

# THE MAST

pacific lutheran university

**RAIN, SLEET  
OR SNOW  
WEATHER  
HAMPER LUTES IN  
SPLIT WITH BRUINS  
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**DANCE 2008  
PLU DANCE ENSEMBLE  
PREPARES ANNUAL  
PERFORMANCE  
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APRIL 4, 2008

www.plu.edu/~mast

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## Lutes leave homes to renovate others struck by Katrina



Photos courtesy of Campus Ministry

Music and worship coordinator Elise Erickson primes a wall Wednesday, March 26 in New Orleans, La. Erickson was one of three Campus Ministry staff present.

### Students go to New Orleans to make a difference

Mike Engh  
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Many students used the week off from classes during spring break to rest and relax. But for a group of PLU students and staff, the week was spent working, learning and praying in New Orleans, La. as part of the Campus Ministry Alternative Spring Break.

The crew of 15 students and three staff members worked in several homes that were severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina, which blew through the Gulf Coast region more than 2 and 1/2 years ago. The group also took several tours of the city, where they were able to see places like the famous French Quarter as well as the Lower 9th Ward, the neighborhood that was most damaged by the hurricane. They also spoke with local residents and listened to personal stories about the hurricane and its effect on the city.

"It's great to be able to show the people of New Orleans that they are still cared about, that they haven't been forgotten," wrote first-year Krista Sparks on the Alternative Spring Break blog on the Campus Ministry Web site during the trip.

Two of the houses that the group worked on only required finishing touches after months of reconstruction work by other volunteer efforts. This work included interior and exterior painting and drywall construction. However, one house required a complete gutting and clearing of the interior of the house. Students said they were amazed that some houses seemed to have not been touched since Hurricane Katrina.

"It was amazing to see that there were houses where no work had been done," junior Annie Prevost said. "Looking at the poor condition of the house, it looked like only a couple of months had passed since the hurricane, not two years."

Grace Lutheran Church provided

See break  
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Junior Kate Burdekin and sophomore Kelly Ryan worked and bonded during the trip.

### Student anxiety rises with gas prices

Emily Hoppeler-Treichler  
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Oil prices have been rising steadily since late 2001, and March 13 broke the record of highest crude oil prices and highest national average gas prices, as the value of the U.S. dollar sank to record lows in comparison with the Euro and the Swiss franc.

*"Now all I have money for is gas and my cell phone. How am I supposed to buy essentials?"*

McKenzie Murphy  
junior

As of late Monday night, crude oil dropped to \$101.58 per barrel. The highest record price of crude oil, adjusted for inflation, was recorded March 13, at \$111.80 a barrel.

The average national price for regular unleaded gas was at \$3.287 per gallon Monday. In the Tacoma area, the average price of regular unleaded gas is slightly higher, at around \$3.45 a gallon.

The rapidly rising prices in gas and oil have had a marked effect on PLU students.

Junior Carla Gilmore said that the price of gas has risen so much that she has to limit her driving.

"I don't drive unless I absolutely have to," Gilmore said.

Junior McKenzie Murphy said she was frustrated at the "ridiculous" price to fill up her gas tank.

"Do you know how much it cost me to fill my tank? \$52!" Murphy said.

Murphy said that only a year ago, it cost around \$35, and when she first got her car three years ago, it was barely \$20 to fill the tank.

The cost of gas has forced students to reconsider their other expenditures as well.

"Now all I have money for is gas and my cell phone—how am I supposed to buy essentials?" Murphy said.

Gilmore said she agreed, "I can't even afford books, because it costs so much just to drive a little."

Students are starting to look at other ways to get where they need to go due to the price of gas.

"I'm looking for alternative ways to get places: carpools with friends, things like that, but it's still expensive," Gilmore said.

Whitney Channell, a student at UW Tacoma who participates in activities at the PLU campus, said she's considering giving up her car altogether.

"I'm looking into taking buses and other ways to get to class. Maybe biking," Channell said.

Gilmore said she plans to compute how much money she spends on gas a month, and if it's more than the price of a monthly bus pass with Pierce Transit, currently priced at \$54 per month, she'll switch to the bus.

"I just don't see the point of driving anymore if I can find a cheaper way to get places," Gilmore said.

Channell said she agreed, "I'm considering a bus pass or a ticket book for Pierce. Whatever I need so I can stop stressing out about how much it's costing me to go to class, or church or see my friends."

The gas issue may turn out to be a longer-term issue than most students can handle by just driving less. Despite Vice President Cheney's plans to discuss the oil prices on his upcoming trip to the Middle East, projections predict both gas and oil prices will continue to rise into the summer, with gas prices reaching more than \$4 per gallon.

More information on the Pierce Transit system is available at [www.piercetransit.org](http://www.piercetransit.org). For additional resources on the price of crude oil and gas, visit [http://topics.cnn.com/topics/oil\\_prices](http://topics.cnn.com/topics/oil_prices).

STATE, NATION and WORLD BRIEFINGS

# Local to Global

## Zimbabwe's state paper acknowledges Mugabe's election loss



Photo by Tsvangirayi Mukwazi, AP Wire

People queue for bread in Harare, Wednesday, April 2. A third of the population depends on imported food handouts. Life expectancy has fallen from 60 to 35 years and shortages of food, medicine, water, electricity and fuel are chronic.

Angus Shaw  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

President Robert Mugabe's long-ruling party lost its majority Wednesday, bolstering opposition claims that impoverished Zimbabweans voted for change in the struggling southern African nation.

The opposition also claimed victory for leader Morgan Tsvangirai in Saturday's presidential vote, but the state-controlled newspaper predicted a runoff — the first official admission that Mugabe, the nation's autocratic leader of 28 years, had not won re-election.

The Movement for Democratic Change expressed confidence Tsvangirai could win a runoff with an even larger margin, but

there were fears an embattled Mugabe would roll out every weapon in his considerable political and government arsenal to stay in power.

Election observer Imani Countess of the Washington-based TransAfrica Forum told The Associated Press that the most alarming conversation she had in Zimbabwe was with a senior official of the ZANU-PF party discussing a runoff.

"He was very calm and jovial but made it very, very clear that if there was a runoff, that ZANU would use all the state organs at its disposal to ensure victory, and that is very, very worrisome," she said.

Countess, whose group promotes Africa's interests in the U.S., said the powerful elite that

has benefited from Mugabe's patronage since independence from Britain had a vested interest in ensuring he wins.

The 84-year-old Mugabe, who hasn't commented on the voting, was accused of stealing previous elections that Western observers said were marred by violence, fraud and intimidation.

