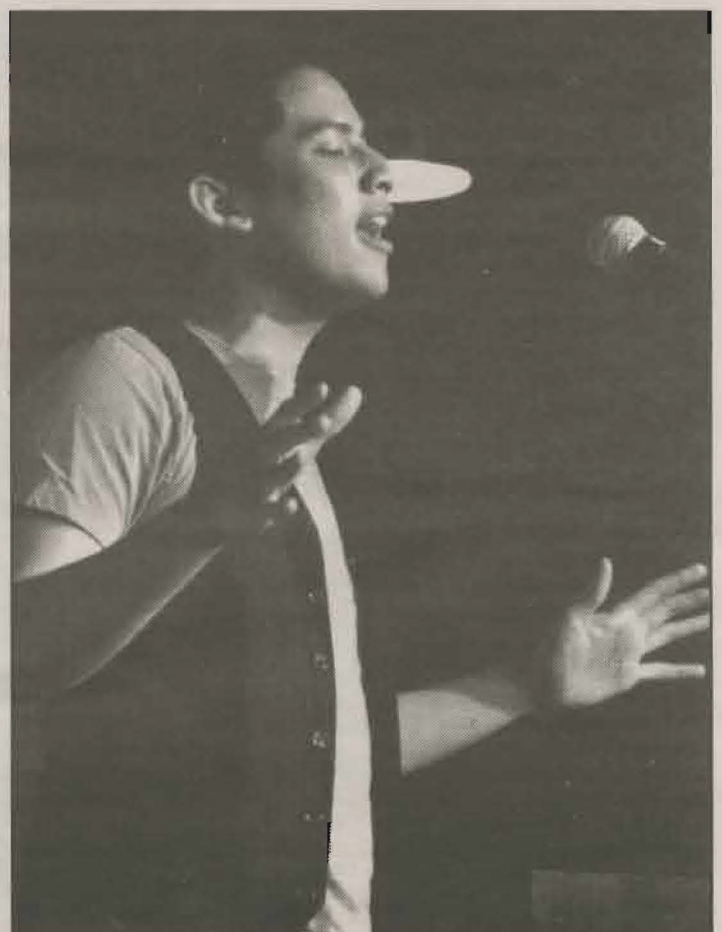


Photo by Bryanna Plog

Junior Justin Huertas performs "Fly Away (Never Neverland)" in the production "Not Your Grandma's Show Tunes 2." This was one of the many theater productions this year at PLU.

From the editors...

Quest for truth requires writers— and their readers

April Reiter

MAST EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Mast set out this year with a range of lofty goals—to bolster the online presence, to increase writer-editor communication, to get in touch with The Mast's history, and, recently in February, to concentrate on ensuring accuracy in our newsprint.

Some goals, like improving our Web site, were attained. But some, like the pursuit of perfect accuracy, equality and truth within our pages, were not.

This last goal is our fundamental calling as journalists. After all, the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics, published on the SPJ Web site, teaches "public enlightenment is the forerunner of justice and the foundation of democracy. The duty of the journalist is to further those ends by seeking truth and providing a fair and comprehensive account of events and issues."

This battle to always pursue truth is something all journalists must contend with in the media, but it is also something we can work toward as a community. The burden and the privilege to seek the truth thus not only falls on our shoulders at the Mast, but on those of our readership—the PLU community.

One example, a shady time in Mast history, illustrates how the truth can be obscured if only one opinion is considered.

I was made aware of it when Jake Paikai, Mast Webmaster, showed me a stack of photocopied papers compiled by professor Tom Campbell for a Harmony Pride Week event. The stack contained a selection of Mast and Tacoma News Tribune coverage surrounding the 1993 launch of Harmony and a controversial editorial written by the editor-in-chief of The Mast in 1996.

In her March 8 editorial "Homosexual supporters losing sight of people focus," the editor took a stand against something she felt was wrong on campus—"that with the excessive number of homosexual-based programs sponsored by PLU we are creating an atmosphere where students no longer feel comfortable voicing their [anti-homosexual] beliefs for fear of condemnation." Professing her belief in a literal translation of the Bible, she said she supported diversity, but not when "we must accept the lifestyle of an individual when it goes against our conscience and beliefs."

Somehow she did not realize that her own observations were flawed. She could not see that society had afforded her, and other heterosexuals, a strong confident voice of legitimacy while those of the queer community had historically been repressed and silenced, overtly and subtly. She also disregarded the impact they felt when they were told their feelings were in some way fundamentally wrong.

Looking at the work of this spectral figure, one of my honored-by-default predecessors, I was shaken to the core. I felt the harsh reality and tried to understand the fact that 12 years ago, a Mast editor felt the need to tout anti-gay ideas in my university newspaper.

I disagreed with the editor's publishing of this editorial, but after some pondering, I realized that the 1996 Mast had done something right in the wake

of its mistake, something every newspaper can and should do. Instead of offering one narrow opinion and shutting the door, it had freely offered its pages as a forum for all the various reactions to the editorial.

Like The Mast of 1996, this year's Mast has also struggled with inaccuracies and the pursuit of the truth. Our mistakes have not been as earthshaking as those of 1996, but we have printed incorrect facts, like the incorrect faculty salary figures in the Feb. 22 issue. We have referred to he's as "she's." We've labeled associate professors as assistant professors. We have published mistakenly plagiarized information, such as with Liz Anderson's coverage of the wreck that killed Brady Freeman and Jocelyn Denham.

And, similar to the 1996 Mast, we have opened our pages to responses. We've included our e-mail addresses to increase our accessibility for concerned readers. And we've remained committed to the idea that an article or column is simply the beginning of a long and complex dialogue between reporters and our readership.

In this way, we have undertaken the quest for the real truth, the complex, assailable, nebulous truth, which can only be found when considering every possible perspective, then taking a look at five more, then five more, then five more.

Every newspaper, every medium in the world committed to a journalist's code of ethics will also struggle with this quest for the truth.

And as the semester ends, the 2007-2008 staff will pass this incredible responsibility onto next year's staff in the hopes that they can see our perspectives, try to understand our decisions, and continue to learn from the past to shape a better paper for next year.

Next year will herald a few changes for the paper. Instead of one chief editor, co-editors-in-chief Alisyn Franetich and Maren Anderson will lead. They plan to emphasize the further improvement of the online presence and supporting sustainability at PLU.

These goals will mean The Mast will look a bit different next year. The plan is for four pages to be cut (one each from Sports and Arts and Entertainment and two from News). This cut will make room for two new online editors to work with the wWebmaster to provide more daily content accessible to anyone in the world with an Internet connection.

But, as this year and the 1996 Mast show us, the responsibility of next year's paper will not rest on their shoulders alone. The burden of the search for fairness, accuracy, and the most complete truth also belongs to the PLU community.

The readership of The Mast is encouraged to see this document as a forum for ideas, as a platform to tell stories sometimes ignored or add another facet to the complex truth. Students shape the content that goes in these pages and online, but they also have a responsibility to keeping the conversation alive once it is published.

Take on this responsibility at PLU and in the greater community with gratitude for those who provide media coverage and with the knowledge that you, too, are an integral part of the search for truth.



Donating from the economic stimulus check would help those in financial need

Many people have started checking their mailboxes with more frequency in anticipation of their checks from the \$145 billion economic stimulus plan approved by Congress in January, and I'm sure many people have already planned what they are going to buy

with this financial gift.

But consider this: Since the money in these checks was not earned from work or trade, why not donate some of it? This unprecedented "gifting" of financial credits from the federal government to taxpayers could be a great opportunity to make a huge change. And since a majority of the PLU community is made up of members of the middle to upper-middle class who are not in immediate need of financial help, why not start here?

In general, those people who

benefit from the services of charity organizations are in too low of a tax bracket to be included in this stimulus plan. By donating some of your stimulus check to these organizations, you can share the wealth and help those whom our government feels are too poor to be helped. I understand that as college students, every penny counts. But by contributing a small portion of Uncle Sam's money to those who need it the most, we can all make a huge difference.

Mike Engh, sophomore

Letters to the editor...

Missing INTC? Students can still experience many of its benefits studying abroad

Many of the points made by Josh Goodell in his thoughtful editorial "INTC-ya later" are surely shared by others at PLU.

The INTC program was indeed unique, but its absence certainly should not discourage PLU students from, as Mr. Goodell so compellingly notes about himself, "greatly expanding [their] breadth of understanding on a scale far outreaching anything [they] could have imagined or hoped for prior to [their] participation" in the INTC.

At PLU, for the same comprehensive fee as being on campus (plus the cost of to-ing and fro-ing, i.e. getting there and returning home) every student has the opportunity to study and learn about Latin America as a region, with Mexico as a case study, through PLU's Oaxaca program.

Or to learn about the Caribbean and the celebration of its multicultural population, values, and arts through PLU's Trinidad program.