This election was different because local results were posted outside polling stations for the first time. That let independent monitors and party representatives make tallies independent of the official electoral commission, which reported no figures in the presidential race while slowly releasing results in parliamentary contests, including losses by eight Cabinet ministers.

## Bill Clinton irked by Obama endorsement

Laura Kurtzman  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

During a private meeting with California Democrats this past weekend, Clinton grew red-faced as he talked about how he expected New Mexico gov. Bill Richardson, who was a member of Clinton's Cabinet, to back Hillary Rodham Clinton for the presidential nomination or at least stay neutral, according to several people who attended.

Instead, Richardson endorsed Obama late March, saying he's a "once-in-a-lifetime leader."

"He sort of gets a little redder and redder and redder, but he wasn't off the deep end as I had seen him in the past," said Inola Henry, an uncommitted superdelegate. "It was sort of like, 'Gee, I'm a martyr.' He seemed more hurt than anything."

Clinton used his appearance at the state Democratic Party convention in San Jose to lobby

California's 21 uncommitted superdelegates to support his wife.

After posing for a group photograph with the former president, superdelegate Rachel Binah told Clinton she was disappointed that one of his allies, strategist James Carville, had compared Richardson to Judas after he endorsed Obama.

Clinton, according to several people present, distanced himself from Carville's remarks. But he went on to say that he had not expected Richardson to endorse the Illinois senator, especially since the New Mexico governor had invited Clinton to Santa Fe to watch the Super Bowl on Feb. 3.

"He did say he certainly had been led to believe that he was going to get the endorsement," Henry said Wednesday. She was one of about 15 superdelegates — some uncommitted, others backing Clinton — who attended Sunday's meeting with Clinton before he addressed the convention.

## Ireland's Prime Minister announces resignation

Shawn Pogatchnik  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, the common-touch Dubliner who tended Ireland's economic boom and the blossoming of Belfast peace, announced his resignation Wednesday under a darkening cloud of financial scandal.

The announcement stunned Ireland and much of his Cabinet, whose members stood by Ahern during an 18-month battle against allegations he accepted secret cash payments from businessmen in the 1990s.

Ahern, who governed Ireland through 11 years of growing prosperity at home and peace in

Northern Ireland, maintained his innocence.

"I have never received a corrupt payment, and I've never done anything to dishonor any office I have held," Ahern told a hastily called news conference on the steps of government headquarters. "I know in my heart of hearts I've done no wrong and wronged no one."

Ahern said he would also step down as leader of Fianna Fail, Ireland's largest party, on May 6, one week after he addresses Congress in Washington — an honor that reflects his pivotal role in Northern Ireland peacemaking over the past decade.

Opposition leaders said Ahern tarnished his legacy by

not resigning sooner.

Kenny said Ahern's administration, including heir apparent Deputy Prime Minister Brian Cowen, was complicit in a campaign of deceit.

"Not one of them confronted him. Not one of them disowned him. Not one of them were prepared to say that taking large sums of money was wrong, that it was wrong for (Ahern) not to pay his taxes, that it was wrong to use Fianna Fail money for private use," Kenny said.

Analysts agreed that Ahern's successor, almost certainly Cowen, will not call an early election — and will face much tougher economic times.

# SOAC WEEK

## School of Arts and Communication Week Calendar of Events

### Sunday, April 6

3-5 p.m.: Jamie Rottle senior BME saxophone recital, Lagerquist MBR.

5:30-7:30 p.m.: Kari Liebert senior BME vocal recital, Lagerquist MBR.

6-8 p.m.: Premiere of Andrea Calcagnon's global warming documentary, Ingram 100.

7:30-9:30 p.m.: Morgan Ostendorf & Maggie Smith senior BME vocal recital, Lagerquist, MBR.

### Monday, April 7

9:15-10:20 a.m.: Alumni panel, Ingram 109.

9:15-10:20 a.m.: David Keyes & Chuck Hines ceramics demonstration, Ingram 144.

12 p.m.: Keynote with Monique Fouquet, Lagerquist, MBR.

12:30 p.m.: Tragedian advertising and street theater, Red Square.

1:45-2:50 p.m.: Keyes & Hines (same demonstration).

1:45-2:50 p.m.: Playwriting class, Eastvold 227.

3:40-5:25 p.m.: "Monoprints" available for viewing, Ingram 126.

5-7 p.m.: SOAC Art Walk, Ingram lobby.

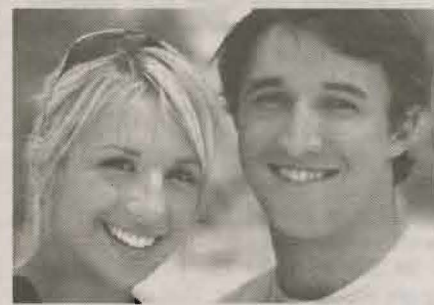
7-8 p.m.: Dean's reception for alumni, staff & faculty.

7-8:30 p.m.: Public debate (TBA) Ingram 100.

**Events continue Tuesday through Saturday.**

-For more information, visit [www.plu.edu/~soac](http://www.plu.edu/~soac)

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# Exhibit immigrates to Tacoma



Photos by Barbara Beirne, courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

After leaving Iran, Sohale Mehrmanesh, 16, and his family came to the United States so they could freely practice their Baha'i faith. Mehrmanesh says that he is afraid that all Arab people will be suspected of being terrorists.

## Teenagers share their tales of moving to the United States

Ana Ramos  
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A number of recent immigrant teenagers tell their story in the new Washington State History Museum exhibit "Becoming American: Teenagers and Immigration."

The exhibit, which debuted March 22, is a "very evocative story about what it's like to be in a new country, to honor one's parents in a new way and adopting new American ways," said Redmond Barnett, head of exhibits for the Washington State History Museum.

The story is told through pictures and quotes of 50 first-generation immigrants and children of immigrants from various parts of the world.

Some stories are optimistic. "Now I can go to school. This country is good," Diana Ingabire, 15, said.

Others comment on the hardships of cultural difference.

"After the terrible events at the World Trade Center, I'm afraid that

all Arab people will be suspected of terrorism," Sohale Mehrmanesh, 16, who immigrated from Iran said.

To provide a better view into the complexity of the newcomers' lives, the photographs are taken in the subjects' own communities, including a basketball court, a place of worship, at a parent's shop or inside their new homes in the U.S.

Barnett said that the museum chose this particular exhibit for a number of reasons. The first was its availability. It is part of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service program.