To study and learn firsthand about the emergence of China as a global power in what is surely the Asian century through PLU's program in Sichuan, China.

Or to study conflict resolution and development in PLU's Norway program alongside students from Namibia.

Additionally, these programs have been carefully designed to advance two key concepts of the INTC program—cross-cultural and comparative approaches to important regions of the world. And these programs are usually smaller and faculty led, offering the kind of student-faculty interaction for which the INTC was known.

However, if these programs don't meet a student's particular academic needs, the Wang Center is committed to assisting in finding a program that does—there are many to consider.

The point is, one does not need a set of GURs to take a transdisciplinary approach to one's education. One simply needs the initiative to explore the amazingly diverse options PLU makes available to every student.

Neal Sobania
Executive Director,

The Wang Center for International Programs

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The Mast adheres to the Society of Professional Journalists' code of ethics, which includes the guidelines to "seek truth and report it," "minimize harm," "act independently" and "be accountable."

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. Letters are printed in the order they are received.

The Mast can be reached at (253) 535-7494 or mast@plu.edu.

FACULTY VOICE

My teachers at PLU...

Learning for life in and outside the classroom

Chang-li Yiu

PROFESSOR EMERITUS,
MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS



Graphic by David Johnston

Born in mainland China, Yiu received degrees in Taiwan and at Columbia before coming to PLU in 1973. He served at different times as professor, dean and chair in the Mathematics and Physics Departments at PLU until his retirement in 2005.

I retired from PLU in 2005, after about 30 years of teaching in both the Mathematics Department and the Physics Department. In a sense the year I retired was also the year I graduated from PLU. I would like to tell you about some of my teachers.

I came to PLU in 1973 for a temporary teaching position in the Physics Department. The appointment ended in the summer of 1975. Before I left, the Mathematics Department offered me an appointment.

This offer came unexpectedly, partly because the chair of Mathematics, Prof. Ken Batker, came to know me only after I fired off a harsh memo to the Mathematics Department, questioning its effectiveness in teaching calculus—a student in my physics class, who had passed calculus, could not do a very basic mathematical operation. Ken came to me immediately with the textbook and sample tests. With no sign of anger, he explained what his department did in calculus. I saw nothing wrong. Only years later did I realize that some of my own students could

have forgotten what I taught them sooner than I thought.

I learned from Ken how to be a person with a big heart, and later on, to be an administrator who avoids behaving self-importantly. Ken was my first teacher at PLU.

Without knowing it at the time, I had a lot of nerve when I accepted the offer to teach in Mathematics. My graduate work was in physics, not mathematics. But like most physicists, I believed that I could do anything. Didn't I use all kinds of fancy mathematics in physics? At the college level of mathematics instruction, what difference is there between bona fide mathematicians and me?

True, most students probably could not tell the difference. But soon I realized that there was one: Physicists looked at mathematics as a tool, whereas mathematicians viewed it as a system of thoughts. If I wanted to teach real mathematics, not just applied mathematics, I had better learn the mathematicians' way. And I found a ready teacher, my colleague Prof. Chris Meyer. He opened my eyes to subtleties of the mathematical language. Moreover, I tended to be a careless thinker. When solving problems, I often unknowingly skipped steps. I always enjoyed Chris as my critic and marveled at his ability to pick up on my oversights.

My other teacher of mathematics, Prof. Mike Dollinger, joined the Mathematics Department not long after I did. Mike was not only a fine mathematician, but also one of the best lecturers I've ever known. He was a stickler on precise wording. His lectures were always exceptionally clear. I often asked him to explain mathematics to me. If it was sunny, we would take a walk and he would give me a beautiful lecture without notes or preparation.

I started to do research on atomic physics with Prof. K. T. Tang in 1989. K. T. was an acknowledged specialist in atomic physics, whereas I hardly knew anything significant about the subject. Obviously he had to bring me up to date. But more than that, he was my critic in physics just like Chris was in mathematics. When I heard him say, "Chang-li, I know you are smarter than I. But..." I would burst into laughter. I knew he was applying the cream before shaving me.

Once, after we published some papers on the "exchange energy" between two hydrogen atoms, we decided to tackle exchange energy among three hydrogen atoms. The problem was that we did not know what "exchange energy" meant when it came to three atoms. I tried to come up with a definition. But over and over again

K. T. demolished my attempts. In desperation I wished that he would just give up and accept my solution. But I also knew that he was right. Finally one day I was lying on my bed in exhaustion, thinking that I would never find the answer. Suddenly the answer came to me. K. T. accepted it right away. He taught me to be persistent and never to accept half-baked ideas.

Our collaboration came to an end when I became dean of the sciences division in 1998. By then I needed a new teacher. Written by a non-native English speaker, my official communication required substantial polishing before it could see the daylight. Luckily my colleague Ms. Anita Wahler, who held an administrative job to help the dean, was not only a good writer, but also an excellent editor. She became my English teacher. Although she is no longer at PLU, she remains my teacher. If my column here is free of too many mistakes, it is because of her editorial help. I am also learning from her to ruthlessly prune redundancies and secondary ideas from my writings.

I also audited courses formally. I was in Prof. Dennis Cox's printmaking class and Prof. Walter Tomsic's painting class. Both were excellent craftsmen. Walter was a severe but insightful critic. I also enjoyed sitting in the German class of Prof. Webster and the French class of the late Prof. Spangler.

And there were teachers who helped me with immediate problems as well, too many to mention them all. I often ran to Prof. Bryon Dorner with a mathematical passage and was amazed by his instant grasp of its meaning, which had eluded me. I listened to a beautiful tune in a Paris café and was unable to find someone to name the tune, until Prof. Giddings of Chemistry said that it was Bach's double violin concerto. Gail Walker, who was a student, introduced me to the writings of Lewis Thomas, one of my favorite essayists.

All people I mention above are either retiring or have left PLU. Consequently, this letter is not a commercial. But don't despair. If you have the will to learn, you'll find teachers everywhere. The Chinese have a wonderful term, "one-word teacher," which means it doesn't take a great scholar to be your teacher. Confucius said, "Among a party of three, there is certainly one who could be my teacher," and added, "Choose good qualities to imitate and bad ones to correct myself." This means that you can truly learn from anyone, anywhere.

DNA proves black males are innocent

Time for US to find another scapegoat

Jill RUSSELL
FOR AN ACTIVIST'S TOOLBOX
russeljv@plu.edu



James Lee Woodard was released from his sentence, with an apology from the state of Texas.

An apology.

Woodard refused to take parole some years earlier because he would have to admit that he was in fact guilty. The judge told Woodard that his choice "spoke volumes about his character."

What does a false conviction and botched trial say about the character of the state of Texas? What does it say about the character of the Federal Justice system? What does it say about the character of the United States?

Since DNA testing became available in 1989, 216 men have been exonerated from prison. Sixteen of those men were exonerated from death row. Most of these men are taken out of society in the prime of their lives. The average age of conviction was 26. Most of these innocent men sat in their cells for decades before they were given the opportunity to have a DNA test preformed.

One hundred and thirty-two of these 216 men were black men.

Is it any wonder why the larger majority of the U.S. black community has a legacy of mistrust and skepticism for the justice system in our country?

What about the story of another innocent black man? Billy James Smith. He was accused of raping a woman at knife point. He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. There were no eyewitnesses or physical evidence linking him to the crime. And Smith had a valid alibi—someone who testified on his behalf at his trial. His fate was sealed when the victim's boyfriend "positively identified" him, although the boyfriend was not actually present at the attack. It took

And it

happened again.

DNA testing

has freed another

black man from

a life trapped

in the federal

justice system.

Imprisoned

for 27 years,

James Lee Woodard

was released from his

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4 years after his initial request to obtain a DNA test. In 2006, after 19 years in prison, he was released.

Oops. Our bad. We apologize.

There has been a legacy of institutional racism that has built up this pattern of easy blame. Past generations have dubbed these black men as dangerous, raping criminals. They have been branded with a scarlet "S" for "scapegoat" and became easy targets for these types of crimes. Unfortunately, the past afforded them no justice or chance at innocence through DNA testing. But now, things are slowly changing. I have said it once. I will say it again.

We need a change.

We need a change in the U.S. justice system.

Although we have the technological advancement of DNA testing, black men are still overrepresented in the system.

In 2002, the United States Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Department of Justice reported that 6 in 10 inmates are a racial minority.

The report also concluded that 40 percent of these inmates are black.

Black people make up only 13 percent of the population of the United States, but 32 percent of that population will enter the prison system in their lifetimes.

I am not ravenously against the justice system. My brother is a police officer. I would still call the police if my home was burglarized or I was injured in some way.

What bothers me the most is that we seem so complacent and comfortable with this racial pattern. We don't seem phased when yet another black man is pulled over in a traffic stop and has his car searched.

Situations like the Jena Six trials painfully make us aware of our system's flaws—but only for a brief moment. After about a week, it's forgotten, like a faded memory of a college acquaintance.