SITES is one of four Smithsonian national outreach programs that shares Smithsonian collections and research programs in Washington D.C., with millions of people around the country.

This particular exhibit has been traveling the country since last March, with its premier at New York's Ellis Island Immigration Museum. Its next scheduled destination is Los Angeles.

The second reason is that the timing coincides with "In Our Voices," a film featuring interviews with seven local members of the Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

This film was developed locally and supplemented by a Smithsonian Community Grant. It covers first generation immigrants as they discuss their expectations and experiences as young people in a new country. The film will accompany "Becoming American."

The entire exhibit is available until June 1.

For more information on this and future exhibits, visit <http://www.washingtonhistory.org/wshm/exhibits-events.htm>.

### Admission:

\$8.00 adult

Special rates and discounts for military, families, groups, seniors (60+), and students (6-17)

Free for museum members, children 5 and under, and on Thursdays from 5:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

### Hours:

Tuesday – Saturday 10-5 p.m.

Sunday: 12-5 p.m.



Nidhi V. Pamidimukkala, 16, discusses her initial struggles immigrating. She describes the balancing of her Indian roots and American culture.

# Supplements versus dieting

## Sports dietician talks to athletes about being careful when taking supplements

Amanda Clancy  
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With claims of enhanced endurance and increased muscle gain, it's no wonder some athletes want to include supplements in their diet during training.

Sport-enhancing agents, known as ergogenic aids, can be seen with many different titles in their multi-billion dollar industry.

Many popular supplements among college students include Creatine, NO Xplode, NO2 and different amino acids and growth hormones. Although these are legal, they affect people differently.

"Athletes require more supplements than the average person, but you have to listen to your body," sports dietician Emily Edison said Feb. 26 at the presentation "Student Athlete Nutrition Topics."

Through an NCAA CHAMPS/Life Skills analysis, PLU assistant athletic trainer Jennifer Thomas, surveyed 200 athletes last year. Many athletes and coaches felt there was a weakness in the area of nutrition. Through a connection with PLU's team physician, Mark Mariani, Thomas was prompted to bring Edison on a couple of occasions including fall and spring 2007.

Originally from Spokane, Wash., Edison attended graduate school at Marywood University of Pennsylvania and now owns a nutrition and fitness center in Seattle, working with clients from ages 12 to 60.

Edison, however, focuses on high school and college athletes, which is why she is a member of the University of Washington Athletics program. Head strength coach of the UW Sports Performance Department

Trent Greener has worked with Edison for the past three years on keeping athletes on strict guidelines regarding supplements within NCAA regulations.

"I am pro-supplement when it's healthy, fits into your lifestyle and has scientific grounding," Greener said. "But you better be eating breakfast, lunch and dinner; supplements are in addition to meals."

Greener provides many supplements for his athletes, but sticks to the best available nutrients like protein bars and Gatorade that feed the muscles when they're working hard.

"We use chocolate milk pre- and post-practice and chocolate milk is a supplement," Greener said.

Chris Wood, PLU strength and conditioning coordinator, originally asked

if Edison could address the issue of supplements when she visited PLU because of the many questions and concerns he frequently gets from athletes. His answer is always to eat regular food.

"The supplement industry isn't regulated by FDA like grocery food is so they can add tons of chemicals if they want to, and 90 percent of supplements are banned by NCAA anyway," Wood said. "There is just too much uncertainty to base athletic success."

According to personal trainer Ayden Jones, however, supplements are a great way to aid in muscle strength and recovery. As a weight lifting competitor, Jones uses NO Xplode before workouts and finds it beneficial, but does warn about taking it too much.

"Your body can start to get used to it if you use it regularly," Jones said. "Then your body could plateau and not get any use out of it."

In addition to NO Xplode, Jones takes

a variety of amino acids compiled into a powder form called A-Tech, which he takes 30 minutes after workouts.

"Amino acids are one of the best ways to recover after workouts," Jones said.

Jones often advises amino acids to some of his clients at Mieko's Fitness Center in Canyon Park, Wash. who ask about what products work the best.

"I am not a nutritional coach, but lots of protein and stretching is the best way and then if supplements is what they want, BSN (Bioengineer Supplemental Nutrition) is the company to go with," Jones said.

Pediatrician, Lee Kilburn in Kirkland, Wash. also agreed that amino acids can be used in training, but in a variety, not just one individual amino acid.

"Too much of one vitamin can get up to toxic levels and become poisonous. I always advise Carnation instant breakfast or powdered milk, which is healthy every day of your life," Kilburn said. "You can add it to milk or shakes for extra protein."

Like Jones, former University of Idaho football player, Jevon Butler also found supplements as the answer to increasing his performance. In addition to Lipo-6, a fat-burner Butler used to

increase his slow metabolism, he found NO2 to be more helpful during his workouts.

"It was well worth it. It [NO2] gave me more of a boost to start working out and energy to go longer," Butler said. "I could work out for two plus hours and recover 10 minutes later."

NO2, known as a vasodilator, opens up the blood vessels increasing blood flow and

nutrient and oxygen uptake in the muscles.

Many athletes at PLU have considered the potential benefits of supplements, like sophomore Tim Cumming.

"All I take is whey protein, but I was wondering if I could take more than just that," Cumming said.

The issue of supplements always keeps head football coach Scott Westering in the know about his athletes. Westering educates his athletes along with the PLU trainers at the beginning of every season in August and again in May before summer break about what supplements are NCAA approved and what the expected benefits and side effects may include.

"There's a time and a place, but it boils down to knowledge, scientific research and literature," Westering said.

Besides caffeine, creatine is the second most studied ergogenic aid. Creatine works in increasing size by enhancing the creatine phosphate energy system in the muscles allowing for short bursts of energy, about 30 seconds long.

According to the Gatorade Sports Science Institute, there are possible adverse effects on the function of the heart, liver and kidneys.

Former PLU baseball player and current student junior Alex Burch took creatine to get stronger and quicker. Despite the positives of creatine, Burch found that it was more of a hassle after 10 months of consistent daily intakes.

"It put a lot of size on me, but a lot of it was water weight, so I knew it wasn't all real," Burch said. "It dehydrated me and I had to drink an extra half-gallon of water a day."

According to Edison the major products found in supplements can be obtained through food.

Dietary sources of creatine are found naturally in meat products like beef and pork, and fish such as herring, cod and tuna. NO Xplode, composed mostly of the amino acid arginine, can be found in poultry, nuts and seeds and chocolate.

"Food first, that's my motto," Edison said.