Waves of progression and advancement will continue to ebb and flow. Ideas will change, people will grow, technology will advance and systems will reform. But for men like Woodard and Smith, this change couldn't come quickly enough.



AP Photo by Jim Mahoney

After being exonerated for the 1981 strangulation and rape of his girlfriend, Beverly Ann Jones, James Lee Woodard, center, raises his arms in victory with Innocence Project Texas director Jeff Blackburn, left, and Assistant Public Defender Michelle Moore in Dallas, Texas, Tuesday, April 29.

Missing Jess Lee's bi-weekly column this issue?

Jess LEE

KETCHUP IN VIENNA

rock.socks.jess@gmail.

Read it online at
www.plu.edu/~mast

PUMA KISSES

Jess discusses the harrowing experience of being kissed in public by strangers in foreign countries.

Such shocks are part of the spice of life—and sometimes part-and-parcel of the abroad experience



Jess Lee, a writing major, is studying history and literature and teaching English in Vienna, Austria

How PLU go

Former KPLU general manager Martin the past, present and future of his career

Nate Hulings
 MAST LUTELIFE REPORTER
 hulingsn@plu.edu

Some of Martin Neeb's decisions in his life have been risky.

Covering a girl in gold spray paint for a radio station promotion in college.

Teaching the Playboy Philosophy to a class of future Lutheran teachers.

Approaching the president of PLU in 1983 to suggest that the campus radio station should switch from classical to jazz.

But despite these risks, however terrifying and controversial, the hard work of the former KPLU general manager will soon be cemented into Pacific Lutheran University history when the new 17,800 sq. foot, \$6.1 million Martin J. Neeb Center is finished in early 2009.

The naming of the building came through a \$1 million gift from his brother, Larry, but after looking at Martin Neeb's history in media and his transformation of KPLU, you would be farfetched to find anyone else as qualified for the honor.

Getting your name on a building does not happen overnight, and in Neeb's case, it does not happen without taking a few risks along the way.

Neeb makes his mark

Neeb's career of pushing the envelope began in radio. Starting in 1954, Neeb learned the ins and outs of radio, doing the grunt work behind the scenes of KFUD in St. Louis.

Neeb still vividly remembers being scared to death the first time he went on air.

However, the first time went smoothly for Neeb. Afterwards, he slowly got more air-time, received press passes to cover sporting events and even met his future wife, Barbara,

while at Busch Stadium covering the St. Louis Cardinals.

"Mother told me I should take her nicer places, but she loved baseball, too," Neeb said.

Soon after his arrival to Concordia Theological Seminary, Neeb landed his own television show, "Meet the Churchman," which featured guests from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Dalai Lama.

His show was wildly popular and had many fans, but none more important for his career than James McBurney.

Neeb was highly interested in applying for Northwestern University's doctorate communications program but his degree in the humanities did not suffice for entrance. But luckily for Neeb, McBurney, the dean of Northwestern's Communication Department, was a huge fan of "Meet the Churchman" and took a chance on Neeb: run my radio station and the school will pay for your tuition.

Like many stations at the time, when Neeb took over Northwestern's WNUR, it played classical music.

This changed quickly. "The kids wanted Rock and Roll," Neeb said. "You gotta let the kids do what they wanna do."

That became Neeb's rallying cry. Thinking about his audience first and the naysayers second, Neeb's time at WNUR transformed the station not only musically but also through outrageous promotions.

In 1964 when the James Bond movie "Gold finger" hit the big screen, Neeb conjured up a promotion that began with crushing records into a brick and having listeners guess the amount to win a prize. The prize at first was innocent, a collection of Ian Fleming novels that was peddled by an attractive woman spray-painted gold. However, after a bath in turpentine was needed to get the paint off a now very ill woman, it was back to the drawing board for Neeb and his co-workers.

Keeping his audience in mind at all times, Neeb let his co-workers run wild with promotional ideas that would draw attention to the station.

How about a night at the Playboy Club? Ok.

And a night on the town with a limo and a steak dinner? Let's do it.

That was Neeb's attitude and even if the administration was not on his side, he got students excited and engaged in community media.

"The Journalism Department was like the football team in popularity," Neeb said.

Neeb's unconventional use of Playboy to get youth engaged did not end with the promotion however. Years later when he taught at Concordia Teachers College in



The construction of the new KPLU building, located at the corner of Park Avenue and 125th Street, will be completed in January 2009. The technology that will be a part of the new structure on PLU's campus in the next year.

River Forest, he put the Playboy Philosophy in his curriculum.

"They are going to be Lutheran teachers, they are going to see a lot of this stuff," Neeb recalls. "They should be prepared more broadly than just the Lutheran feature."

The Playboy Philosophy was a column in Playboy Magazine that asked readers to enjoy cosmopolitan life, be freethinking, wild and interesting.

Again, the risk of pushing the envelope and getting university administrators thinking "who is this guy?" was worth it in Neeb's mind because the students were not only fine with the style of teaching, but it got them thinking.

It would not be the last time. Still devout in his Lutheran beliefs but wanting to continue his work in media, Neeb's next venture took him to television.

With the new title of executive director for Lutheran Television from 1967-1978, Neeb found himself in the middle of animated programming. He struck while the iron was hot and produced animated shows geared towards children and families, none more famous than "Benji and Waldo." Bringing in Hollywood names like Charles Nelson Reilly as voice actors, Neeb was nominated for an Emmy for an episode of "This is the Life" but went to the awards show alone because his wife did not think he was going to win.

"But we won and she jumped around the room like a pinball," Neeb said.

PLU Days

After spending nearly 15 years in the television business, Neeb's creative genius

landed him his next job in 1981, this time at KPLU in Tacoma, Wash.

At the time, KPLU was a student-run station and financed mostly by student tuition, a fact that made Neeb apprehensive about the job opportunity.

"President Reike wanted the station off the students' back," Neeb said. "He needed someone to make or break this radio station."

Neeb had doubts about leaving Los Angeles and television for a smaller, lesser-known market but the school offered something the glamour of Hollywood could not: tuition for his son and the opportunity to continue to watch him play sports.

"How could I refuse that," Neeb said.

His new job as the executive director of university communications meant everything that left the university—brochures, radio, television—would need his approval. However, his increased influence combated with conflicting ideas about how departments in the school should produce media, making for a shaky start with some of his co-workers.

Because of this, Neeb quickly learned the politics of making everyone happy would not be easy.

One of the first things Neeb noticed about PLU was the unused expertise of the "internal stars of PLU," the professors and administrators of the university. Neeb quickly set up a system so if the media were to contact the university for a comment on a pertinent issue, the university could quickly respond with an expert in the specific field.

Neeb's belief in letting the professors be frank and speak their mind in an academic setting would also allow for better and quick-

Chuck Close, Self-Portrait, 2006. Digital pigment print with poem by Bob Holman, made in collaboration with David Altmeppen, Adamson Editions.

Washington, D.C., 36 3/4 x 47 1/4 inches. Courtesy of Pace/MacGill, New York, and the artist. © Chuck Close, courtesy the Aperture Foundation.

**A Couple of Ways of Doing Something:
 Photographs by Chuck Close,
 Poems by Bob Holman**

March 1-June 15, 2008
 www.TacomaArtMuseum.org
 253.272.4258

TACOMA ART MUSEUM

Not its jazz

Neeb talks about with public radio



Design courtesy of Bloomfield and Associates

9. This concept of the building highlights the modern design and

er public relations.

"In order to stand out you must put your best foot forward and not be afraid to let it roll in a way that doesn't stop professors to say what they want to say," Neeb said.

The transformation of how the university handled its media was nothing compared to his vision for KPLU, the university's radio station. Having just picked up NPR and still playing classical music, KPLU was successful but Neeb saw a chance to make it huge.

No decision during his time at PLU was more important, and risky, than the proposition he made to President Reike in 1983.

Neeb wanted KPLU to go jazz, even though he admits that he is not even really a fan of the music.

This decision was not about him. It was about playing what the audience wanted and what would be best for the university.

With his nerves turning into jellyfish as soon as he entered Reike's office, Neeb recalls the apprehension and suspicion of the PLU president.

Asking why Neeb would want to put "the devil's music," as Reike called it, on air, internally he thought "Oh God, I'll be fired," but gathered his nerve and responded, "Because you want to engage the students." The risk paid off and before Neeb left the office of the president, Reike had his decision.

"He told me: 'When that door opens, I will be beside your decision, but it better be right.'"

Neeb's next goal was all about exposure and making KPLU a household name around the Pacific Northwest.

Neeb thought KPLU's transmitter was

not at a high enough altitude to reach enough people so he got the idea to combine antennas with his competition.

A few meetings later, KPLU was sharing a transmitter on top of Tiger Mountain and paying off the cost by revenues made from selling the four other slots on the antennae.