Graphic by David Johnston

# The evolution of Facebook

## Online networking site continues to change as it grows

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Ever wondered what Greek god matches your personality? Need to find a lawyer or dentist recommended by a friend? Want to see if your sixth-grade crush is dating anyone?

Since its creation in February 2004, the social-networking site Facebook has evolved from a way for college students to keep in touch to a place where millions can connect via groups, external applications and a shared identity under a political cause or professional sports team. It has become a multi-billion dollar business and the daily pastime of millions of college students or anyone with an e-mail account.

With more than 50 million users from around the world, Facebook has also made its mark among PLU students. According to Facebook, there are currently 4,778 members on the Pacific Lutheran network, including many alumni who have recently graduated.

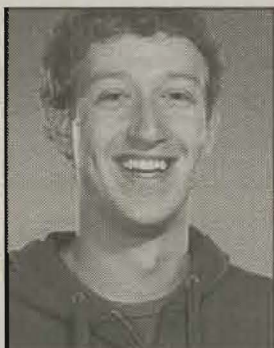
How Facebook has changed over the past four years has affected the way many now see it.

First-year Katherine Knee is one of these nearly 5,000 users in the PLU community.

"Mostly I just talk to people—mostly PLU people," Knee said of her daily use.

Knee does not like the fact that Facebook is now open to everyone.

"It's less interesting," Knee said. "It was more of an exclusive thing, [everyone] had the same experience. There was a certain level everyone is at."



Mark Zuckerberg

When the site was first introduced, an applicant needed an e-mail that ended in ".edu" to create an account. In essence, they had to be a college student. This changed in late 2006 when the site was opened to anyone who wanted to join.

The move was made to try to compete with other social-networking sites such as the more-popular site MySpace, which according to Forbes has more than 72 million users in the U. S. alone.

Sophomore Chris Fisk is another user of Facebook who dislikes this all-inclusive policy that was recently adopted.

"It's like MySpace and all of these fake people...you could make (a page) for your dog," Fisk said, alluding to the problem that no one checks if people are who they say they are.

Opening Facebook and your personal profile to everyone can create other problems. Besides sexual predators and fake accounts, Facebook is now being used by businesses who want to check up on applicants.

"It is your public self," said PLU communication Professor Amanda Feller. "You have no control over it when an HR person sees it."

Feller has known many instances of students who have failed to get an internship or job because what was on their account or even a friend's account about them.

"The career aspect—I don't think people think about that much," Feller said.

Other questions come up with a community open for everyone. What happens if a parent wants a Facebook site? How about your boss?

Feller said she thinks this is the problem with how Facebook has evolved.

"I think it does need to be a place just for students," Feller said.

Knee said she agrees. "If you open it up to everyone you get strange people," Knee said. "I'm not going to talk to a professor over Facebook."

Opening up the Facebook community is just one way the site has changed. With cosmetic changes to the format in the beginning, the introduction of "the news feed," which shows the recent activity of friends and most recently the influx of thousands of

external applications, Facebook is evolving for the better or worse.

As of March 17, there were 19,415 applications on Facebook, a number that rises daily. Facebook stresses that these are created from outside sources and indeed many include the names of well-known companies.

There are applications connected with Amazon.com, eBay, Yahoo!, a National Geo-

graphic photo of the day and you can choose to pursue your March Madness on the GEICO Hoops or the CBS Sports.com basketball brackets.

Facebook opened the site up to these applications May 2007 and since then hundreds of entrepreneurs have used Facebook as their starting point for a business idea.

A Facebook user can also become a fan of their favorite musician, show their support for a politician or join a specific cause to try and raise money for breast cancer awareness or the situation in Darfur.

A Marketplace application was one of the many started by Facebook itself where members can post sales notes for old textbooks, couches or even their apartments. From posting pictures and videos to RSVP events, playing Tetris and joining groups of like-minded people, the possibilities on Facebook are nearly limitless.

These applications have added or detracted from Facebook depending on who you talk to.

Junior Nicole Grant does not like some of the ways Facebook has evolved since she became a member as a first-year.

"It's not as exciting anymore," Grant said. "It's lost its sparkle."

With all of this, it is important to remember that Facebook is just a business—and a very successful one at that.

According to Forbes (which itself has a stock tracker application in Facebook), in October 2007 Microsoft paid \$240 million for only a 1.6 percent stake in the compa-

ny. For those who can't find their Facebook calculator fast enough (whether that is a regular one, one to calculate your mortgage or tax refund, or to discover "how sexy your name is") that puts the estimation of Facebook's worth at around \$15 billion. According to Forbes, there are also more than 500 employees of the company.

That makes Facebook credited-founder Mark Zuckerberg the youngest living billionaire with a worth of about \$1.5 billion. Zuckerberg was a Harvard student who started Facebook as a way for his classmates to connect with each other.

The company then expanded to all Ivy League schools, then all colleges. More recently, high school students were allowed to join, then members of a corporation and finally it was opened to everyone who wanted to join.

Most students agree that it is how you use Facebook that makes the difference. It has many benefits allowing its members to keep track of high school friends, people they have met abroad, and to see pictures from a friend's spring break trip. But spending hours on Facebook seems to defeat its purpose in college life.

"There are definitely chronic users of Facebook," Fisk said.

In short, it is hard to draw a general "good" or "bad" conclusion from how Facebook has evolved over its short four-year history.

"It can be an advantageous tool for the purposes of keeping in touch around the world," Feller said.

But like any new way of communication or any technology, she also said she realizes its potential to be a distraction.

"It depends on how well we use the technology and for what purpose," Feller said. "You can have powerful relationships as long as you use the virtual space in a competent ways."

So the next time you feel like becoming a knight or ninja, need to know what the guy-you-sit-next-to-in-chemistry's favorite movie is or wondering what your eyes symbolize, look no further than Facebook. It's now about a lot more than faces.

Microsoft paid  
\$240 million  
for a 1.6 percent  
stake in Facebook

4,778 Face-  
book mem-  
bers at PLU

### Break

Cont. from page one



Photos courtesy of Campus Ministry  
PLU students gut a house in preparation for renovation. This is one of the many steps in repairing the damage cause by the hurricane

the group with lodging during their time in New Orleans. The church building suffered heavy damages in the hurricane, but the renovated church building now includes an additional wing that is specially designed to house volunteers who are working on reconstruction projects around the city.

The congregation shared their first service in the renovated building on Easter of 2007, only 20 months after the hurricane.

"New Orleans suffered terrible destruction and it seemed as if the city might die," wrote junior Allison Cambonne on the Campus Ministry Web site. "But today, as we celebrate Christ's resurrection, we also celebrate new life that continues to return to New Orleans and know that there is hope in the resurrection."