Soon after the switch to 2,500 feet that made KPLU's signal stronger than ever, a new ad campaign for the station was created which asked listeners, "Does your radio station sound like this?" with the letters getting more and more fuzzy along the way.

Taking a shot at other local radio stations was a rare concept in the generally friendly business of radio but Neeb understood the need to get KPLU on the map.

Love for Neeb

These decisions, however risky, quickly gained Neeb respect from his co-workers and the PLU administration.

PLU President Loren Anderson, who has known Neeb for about 16 years, sees Neeb not only as a man with tremendous vision but also as someone who was not afraid to take risks.

"(Martin) kept pushing the envelope," Anderson said.

Anderson also recognized Neeb's dedication to the radio station and to the community.

"Martin bleeds KPLU," he said.

Wanting to solidify the mission of the school but also the autonomy of the radio station, Anderson worked on

a statement of editorial integrity to assure Neeb and KPLU that editorial authority would always remain with the station and never end with a decision from the President's Office.

"If the station decided to do a story criticizing private education, we would not turn out their lights," Anderson said, summarizing the agreement.

It is also hard to find anyone he has known or worked with that does not sing his praises.

Douglas Oakman, chair of the Religion Department, respects Neeb's transformation of KPLU and believes that justifies his name going on the new state-of-the-art KPLU building.

"As a university community, we owe Martin a lot for building a first-rate station," Oakman said. "And it's probably the envy of other NPR stations around the Northwest."

Oakman also says he has Neeb to thank for being able to hear KPLU loud and clear on every family trip he takes up and down the state.

Sandra Dye, the current executive assistant at KPLU, is also a big fan of Neeb. Dye worked with Neeb for nearly 15 years and has nothing but respect for the man who brought jazz to the station.

"You couldn't have picked a nicer man. He was a good person to work with, very fair," Dye said.

Dye also remembers the decision Neeb made to go from classical music to jazz. Even though Dye was not a KPLU employee at the time, she was working on PLU's campus and says she remembers thinking the decision was "a huge chance," but "a good move."

Despite the praise of his friends and co-workers, Neeb realizes his 25 years of service at KPLU and the success that followed would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of all its employees.

"The success story of KPLU is directly related to leadership and the entire staff," Neeb said. "It is in the relationships of the entire staff that has produced the results. I was very fortunate to be able to hire these people."

So what is the next risk for the man who has spent nearly 50 years challenging the status quo of media?

One thought running through Neeb's head is to contact a local minor league baseball team and try some play-by-play, something Neeb says he is hotly pursuing.

Another is for Neeb to fulfill his lifelong dream to learn how to fly an airplane.

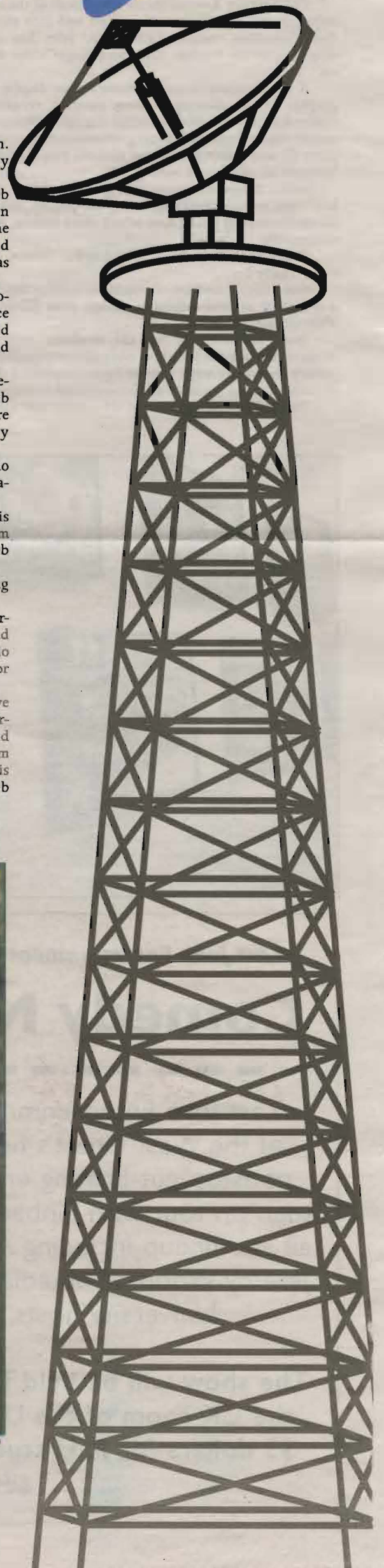
However, the project just around the corner combines the dynamic duo of Neeb and the radio—using his deep, baritone radio voice to read for Radio Reading Services for the Blind.

Some of Neeb's career decisions have been risky. But when the KPLU building carrying his name is finished in spring 2009 and the sweet melodies of jazz can be heard from Vancouver, B.C. to Vancouver, Wash., there is no risk involved in applauding Martin Neeb for making it all possible.



Photo by Jordan Hartman

After more than 25 years of service to PLU, Martin Neeb retired in 2006. In January, the new Martin Neeb KPLU building will open to honor his service to PLU.



Seniors display art with 'Roots of Revival' exhibition

Outgoing students remember merging of departments through art

Katie Blatman
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Students, faculty and many other visitors packed into the University Art Gallery in Ingram April 30 for the opening night of the senior art exhibit called Roots of Revival. The exhibition showcases work from 14 Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts graduating seniors and represents the graduating class and the School of Arts and Communication.

"This is the capstone of the Art Department," said assistant professor of communication Amanda Feller.

The Roots of Revival theme reminisces of the merge of the separate departments of communications and arts into the School of Arts and Communication. Senior Kate Kuhn, who has several photographs displayed in the exhibit, said the change "came as a surprise to all of us."

A wide variety of art mediums are on display, including works of graphic design, drawing, etching, painting, ceramics and photography. Senior Kyle Muir displayed works of graphic design expressing not only artistic talent, but views of religion and current events. A graphic design piece by senior David Johnston of Anne Frank establishes a relationship between art and world history.

Senior Maryanne Mason will graduate with a degree in art. Most of her work involves painting and photography. Her displayed paintings showed scenes of landscapes which often require 20 to 30 hours of time to complete.

"They're all done from photographs," Mason said. "They're places I've actually been."

One unusual medium of graphic design by Janelle Graciano included a set-up of an area satirizing college with fictional board games like Tuitionopoly.

Their artwork was not the students' only concentration. The students involved in the show were also responsible for the layout of the gallery. Junior art major Natalie Taylor explained that students also had to construct and decorate all the walls and bases used in the exhibit.

The Roots of Revival senior art exhibit will display until May 23.



Photos by Daniel Kinnas

Above: A hat series from senior Jodi L. Gillan is displayed in "Roots of Revival." Artists in the exhibition were encouraged to seek inspiration in the creation of PLU's School of Arts, comprised of the art and communication departments.

Left: Senior Amanda R. Lubke's snapshot series on display in Ingram's University Gallery. The Roots of Revival exhibition comprises art from 14 outgoing seniors and will be up until May 23.



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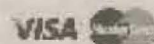
The show will be held Thursday, May 15, 7 - 9 p.m. in the CK room of the University Center. Tickets are \$3 dollars for PLU students and \$5 dollars general admission.

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REVIEWS *film - television - literature - music - cuisine - theater*

'Iron Man' throws first punch



AP Photo

Robert Downey Jr. plays Tony Stark, a billionaire industrialist turned superhero in director Jon Favreau's "Iron Man." The film is Marvel Studios' first self-financed picture. It grossed nearly \$104 million in its opening weekend and is now officially the best reviewed film of 2008 (Source: Rotten Tomatoes).

Summer movie season
kicks off with fun,
fresh superhero flick

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Even as a kid, I always preferred the heroes who created themselves, rather than the ones who were simply born with incredible powers. There's something much more intriguing to me about a hero born of circumstance and necessity. It's the reason I'm drawn to characters like Batman and Iron Man. The latter receives his first big screen treatment with director Jon Favreau's "Iron Man." And if this summer movie season kickoff is any indication of what's to come, we've got a great few months ahead of us, film fans.

Robert Downey Jr. excels here as billionaire industrialist and hedonist Tony Stark. During a visit to Afghanistan to demonstrate a few of his weapons manufacturing company's latest products, Stark is caught in the crossfire of a roadside battle and captured by terrorists. Stark's captors insist that he build them a bomb, but the wily engineer has a different project on his mind.

After constructing a large, robotic suit complete with bullet-resistant armor plating, flamethrowers and booster rockets, Stark escapes captivity and returns to the U.S. a changed man. He realizes that his inventions can help people, rather than simply hurt them, and redesigns the bulky prototype suit to become Iron Man, a heavily armored superhero bristling with crime-fighting tech.