Through several fundraising projects, the PLU volunteers were able to present the church with \$1,000 to help rebuild the church's organ and to fund programs for housing future volunteers.

These fundraising efforts were partly why Campus Ministry only offered one Alternative Spring Break opportunity instead of sending out several teams to different locations with different projects as had been done in the past.

"We didn't want to spread ourselves too thin with resources," said Campus Ministry coordinator and group leader Elise Erickson. "This seemed to be the best way for the students to get as much out of it as possible."

The group's volunteer activities were organized through Lutheran Disaster Response, a New Orleans-based relief agency that was one of the first volunteer organizations to begin providing aid to the city after the hurricane struck.

Lutheran Disaster Response has provided volunteer opportunities in New Orleans to many similar groups, many of which have no Lutheran affiliation.

To read the Alternative  
Spring Break blog, visit  
[www.plunola.blogspot.com](http://www.plunola.blogspot.com)

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From the editor...

# REALLY REALITY?

TV dating shows only promulgate image stereotypes

Jessica Ritchie  
MAST NEWS EDITOR

Twenty-five drunken blondes—too tan, too drunk—simultaneously try to mount Bret Michaels, former lead singer of glam rock-band Poison. Gold diggers our age all vie for a spot on the lap of an aging, decaying rock star and partial possession of his millions.

It's an unfortunate truth that everyone on this campus has access to what TV is passing off as reality these days. Whether it's "The Flavor of Love," the aforementioned "Rock of Love," or "Millionaire Matchmaker," it's all reality TV, and it all inherently implies one thing: This is real life.

So if it's real, all women are money-grabbing whores, all aging men are perverted misogynists, and women are to be taken and cast off like money, right? Though it has yet to be said, there is little difference to be found between 25 women being picked through for mate status and 25 men, women and children being chosen for slaves. The only sad difference is that these women choose to be there.

If this is real, then women need a man to be happy or to realize their own worth. Little girls watching these shows want to be like those 25 women, because they are attractive and popular and they fit in. Little boys are watching and want to be like Bret, with tan blondes competing for their attention.

If the women in these shows are real, then what are we? We who wear sweatpants, have freckles and pimples, frizzy hair, small breasts, crooked noses, gaps in our teeth, weigh more than 100 pounds—what are we? If desirable is a

size-0 blonde with C-cup breasts or larger, then we, average American women, are largely undesirable, a blemish on society. It's not uncommon for a woman—jokingly, perhaps—to look on the bright side of the flu when they get it. At least she's losing weight.

We watch these shows because they are mindless entertainment. After hours of classes, tests, homework, practice and studying, we want our brain candy, and in today's world, reality TV perfectly fits the bill. We know that these people are ridiculous—caricatures of real people. But it's important to realize that there's more at stake here than 25 disturbed (or disturbing) women and their pride, or whether or not Flavor Flav finds his one, true love.

What's at stake is the future generations' perception of today and who we are. What's at stake is younger generations and who they aspire to be. What's at stake is our own image of ourselves and who we think we should be. Look a block away where we have "Tight Cuts" (a hair salon full of women in tight, white tee-shirts) and a tanning salon (which owes its success to the trend of looking like a burnt piece of leather) at our disposal. We are surrounded by these ideas of who we are supposed to be and what we're supposed to look like.

But these shows will continue to air so long as the producers, writers (yes, reality TV has writers) and contestants continue to make millions. So stop. No fancy alliteration or grandiose turns of phrase here. It's plain and simple. Just stop watching. Everyone needs a little brain candy, but there's a fine line between candy and poison. Now's the time to choose wisely.



Cartoon by Aubrey Lange

## America should face cost of Iraq War

**Ethan JENNINGS**  
**CRABBING AROUND**



jennined@plu.edu

U.S. military casualties in the Iraq War surpassed 4,000 March 23. This was most fortunate for the 24-hour news channels—CNN, Fox News, MSNBC and the like—as they all needed something new to talk about, with Eliot Spitzer and his love of luxury prostitutes being old news. The news was considerably less fortunate for the 4,000 families whose loved ones have died in this war.

Wooden newscasters' faces noted this fact again and again, satisfied in their orgy of feigned caring, their facetious pity belied by the repetition of their declarations. For several days, I couldn't go anywhere without hearing the number 4,000, usually accompanied by flowery language like "fallen" and "sacrificed." One would think the unrelenting butchery throughout the

20th century might have cured the human race of these euphemisms, but that doesn't seem to be the case.

Consider for a moment that as of April 4, 4,011 women and men have died, horribly and often in excruciating pain, in this, our neo-imperial war. They are not fallen or sacrificed—those euphemisms glorify war, raising it onto a pedestal of societal purification more at home in a fascist autocracy than a democracy of the people. They were human beings who are now dead and are never coming home.

In all the days of false mourning and ratings counting—the toll of which upon the families of the Iraq War casualties I cannot imagine—the plastic frowns and the dry eyes of news anchors and commentators, not once did I hear mention of Iraqi deaths. I feel this would be an appropriate time to bring them up.

As of April 4, Iraqi Body Count (which can be found at [www.iraqibodycount.org](http://www.iraqibodycount.org)) estimates Iraqi civilian deaths from war-related violence between 82,591 and 90,115. IBC is a widely respected organization that compiles casualty numbers from reports from the international media, hospitals, non-governmental organizations and official sources. Its estimate represents a bare minimum, as it notes that numerous deaths certainly go unreported.

On the other side of the spectrum, a 2007 poll by Opinion Research Business estimated 733,158 to 1,446,063 Iraqi civilian deaths from war-related violence. The high estimate surpasses the death toll from the Rwandan

genocide. It approaches the number of Jews, Roma-Sinti and others killed at Auschwitz.

The ORB estimate is highly controversial. Critics call the ORB poll's methodology into question, and the tight-lipped refusal of the lead researcher to discuss his methods does not help in this regard. Some critics even allege that ORB surveyors fabricated information in part or whole, as cited by Neil Munro and Carl M. Cannon in their Jan. 4 National Journal article. Regardless, it was hardly discussed in the U.S. media when it was released.

What the ORB poll helps illustrate is that no one has the slightest clue how many Iraqi civilians have died in the war—not to mention casualties of combatants on any side in the fighting.

Despite the U.S. media's regular disregard for massive and ever-increasing Iraqi civilian casualties, many students at PLU, as well as U.S. citizens at large, are aware. Numerous casualty tallies and estimates were prominently displayed at a recent peace rally on campus.