There are quite a few reasons why "Iron Man" works so well and on so many different levels, but much of its appeal can be linked to the strength of the cast. As stated, Downey Jr. is just fantastic—witty, charming and fully believable as a self-indulged playboy turned hero. His performance alone is worth admission. Jeff Bridges is deliciously sleazy as Stark's business partner, Obadiah Stane (who eventually becomes Iron Man's nemesis, Iron Monger), and Gwyneth Paltrow shares some great scenes with Downey Jr. as Stark's



devoted personal assistant and love interest, Pepper Potts. Terrence Howard also turns in a solid performance as Stark's military buddy, Jim Rhodes.

Though "Iron Man" resembles your standard comic book popcorn flick, it transcends the genre in several respects. There's a nice balance of plot and action here, and the audience is allotted plenty of time to get to know and fall in love with the character of Stark. The screenplay is sharp and the dialogue is refreshingly devoid of the cheesy one-liners that plagued films like "Daredevil" and "Fantastic Four." Favreau also deploys CGI reservedly, blending it well with live-action footage and using the slick special effects for the characters and the story, rather than against them (Michael Bay could take a hint).

"Iron Man" will appeal to comic book fans and casual moviegoers alike, with plenty of nods to the comic mythos to sate the fanboy's thirst (stick around after the closing credits for an awesome extra scene featuring Samuel L. Jackson as Marvel badass Nick Fury).

In terms of comic book adaptations, "Iron Man" tops the list with the likes of "Batman Begins," "Spider-Man 2" and "X-Men 2." Notably, this is the first self-financed film of the recently formed Marvel Studios. Let's hope they produce proper treatments for the likes of Captain America, Thor, Dr. Strange and this summer's upcoming "The Incredible Hulk" (in which Downey Jr.'s Stark will reportedly make an appearance).

"Iron Man" is a fun film brimming with great performances and some awesome set pieces (the final confrontation between Iron Man and Iron Monger is especially cool). It is undeniable proof that an action film can be fun and fast-paced without dumbing itself down for the sake of the audience. Plus, this movie comes packaged with the new "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" trailer. So, what are you waiting for? Usher in the season with "Iron Man" and have a great summer at the movies.

Never too old to rock

Senior chorus
proves you never
have to stop doing
what you love

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At first glance, "Young@Heart" can seem slightly contrived. However, what starts off as a gimmicky exploration of a group of senior citizens singing rock n' roll songs, quickly becomes something more. Any perceived schmaltz coming from the directorial end is quickly overpowered by the immense charisma not only of the charming personae of the members of the choir, but also that of their performances. The simple fact is, these people know how to perform. What they may lack in technical skill is more than made up for in sheer stage presence. They may go



out of tune from time to time, but the members of the Young at Heart Chorus put more emotion and energy into their shows than half of the professional groups I have seen.

"Young@Heart" is director Stephen Walker's documentation of the Massachusetts choral group's preparation for a hometown concert in North Hampton. In spite of the challenge of learning a dearth of new songs and dealing with the unexpected deaths of two of their strongest singers, the men and women of Young at Heart prove extraordinarily resilient, and their energy carries through to the last seconds of the film.

The myriad performers, each with their own distinct sense of humor, make every song introduced in the film a treat. Not only is the

singing competent, but many members are surprisingly talented, particularly Fred Knittle whose voice is a dead ringer for Johnny Cash. His subdued, aching take on Coldplay's "Fix You" is simply incredible.

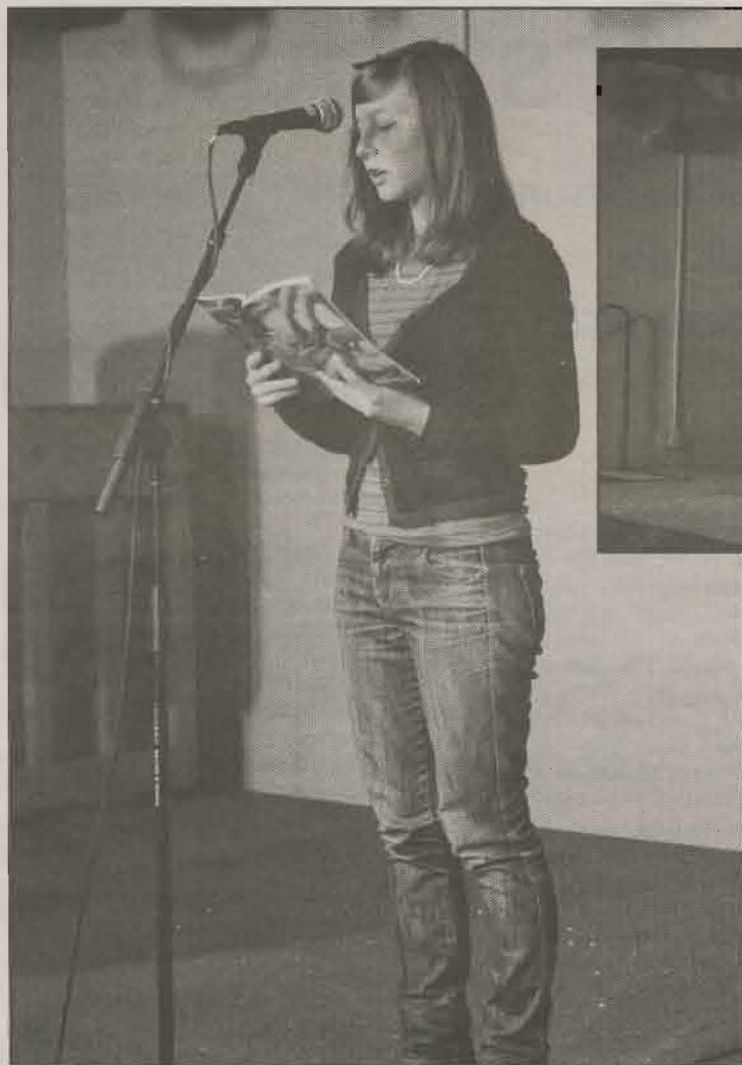
Not just a sugary trifle, the exuberance of "Young@Heart" is underscored by the pervading presence of death in the lives of its performers. However, the film, much as the members of the chorus themselves, continues on with an ultimately positive, albeit bittersweet outlook on life.

In the end, this movie was made as much for the Young at Heart Chorus as it was for its eventual audience. The handful of music video sequences give the chorus members a chance to showcase their infectious personalities while doing something they love. At every turn in the film, they consistently state how much they love doing what they do. It keeps them going. The difference between a patronizing portrait and the respectful one that "Young@Heart" offers is the pleasure on the faces of its actors. Their joie de vivre becomes ours, and that is what makes the film a success.



"Young@Heart" is now playing at Tacoma's Grand Cinema.
Visit www.grandcinema.com for showtimes and ticket information.

Editors, readers pleased with Saxifrage



Senior Jessica Lona reads from her poem "Birds Tied to the Ceiling," a piece that was published in this year's volume of Saxifrage.



Photos by Jan Post

Senior Rebekka Esbjornson braves the open mic at Saxifrage's release party Saturday. About 30 people filtered in and out of the Cave, partaking in art, live readings, food and beverages. **Middle:** Saxifrage co-editor Junior Jake Paikai reads poetry published in Saxifrage.

Release party for literary arts anthology showcases artists, draws modest crowd

Jessica Baldwin
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The release party for the 34th volume of the literary arts anthology Saxifrage drew a modest but enthusiastic crowd in the Cave Saturday. About 30 people filtered in and out throughout the evening, enjoying cake, cheese, punch, art and live readings from published authors.

This year's release party was very informal, with an open microphone and music from KCCR. Though it took nearly ten minutes for the first writer to brave the microphone, several students read by the end of the night. The first reader was senior Jessica Lona, reading her poem called "Birds Tied to the Ceiling." Soon there were many queuing up to read their poems and essays. These writers included Saxifrage co-editors senior Andrew Lucchesi and junior Jake Paikai.

"It was a difficult choice," Lucchesi said of the judging process. "There was a lot of good stuff that came in, and we had to turn a lot of good stuff down. We were able to consider longer pieces. We printed the same amount of stuff as usual, but a lot of longer pieces."

Poets and essayists were not the only artists to

share their work. Artists like sophomore Alyssa Wanner had their artwork and photography on display.

"A friend of mine was involved with Saxifrage and told me to submit," Wanner said. "I was really excited. I've never done anything like this. There are a lot of good artists, and I'm just excited to see what everyone else has done."

Saxifrage advisor professor Solveig Robinson was pleased with the publication.

"I am impressed with how clean and put-together it is," Robinson said. "I received an early copy for editing and there was not much to edit. The three editors worked well together."

Possibly nobody was as pleased with this year's effort as Paikai.

"I loved the way it turned out," he said. "I'm really proud of this book; it's my greatest accomplishment. It flows well, it's beautiful."

Paikai rounded out the night by bringing Lucchesi and sophomore Matt Click to the front, explaining that Lucchesi would be graduating and Click would retain the position of co-editor for volume 35 along with Paikai.

Many were just as impressed with being able to hear the writers read as they were with the publication.

"I was part of the judging process," senior Whitney Levis said. "It was a great opportunity. It was nice to finally put faces to the pieces."

Levis was not the only person who felt honored to be in attendance.

"It was amazing to sit with such brilliant writers and see their [work]," Jacque Rush said.

Free copies of Saxifrage Vol. 34 are available across campus. Make sure you grab a copy.

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THEN SHE FOUND ME (R)

Fri: 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00
Sat/Sun: 12:15, 2:30, *4:40, 6:50, 9:00
Mon-Wed: 4:40, 6:50, 9:00
Thurs: 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00

* a discussion will follow Saturday's 4:40 show

THE COUNTERFEITERS (R)

Fri: 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50
Sat/Sun: 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50
Mon-Wed: 4:30, 6:40, 8:50
Thurs: 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50

YOUNG@HEART (PG)

Fri: 3:40, 6:00, 8:20
Sat/Sun: 1:15, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20
Mon-Thurs: 3:40, 6:00, 8:20

THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE (PG-13)

Sat: 10:30 am

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May 9, 10, 16, 17 at 8 p.m., \$5 PLU, \$8 general
May 18 at 2 p.m., \$5 PLU, \$8 general

Directed by Jeff Clapp

Starring Steven Davis, Clare Edgerton, Kimberly Henry, Val Kissel, Tristan Morris, Paul Richter, Travis Tingvall, Julie Wolfson, Brian Wehmhoefer

Ultimate Reigns over PLU player's life



Photo courtesy of Kendall Jeske

Senior Kendall Jeske has played for the PLU Reign Ultimate Frisbee team for all of his college career. Jeske hopes to continue playing Ultimate after graduation, as well as attend culinary school.

Tyler Scott
MAST SPORTS REPORTER
scotttj@plu.edu

Most students at PLU has experience with a Frisbee. Granted, the experience may range anywhere from throwing a disc to catching a disc or maybe accidentally (or intentionally) being hit in the back of the head with a disc.

"Frisbee, the actual piece of plastic, has brought so many people together," Kendall Jeske said. "I've met so many people from just throwing the disc, or almost hitting people with a disc, or almost getting hit by a disc."

Jeske, a religion major and four-year member of the PLU Reign Ultimate Frisbee team, is rarely seen around campus without a disc and he's even been known to pull out a disc during breaks in classes.

A laidback personality and lifelong love of sports helped direct Jeske toward the Reign in his first year.

"One of the guys who lived with me in Ordal talked about going out and playing Frisbee, so I just told him I'd go out and toss with him," Jeske explains.

The PLU Reign is a club sport with a very relaxed demeanor. Jeske explains that while the team does compete in about 4-6 tournaments each spring, "the Ultimate team is really based on having fun, running around with a bunch of friends."

Jeske gets excited every time he sees people tossing discs around campus because he knows from his own experience the dynamic that a simple piece of plastic can add to the PLU experience.

"I have thrown with more people than I can count, just randomly on campus," Jeske said. "I've thrown with Dr. Torvend of the Religion Department. I've thrown with President Anderson. I've thrown with alumni and incoming freshmen."

When Jeske first came to PLU he considered trying out for the soccer team. He said he considers himself a decent player on the soccer field and believes that he would have loved the experience of playing for the Lutes, but after choosing the Ultimate route he has come to believe that "there's just something different about competing on the club level. With how relaxed the ultimate Frisbee players are, I think it really fits with my personality."

Jeske said the Reign has always been a competi-

tive team. The players open the season at the end of February with a tournament at Stanford University in California, playing against countless teams from up and down the West Coast. The season consists of 4-6 tournaments, with each team playing somewhere between six and nine games during each weekend tournament.

Jeske likens Ultimate to football in that there is typically an offensive and defensive "line" that check in and out of the game depending on the situation. As one of the more experienced players on the offensive line, Jeske often controlled and distributed the disc as a sort of point guard on the field.

The Reign has maintained consistent success during Jeske's time on the team, having made it to Regionals in three of his four years.

Jeske describes the challenges of competing against top teams, pointing out that the Reign has beaten the University of Washington's Ultimate team in the past, but in the end he believes that the relaxed atmosphere of the game is one of its most appealing traits.

"We love seeing new people out at practice who are just tossing around," Jeske said. "Come on out and see if you like the sport. If you want to learn something, we're here to teach you. If you just want to throw it around a bit, that's cool, too."

As his time at PLU comes to a close, Jeske ponders what his legacy will be with the Reign.

"I would hope people would remember me as someone who helped the team and who helped teach people, someone who really played hard," Jeske said.

"However, I have a bad feeling that I'll mostly be remembered as the guy who got hurt a lot. At the same time, I think I'll be remembered fondly in that role."

Perhaps it was a bit of poetic irony that saw Jeske end his PLU Ultimate career in a cast. While playing against UW a couple of weeks ago, the senior ran into an opposing player and broke a couple of fingers on his left hand. Jeske admits that he was playing with a little extra intensity in his final tournament with the Reign, and he even convinced his coach to allow him to continue playing even with the injury.

After graduation, Jeske is looking at possibly traveling to Denver to play club Ultimate and attend culinary school. He recognizes that culinary school might not seem to relate to a Religion degree, "but it's what I want to do at this point with my one wild and precious life. That, and play Frisbee."

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Crew competes in California



Photo courtesy of Justin Hull

The PLU crew team competed in the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association championships last weekend in Sacramento, Calif. The top performers for the Lutes were juniors Kat Jensen and Amber Iverson, who placed third in the grand final race in the pairs competition. Other top performers include the men's lightweight four team that took fifth in the grand final race. Every race held on the course is 200m in length.

Softball coach moves on after 14 seasons

Noren leaves PLU after his 402nd win; relocates to Life Christian

Tyler Scott
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As sophomore Carly Starke's ball cleared the left field fence April 27, an era in Pacific Lutheran softball came to an end. The walk-off homerun in the bottom of the eighth inning gave Rick Noren his 402nd and final victory as head coach of the Lutes.

Noren has accepted the position of athletic director at Life Christian Academy, meaning that his highly successful 14-year run as softball coach will come to an end this month. The Lutes won their final seven games of the season to pull to an even .500 record at 19-19 on the final day and give Noren his 400th win on his last weekend as coach.

"We never talked about reaching 400 wins as a team at all, but I think they thought it would be a worthwhile achievement, and so when it occurred they all seemed to know that that was the situation," Noren said. "That was really special."



Noren

In his 14 years at PLU, Noren compiled a 402-145-1 record, leading his team to eight Northwest Conference championship and national tournament competitions. His 2002 team finished the regular season 32-0, achieved the top rank in the country and finished in fourth place at the NCAA Division III College World Series. His 1996 and 1997 teams finished fifth and third, respectively, in the NAIA national tournament.

"There are a lot of great ones. The games are a part of it, but really it's the people, the relationships, having the alumni come back, the phone calls from former players, the wedding invitations, birth announcements, my kids playing with alumni's kids. Those are the memories that will really stick around."

Noren considers this new opportunity as a great new challenge in his life. His children attend the school, which is associated with the church that his family attends. He explains that "outside of PLU, [Life Christian] has been the most important place that my family has been and spends time."

Life as an athletic director will be completely different from what Noren has grown accustomed to during the past 14 years. While he had numerous administrative duties at PLU involving athletic facility management, game management and handling of student workers, his main job has always been coaching. This will not be the case at Life Christian Academy.

"There have been days at the end of this year when I really say, 'yeah, I'm going to miss that,'" Noren said. "You miss the post-game opportunities for discussion and meetings, all the pre-game preparation. Practice to me has always been a very much more enjoyable time than the games themselves, and that part of it I will miss."