The U.S. has been committed at least since the end of World War II to the idea that human beings of all nations are granted certain unalienable rights, including firstly the right to life. Regardless of your view on the war, the deaths of Iraqis must be part of the cost you weigh. An Iraqi's pain is no doubt quite similar to a U.S. citizen's, a U.S. citizen's death just as tragic as an Iraqi's.

The U.S. needs to face the true cost of this war and to stop hiding it behind hollow euphemisms and willful ignorance—to stop pretending war is a noble and beautiful endeavor and face up to the brutal and senseless slaughter that it truly is.

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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](mailto:mast@plu.edu).

Bringing back the flattop

## Does society condition for lives of narcissism?



**Jono  
COWGILL**

**TRENDS AND TRIBULATIONS**  
cowgiljm@plu.edu

It was recently brought to my attention that the haircut in my columnist picture looks like knockoff Will Smith from "Fresh Prince of Bel Air."

Since I never read my articles once they are published, I hadn't been aware. I took a glance in a recent Mast publication and saw the horror that is my head, and am now in shock at how long it took me to notice.

There are a few things that my flattop haircut and its surrounding issues have led me to realize.

Most importantly, the tribulations that surround my haircut are simply an anecdote that lies in the sand upon a much larger beach of a cultural phenomenon.

When I published my first article in October, my erstwhile girlfriend told me that I looked "cute" in my picture. That

assurance had hardened my ego into a plaque and I went about without reservation telling people to read my article, really hoping they would just look at my picture. "Did you like my article?" I would ask later. And I would get a lukewarm "Yes" in reply, everyone too nervous to say how glaringly deficient my picture was.

Now how could my girlfriend have given me such an untimely compliment? Upon mowing my brain for blades of memory, I realize that her comment came while she was trying to stop talking with me. It was possibly the last compliment she gave me, a joking one at that.

But I am not attempting to paint my erstwhile girlfriend as a malicious individual. I only mention our discourse as precedent for discussion of a larger issue.

My narcissism has bred this fledgling insecurity about my picture, and I wonder how far it may go.

No doubt, today we live in a culture paralyzed by narcissism. From the ease of posting personal pages across the Web, to the convenience of the digital camera, we are able to frame our image and our persona in more (flattering) ways (except for me) than ever.

We have the opportunity to easily place within a public sphere a bit of ourselves to be judged by others. There is the possibility for all to garner some level, be it an earthquake or a tremor, of celebrity-like fame.

The fallout of this is a honing of our ability to contrive a public image.

To be sure, I have become aware enough of my image that I am bereaved at the notion that I am advertised across the Pacific Lutheran campus as one who sports a flattop. This advertisement does not fit the contrived image I have of myself, and so I notice it. I have become a conscious player in an ever-expanding game for approval.

Jono, what are you going to do about your newly realized narcissism? Haven't you read the Greek tragedies? Don't you know the consequences?

I do, but I have decided to accept the societal conditioning that I have embraced so haphazardly these past years of media boom.

I see that my girlfriend's spurious compliment was in fact a bit of well-ordered wisdom.

I also notice that no one rocks the flattop these days. If there was one thing that the self-awareness of technology has taught me, being a trendsetter is the best way to get noticed.

So I will keep the haircut in my

picture, embrace it not because I want to reject my narcissism, but because I want to expand it, expand it until I cannot expand it any more.



Graphic by David Jorvistor

## Letters to the editor...

## Race not a critical factor in judging competence of candidate

On behalf of the PLU GOP, I would like to commend Jill Russell on her thoughtful and well-written op-ed in the pages of last week's edition of The Mast. We share her frustration with the remarkably restrictive ways in which race is identified and considered in the United States and join her in her call to end it.

The time has been long overdue when U.S. citizens no longer think and identify each other in terms of race. We must be guided by Dr. King's dream that people in this nation not be judged "by the color of their skin but by the content of their character" and make that dream a reality. Race and skin color are superficial, dehumanizing mechanisms used to divide and polarize people U.S. citizens in all manner of pernicious ways, and this has no place in the U.S.

Regarding Sen. Barack Obama and his candidacy for president, we deeply regret

and oppose the ubiquity of racially based focus that has surrounded him. In considering and evaluating his candidacy, U.S. citizens should focus only on what is relevant—his qualifications, experience, agenda, policy prescriptions, world-view and vision for this country. His race and skin color are as incidental and irrelevant to these as his eye and hair colors, or even his favorite pizza topping.

We have the deep conviction that no U.S. citizen should vote for or against Obama because of the color of his skin or with any consideration thereof. We would hope that this nation and its people have finally grown out of that type of racial immaturity and rank bigotry by now, abandoning it as an unfortunate relic and exception to our generally proud history.

After all, each one of us is a unique individual equal in the eyes of God and should therefore be equal in the eyes of others. Racial considerations of all sorts serve only to detract from this and dehumanize those laid victim by it.

Geoff Smock, senior and president, PLU GOP

## Fewer Mast copies would further PLU's sustainability goals

I wanted to write about my concern of excess copies of The Mast I always see floating around campus. I think The Mast is a great publication and deserves to be read by all. I worry, though, that too

many extra copies are being printed and therefore being wasted when it is easy for Lutes to just share fewer copies.

Newspapers take a lot of resources to produce. Not only The Mast contributors' sweat and energy goes in to it, I'm sure, but hundreds of gallons of water, tons of paper, electricity, ink and more are used to produce newspapers, as well as the energy needed to recycle

newspapers afterward. Perhaps it would be both economically and environmentally beneficial for The Mast to produce less copies and encourage readers to share copies of The Mast, as well as access it online. PLU has a great sustainability trend going, and this could be another great change to add to the amazing accomplishments we've had this year.

Belinda Ho, senior

## More restrictions on campus necessary for student safety

Dear Jessica Ritchie: Thanks so much for your informative and insightful Op-ed, "Which is Worse?"

The thesis of your piece, that PLU should not encourage potentially destructive behaviors, is spot-on. As an impressionable student, I should be able to entrust the university to steer me and my peers clear from any experiences that might harm us.

However, I don't think you went far enough. Pacific Lutheran University condones and even encourages several other harmful behaviors on a daily basis.

I'd like to start with sex. PLU made its first wrong turn when they integrated the dormitories. Since then, even with policies restricting room access, PLU has turned into a quagmire of sexually irresponsible behavior. Additionally, sexual addiction is listed by the Illinois Institute for Addiction Recovery (the same source you used in your article) as a serious problem. Pacific Lutheran University should immediately re-segregate its dorms and issue a campus-wide ban on all sexual relations. Additionally, we should stop telling people about sex. The Vagina Monologues, praised by some as empowering to women, really just encourages sexual behavior. If people are unfamiliar with their bodies they will be less likely to use them in a harmful way.