Pacific Lutheran athletic director Laurie Turner explained that Noren will be difficult to replace, both in terms

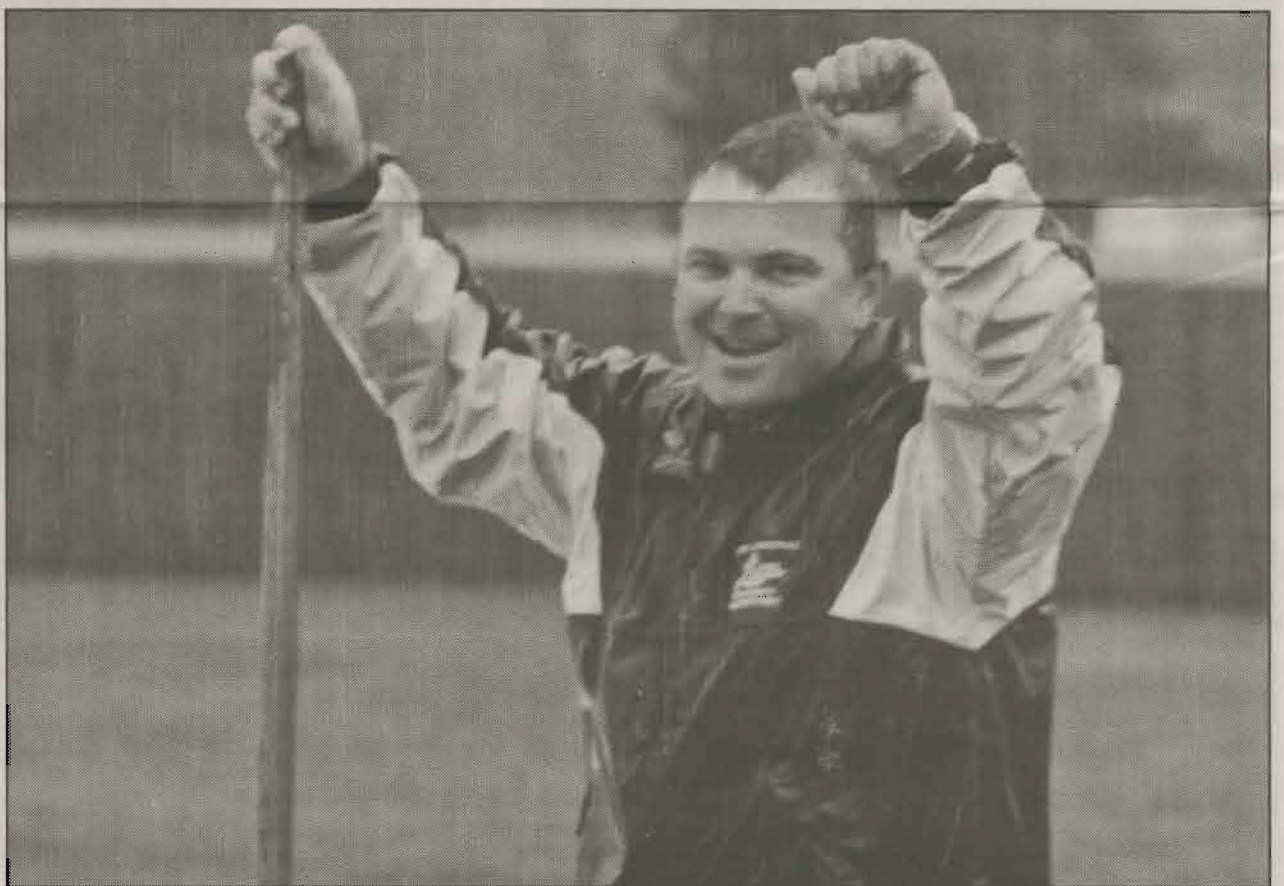


Photo courtesy of Lisa Gilbert

Softball coach Rick Noren celebrates in the rain last season as the Lutes battled the weather and Willamette. After 14 years of coaching, Noren will not be coaching at PLU next year, but instead he will relocate to Life Christian School where he will be the Athletic Director.

of his many commitments to the department itself and his immense success on the softball field.

"He's been the face of PLU softball for many, many years, and he has had a lot of success in that role," Turner said. "He's going to be greatly missed."

Noren explains that the change will be difficult, but that he believes he is doing what is best for his family, his children and himself. What began as a part-time softball coaching position at his alma mater 14 years ago became a much more intensely active full-time position.

"I know for Rick the opportunity that presented itself was something that he was not going to turn down," Turner said. "He has put his heart and soul into our softball program and now he is moving on to face a new challenge."

But while Noren might not be working at PLU full-time after this year, he by no means plans to disappear into the sunset. He talks about the new opportunity to come watch softball games as a spectator and cheer for the team without the pressures of lineup cards and in-game strategy.

"This has been and will always be a great place for my family to call a second home," Noren said. "It will always be here and I fully expect that we will always be here. My son is nine years old and even at this time he thinks that this is where he wants to go to school."

Noren said, the support from the team was fantastic. He explains that the team came together the whole weekend, even coming from behind in the final game to force an extra inning and set up Starke's game-winning homerun.

"When Carly hit that last homerun, it was one of the best moments that I'll ever remember from my time here," Noren said. "It is very rare to have a walk-off homerun, much less to have one in your final game. That was very special."

When asked how he hopes to be remembered at Pacific Lutheran, Noren reflects on his time here and reveals that he sees himself as only part of a team, even as head coach.

"Never has this been about what Rick Noren believes in," Noren said. "It is about what the coaching staff believes in, what the department believes in, what the university believes in."

"I hope that is what I am remembered for: always trying to do what was in the best interest of PLU, and to make this school and department and team the very best that it could be."

Noren reflects back on the people and the relationships that he will remember from the past 14 years.

"There are people here who have made tremendous impressions on who I am today," Noren said. "There will be lifelong friends from my time here at PLU. Players, coaches, parents, all things involved with PLU softball. They have been involved with my kids' lives since the day they were born, and they will continue to be."

"The opportunities that have surfaced here have been extremely rewarding and have built up a tremendous tool chest of opportunities that I will be able to use down the road at Life Christian, and I use them in my daily life with my family. All of these relationships are priceless."

Christmas comes early for sports fans

Collin GUILDNER



April and May are stocked full of events that will rock your socks

This is the most wonderful time of the year. I have officially started wearing shorts. The sun is starting to come out. The birds are chirping. Summer is in the air.

Yada Yada Yada. True, the seasons are turning, but not the seasons you may be thinking. This is the most wonderful time of year for a sports fan. Honestly, there is something for everyone. If you are a die-hard fan or just an occasional sports passer by. There have been more outstanding sporting events in the past month than the amount of sexcapades Roger Clemens has been accused of.

Starting with March Madness, which may seem ages ago, running right through the end of the NBA Basketball season. I could talk about how the NBA playoffs last far too long, but we can get into that another day.

This year's NCAA basketball tourney did not disappoint. The tournament generates an estimated \$2.25 billion in illegal betting, according to USA Today. The yearly office poolers could not be more happy with this year's final four, all four No. 1 seeds and a spectacular overtime final between Kansas and Memphis.

Just as the NCAA basketball season comes to a close, the boys of summer take the field. Sometimes braving the freeze and snow of the cold weather cities. I got snowed on at Safeco Field on the last day of March. Opening day is full of excitement. Every team is in the race; thoughts of a World Series title can even dance through the heads of desperate Mariner fans. Baseball brings the official end of winter and start of spring, even if it is still snowing.

Every April the PGA tour makes a stop at Augusta National golf course in Augusta, Ga. This even is hard to top. I know that golf may not be the favorite of spectator sports to some people, but the beauty of this golf course takes my breath away every year. Especially on an HD television. Though Tiger Woods will not be chasing the grand slam this year, I could not help but be impressed with the play of Trevor Immelman, the first South African to win the Masters since his childhood idol Gary Player.

OK, so I know there have to be some football fans out there asking, "What is there for me?" Well, I am sorry to say that if you are asking this question, you are not a true football fan. The NFL draft ranks only second in viewer ship to the Super Bowl for any event on the NFL calendar. This makes sense to me, college football fans tune in to see where their favorite player ends up, and pro fans wait the hours between their teams picks just to see who the next special team standout

might be. Who could miss this? Don't look at me, I wasted a whole weekend. Just ask my history professor.

I have never been to a live hockey game. I don't really understand the sport. I am satisfied with the few minutes of highlights of spectacular goals and saves I get on Sportcenter every night. But add the NHL playoffs to the list. And this year we have the two young stars of the league, Sydney Crosby of the Pittsburgh Penguins and Alex Ovechkin of the Washington Capitals, tearing up the ice. At least it will be exciting for our friends up north, eh?

For you sophisticated folks, with your fancy suits and ravishing hats, the first leg of the Triple Crown opens the season for colts, fillies, and thoroughbreds. The Kentucky Derby, for some people, is the most exciting four minutes in sports. This year the event ended in tragedy, when the horse finishing in second place, Eight Belles, broke both her front legs after finishing the race and had to be euthanized on the track. These often-overlooked athletes are being bred more and more for speed with less emphasis put on durability. Sad sight to see. But I don't want to take away from the victory of Big Brown, who will look to win the second leg of the Triple Crown at the Belmont Stakes in a few weeks.

So, I guess I can dedicate a few words to the NBA playoffs, that have now been going on for three years, and we are still in the second round. I'm kidding, of course, but seriously, I don't need to see the team with the best record in the league beat down on a team with a sub .500 record for four games. Even if I do have to wait until I'm 50, a Celtics, Lakers NBA finals would be quite exciting.

So April, so May, I would just like to thank you. Thank you for coming around every year and picking me back up on my feet. The dull of winter is over. Without any excitement since the Super Bowl, I have now been satisfied. And now the excitement is all but over. Just in time for finals week.



Top: The jockey of Big Brown celebrates after winning the Kentucky Derby Saturday. The race marks the beginning of the Triple Crown season in horse racing. **Above:** Mario Chalmers and the Kansas Jayhawks celebrate after winning the NCAA title at the beginning of April. The NCAA tournament is just one of many major sporting events during the past few months.

Scorecard

Men's Tennis

Final Standings

| Team | NWC | % | All | % |
|------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| Whitman | 16-0 | 1.000 | 20-9 | .690 |
| PLU | 14-2 | .875 | 14-10 | .583 |
| Linfield | 11-5 | .688 | 11-8 | .579 |
| Whitworth | 10-6 | .625 | 13-10 | .565 |
| Willamette | 8-8 | .500 | 8-9 | .471 |
| UPS | 7-9 | .438 | 7-9 | .438 |
| L&C | 3-13 | .188 | 4-16 | .200 |
| George Fox | 2-14 | .125 | 2-17 | .105 |
| Pacific | 1-15 | .062 | 1-16 | .059 |

NWC Tournament Champion: Whitman

(Individual Records as of 4/23)

Singles:

- Kevin Floyd - 10-11 (9-2 NWC)
 - Justin Larimore - 10-10 (8-2 NWC)
 - Justin Peterson - 12-11 (9-4 NWC)
 - Michael Manser - 12-8 (7-3 NWC)
 - Tory Silvestrin - 9-7 (8-1 NWC)
 - Scott Sheldon - 11-9 (10-4 NWC)
- Doubles:**
- Justin Larimore/Kevin Floyd: 10-5 (7-0 NWC)
 - Justin Peterson/Michel Manser: 6-8 (4-2 NWC)
 - Jared Vidano/Scott Sheldon: 6-5 (5-1 NWC)

Women's Tennis

Standings

| Team | NWC | % | All | % |
|------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| Linfield | 16-0 | 1.000 | 16-5 | .762 |
| Whitworth | 14-2 | .875 | 16-4 | .800 |
| L&C | 11-5 | .688 | 11-7 | .611 |
| Whitman | 10-6 | .625 | 12-11 | .522 |
| Willamette | 8-8 | .500 | 8-11 | .421 |
| PLU | 7-9 | .438 | 9-10 | .474 |
| George Fox | 3-13 | .188 | 4-16 | .200 |
| UPS | 2-14 | .125 | 3-15 | .167 |
| Pacific | 1-15 | .062 | 1-17 | .056 |

NWC Tournament Champion: Linfield

(Individual records as of 4/23)

Singles:

- Erika Feltus - 9-12 (7-8 NWC)
 - Liz Currey - 14-6 (10-4 NWC)
 - Ashley Coats - 14-8 (10-6 NWC)
 - Ashley Brooks - 13-9 (10-6 NWC)
 - Emily Starr - 9-2 (7-0 NWC)
 - Esther Ham - 8-10 (4-8 NWC)
- Doubles:**
- Erika Feltus/Ashley Coats: 13-8 (9-6 NWC)
 - Liz Currey/Ashley Brooks: 5-6 (3-3 NWC)
 - Emily Starr/Morgan Jones: 2-2 (1-0 NWC)

Baseball

Final Standings

| Team | NWC | % | All | % |
|------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Linfield | 25-7 | .781 | 29-7 | .806 |
| George Fox | 24-8 | .750 | 25-11 | .694 |
| PLU | 21-11 | .656 | 22-12-2 | .639 |
| Pacific | 17-15 | .531 | 18-18 | .500 |
| Willamette | 16-15 | .516 | 18-19 | .486 |
| UPS | 15-17 | .469 | 17-18 | .486 |
| L&C | 12-20 | .375 | 14-23 | .378 |
| Whitworth | 12-20 | .375 | 11-25 | .306 |
| Whitman | 2-30 | .062 | 2-34 | .056 |

(Stats as of 4/30)

Team Batting Average Leaders: Min. 140 AB

- Ryan Aratani - .397
- Brandon Sales - .388
- Jordan Post - .358

Team Home Run Leaders:

- Jordan Post - 6
- Matt Akridge - 5

Team RBI Leaders:

- Jordan Post - 34
- Brandon Sales - 31
- Ryan Aratani - 27

Team ERA Leaders: Min. 50 IP

- Rob Blecker - 2.51
- Trey Watt - 3.30

Team Wins Leaders:

- Rob Blecker/Trey Watt - 6

Team Strikeout Leaders:

- Trey Watt - 56
- Rob Blecker - 49

Softball

Final Standings

| Team | NWC | % | All | % |
|------------|-------|------|--------|------|
| Linfield | 24-2 | .923 | 35-3 | .921 |
| Pacific | 19-7 | .731 | 30-8 | .789 |
| Willamette | 19-9 | .679 | 25-11 | .694 |
| PLU | 16-10 | .615 | 19-19 | .500 |
| Whitworth | 13-12 | .520 | 16-21 | .432 |
| UPS | 7-16 | .304 | 11-23 | .324 |
| George Fox | 3-21 | .125 | 3-27-1 | .113 |
| L&C | 2-26 | .071 | 3-34 | .081 |

(Stats as of 4/30)

Team Batting Average Leaders: Min. 80 AB

- Caitlin Brown - .393
- Heather Walling - .373
- Rachel Wheeler-Hoyt - .347

Team Home Run Leaders:

- Vanessa Bryant - 3
- Rachel Wheeler-Hoyt - 3
- Stephanie Mullen - 2

Team RBI Leaders:

- Rachel Wheeler-Hoyt - 26
- Carly Starke - 17
- Vanessa Bryant - 17

Team ERA Leaders: Min. 100 IP

- Rachel Wheeler-Hoyt - 3.16
- Hadley Schmitt - 3.39

Team Wins Leader:

- Rachel Wheeler-Hoyt - 11

Team Strikeout Leaders:

- Hadley Schmitt - 103
- Rachel Wheeler-Hoyt - 51

Spring sports 2008

Lutes hit, pitch, run and serve their way through another season



Photo by Jenna Callaway
Senior Lisa Gilbert prepares for a pitch during this season. The Lutes softball team finished with a .500 record and third in the Northwest Conference. Coach Rick Noren recently announced that this would be his last season.



Photo by Chris Hunt
Sophomore Rob Bleecker throws a pitch for the Lutes during the past baseball season. Bleecker finished with a 2.51 ERA. The Lutes, coming off a NWC championship season last year, finished third with a record of 24-14-2.

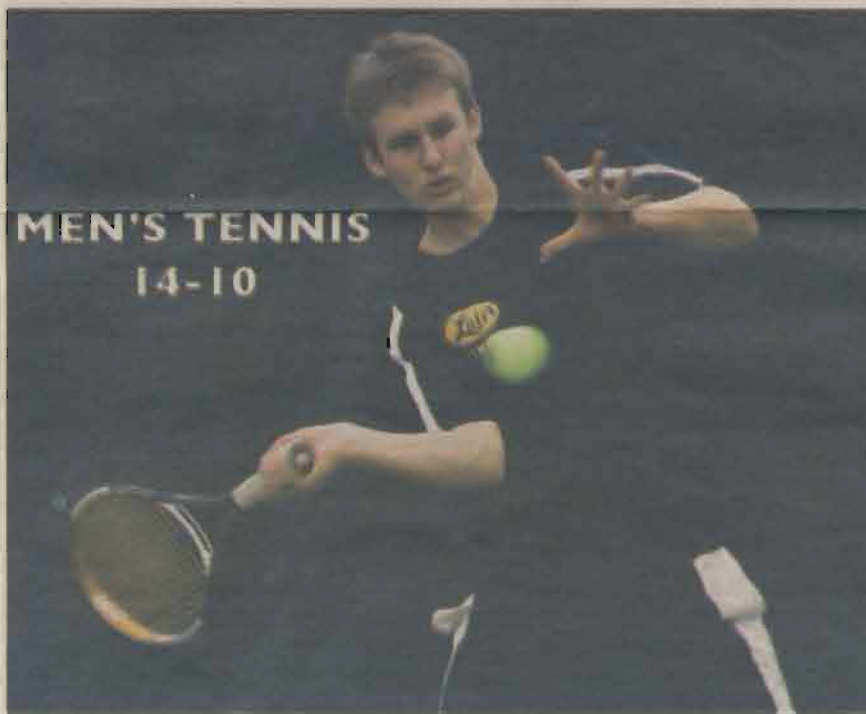


Photo by Chris Hunt
Sophomore Justin Peterson prepares to hit the ball during a match this season. The Lutes men's tennis team had a strong season, finishing an impressive second in the NWC in what was supposed to be a rebuilding season.



Photo by Nick Dawson
Senior Erika Feltus attempts to hit a winner during a tennis match this season. The Lutes finished an impressive fourth in the Northwest Conference.



Photo by Chuck Hacker
Sophomore Brian Price throws the javelin during the PLU Invitational track meet this season. In their only chance to compete on the PLU campus all season, the Lutes had perfect weather to host their competition.