In addition to sexual addiction, the IAR lists several other dangerous addictions, all of which young

people are particularly vulnerable to. Of course we know the major ones, but there are shocking finds that you should be happy to know about. These include food addiction, internet addiction, and compulsive shopping. PLU should be taking every possible action to protect us from these potentially dangerous behaviors as well. They could start by having us weigh-in once a week and banning food in rooms. We should also close the Garfield Commons—one of our biggest campus draws is also hurting the very students it entices. Internet access should be prohibited in dorm rooms and monitored closely in the library. Who knows how many internet addicts we are breeding behind doors with our current "unlimited use" policies? And for all of us borderline-compulsive shoppers, (I would remind you that shopping can cause as much, if not more debt than gambling), please limit the student store to only selling books and supplies. And please get rid of LuteBucks—they are the first step on a slippery slope to credit card addiction.

I hope that the university takes my suggestions seriously. We know the harms of alcohol and gambling, but there are several other hidden harms that are trapping innumerable students into lives of addiction. Which is worse? All of these behaviors are bad. The university has taken the first step in banning alcohol (you are right—it's much better that people pass out around Parkland than on our lawns) and they should take action now to protect us from every other harm that could come our way.

Amanda Wilkins, senior

## "Major Money Matters" spread used questionable source for U.S. government spending data

In the March 14, 2008 issue of The Mast, I read the centerfold article titled "Major Money Matters." In this article, writer and editor Maren Anderson discussed issues that had been brought up in the previous weeks by some keynote speakers on different ways to look at the way countries like the U.S. should spend their money.

I enjoyed the first part of the article until I read the paragraph that described our budget spending. Anderson used information in word and pie chart form from a source known as the War Resisters League.

The WRL has a Web site that shows their heavily anti-war views and beliefs in other issues that align with those of a typical anti-war supporter. The Web site is very proud of its makeshift pie chart, which they tout as the correct proportions of spending for the United States. They are so

proud that they actually are selling copies of the chart for 10 cents.

When skimming through the pie charts in The Mast last week, I noticed something a little peculiar. The chart that was presented for the U.S. was actually provided by the WRL Web site. When looking at the chart one can see that it claims that the U.S. spends over 50 percent of its yearly budget on the military, while only spending a measly 2 percent on social services.

Anyone who has ever taken a finance class or has looked at the real numbers can tell you that those percentages are completely false.

Using a more reliable source to find information on our own country's spending policy isn't really that hard. A good Web site to find this reliable information is www.whitehouse.gov. In this Web site, the user can find the budget of the president. This is the budget information from the source that is actually creating the budget.

Now I understand that there are skeptics out there who honestly believe that if the information is coming from the government then it, too, is probably fabricated.

But let's not stray too far from the point.

If one were to look up the national budget for fiscal year 2007 as the article describes, he or she could find out the real numbers. The percentage of the budget for military defense including benefits to veterans (which really isn't a military expense) accounts for 23 percent of spending, not the 51 percent listed in The Mast article.

A large contrast is the amount given to health care and social services. If you add healthcare, Medicare and social security, you end up with 45 percent of the spending in 2007.

The numbers show a drastic difference from the amounts given in The Mast article on March 14th. It should be part of the writer's job to research topics like these more in depth before writing an article that appears in the centerfold of the paper. Articles like this bring down the integrity of a newspaper that prides itself on representing fair journalism.

Greg Wittreich, senior



Photo by Laura Comstock

**TOP:** Members of the Pflueger 2006 Relay for Life Team, junior Kristen Gelbach, alum Brett Patterson, sophomore Adam Brown, junior Kimmie Ellis, and senior Sean Roach display their team pride as they circle the PLU track. The theme for teams this year are TV shows. Some examples of 2008 PLU teams are Scrubs, Arrested Development, Reno 911 and American Gladiators.

**CENTER:** Members of the Relay for Life Committee seniors Jackie Mendez, Ingrid Larson, and Jackie Cornwall at the Relay for Life Dance. The money raised from ticket sales are going towards the American Cancer Society.

**BOTTOM:** After completing Relay for Life 2007, teams walk back towards campus. Relay for Life 2008 will be April 25 at 6 p.m. through April 26 at 11 a.m.





# Lutes 4 Life

## PLU laces up for Relay for Life



### Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.

Emily Dooley  
MAST LUTELIFE REPORTER  
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This year marks PLU's 3rd year participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Teams from PLU will help to raise funds to fight cancer, with a goal of \$65,000 raised in 2008. This year PLU's Relay teams will be doing an 18 hour walk.

Junior Laura Comstock is one of PLU's Relay organizers this year. She believes that PLU participation makes a significant difference, not only to the Relay effort but also on campus.

"I think that Relay for Life is important to our campus because it provides students the opportunity to feel like they are a part of something larger than themselves, and where they are legitimately making a difference. It's not something that's fake or a façade, they are actually making a difference by coming out and supporting and celebrating survivors and fighting such a large disease," said Comstock.

According to the American Cancer Society, their efforts have contributed to almost every major discovery in cancer research. The Society continues to fund research resulting in better ways to prevent, detect and treat cancer. The Society also advocates for stronger policies and legislation that will support cancer treatment.

Comstock explained the Society's mission further. "Relay for life exists to raise money for the American Cancer Society. They then use this money for research and support for cancer patients and survivors. The event is also a way to celebrate survivors, remember those who have been lost and fight back against cancer," she said. "What is more important to me than raising money is making an event to celebrate survivors. It's not about numbers; it's an event to bring awareness."

*"My father was diagnosed with cancer the previous year and started a team."*

Tessie Goheen  
sophomore

Comstock encourages students to join the effort.

"Students can do a number of things to get involved. Get some friends, get a club or team to sign up for a team. People can also volunteer on the committee, by contacting me at comstolm@plu.edu," said Comstock.

Sophomore Tessie Goheen is also involved with PLU's Relay for Life, and has been involved with the organization for over 10 years. She has a personal understanding of the importance of the event. Her family has a rare genetic mutation called Li-Fraumeni Syndrome, which alters the tumor suppressor gene and leaves them with a 90 percent chance of getting cancer at a young age. Goheen began supporting Relay for Life at a young age when her father was first diagnosed with the syndrome.

"I got involved with Relay for Life when I was about 5 years old. My father was diagnosed with cancer the previous year and started a team. When he died, my family stopped doing it for a few years but I began to get involved again in junior high when my sister Katie was diagnosed," she said.

"Relay for Life has impacted me because I get to help an organization that helped my family through so much. It's a way I can help other families in similar situations and it's a time when my family can come together and remember my dad and how passionate he was about Relay, even while he was going through treatment," she continued.

For Goheen, supporting Relay for Life is a way of giving back to the organization that helped her family.

"It funds important grants that provides researchers the money and supplies they need to find breakthrough cancer treatments; it provides resources to individuals going through treatment that they may not be able to afford including support groups, wigs, and things that help support families going through this; and it provides opportunities like Camp Goodtimes, a camp for kids with cancer and their siblings, that is fully staffed with nurses and doctors so that these kids can go to summer camp and be fully taken care of."

Senior Jon Morehead also has a personal reason for his involvement with Relay.

"My mom is currently battling ovarian cancer, and I have seen the positive impacts that the services of the American Cancer Society provides for her. That is the reason I relay."

Jon Morehead  
senior

"My mom is currently battling ovarian cancer," he said, "and I have seen the positive impacts that the services of the American Cancer Society provides for her. This is the reason that I relay."

When asked what his favorite part of the event is he replied, "During Relay the survivor lap is my favorite event because it reminds everyone there why we put so much time and effort into this event."

Relay for Life was started in the mid-1980s when Dr. Gordy Klatt, a Tacoma surgeon, wanted to enhance the income of his local American Cancer Society office. He decided to personally raise money for the fight by doing something he enjoyed—running marathons. In May 1985, Dr. Klatt spent 24 hours circling the track at Baker Stadium at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma for more than 83 miles. Friends paid \$25 to run or walk 30 minutes with him. He raised \$27,000 to fight cancer.

His efforts towards supporting the American Cancer Society continue today, with over 4,800 Relays nationwide. Volunteers from across the country committed to fighting cancer gather once a year at Relay for Life to celebrate survivors and remember loved ones lost to the disease. Teams of 8-15 members participate together, taking turns camping out and resting, walking or running, and cheering on their teammates with the goal of keeping one person on the track at all times. Relay for Life opens with cancer survivors taking the first lap. Relay teams follow them, participating for 12-24 hours.

This year Relay for Life will be held from April 25 6 p.m. - April 26 11 a.m. on the PLU track.

For more information e-mail [plurelay@plu.edu](mailto:plurelay@plu.edu)

OR

check out the PLU Relay for Life's Facebook group.

Relay for Life needs you to...

Join a team!

The biggest need for Relay for Life right now is more people in more teams. The team theme for Relay for Life 2008 is TV shows. Find your favorite TV show on the list and join it. Or get your friends together and create your own team based on your favorite TV show. Be creative, dress up, just make sure you sign up today.

# DANCE 2008

## 2008 dance ensemble showcases array of talents and ideas

Christina Montilla  
MAST A&E REPORTER  
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Two months of hard work and dedication with 13 talented student choreographers and roughly 60 dancers culminate into two nights of amazing, eclectic tableaux simply titled "Dance 2008."

Open auditions were held in February, where each choreographer showed an excerpt from their dance then chose dancers based upon that.

"There's a lot of variety of techniques among the students," said dance director Maureen McGill. "Definitely a lot of strong commitment to creativity."

An ensemble production of members of the PLU dance team and students from all majors create 12 scenes from an array of traditional dance vocabulary including hip-hop, jazz, modern and ballet. Senior dance team co-captain Kristen Martensen's Cirque de Soleil inspired piece, entitled "Cirque," features elements of street jazz, krumping, break dancing and acrobatics. With 17 members, it is the largest piece in the production.

"The piece invites the audience to enter the underground world of entertainment," Martensen said. "It brings some diversity to the show, in music and movement."

Musical accompaniment ranges from classical to Coldplay. Some pieces are emotionally evocative like dance team director and alumna Tara Holliday's dance about coping with grief, while others are lighthearted like senior co-captain Liz Erie's "flirty and flashy" piece called "Diamonds." All of them, however, are artistic in their own way.

"The show this year has some really strong pieces and will be entertaining for the audience," Erie said.

Every year the department invites a guest professional choreographer to create a piece for the show. This year, freelance dance artist, performer and teacher Amy Weaver, a graduate of Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, was chosen. She choreographed a work called "Delight" to music from Deep Forest.

A live band will be featured for Clare Edgerton and Justin Huertas' modern theatrical excerpt from the musical "Spring Awakening."

This will be McGill's 30th dance ensemble show here at PLU. Students participating will be able to receive credit towards dance production. The dance major is a fairly new part of the Theatre Department, a program started within the School of Arts and Communication three years ago.

"PLU is lucky to have a show as big as dance ensemble, since there is not a large dance major," Martensen said. "It is incredible to find out how many talented dancers are hiding within the other university majors."

The show begins at 8 p.m. April 11 and April 12 in Eastvold Auditorium. Tickets are \$8 and seating is non-reserved.

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

# Card counting has never been more predictable

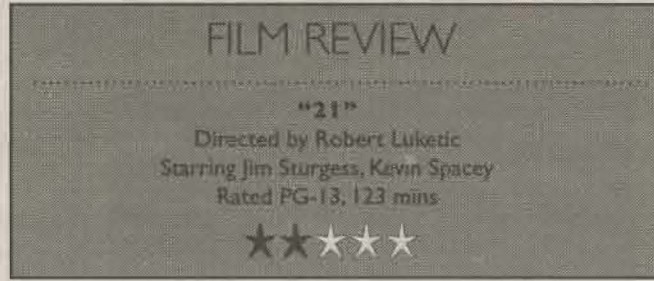
*Vegas lights are the only shining aspect of mediocre '21', sporting a tedious script and unbelievable characters*

Jessica Baldwin  
MAST A&E REPORTER  
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The bright lights of Vegas and the prospects of winning draw hundreds of thousands of tourists every year. From the moment I saw the first preview for "21," I had to see it. It's a movie based on the true story of college students who counted cards in the neon city. How can you go wrong?

"21" stars Jim Sturgess as MIT student Ben Campbell. Ben is a pre-med student and his dream of being a medical student at Harvard is being threatened by a lack of funds.

The plot is confusingly non-linear. The film leads the audience to believe it's in chronological order; it's not. We see Ben show up at work—a suit store—and finds out that he has been promoted to manager. We then jump to a scene of Ben in a math class at MIT, where he stunts his math professor, Mickey

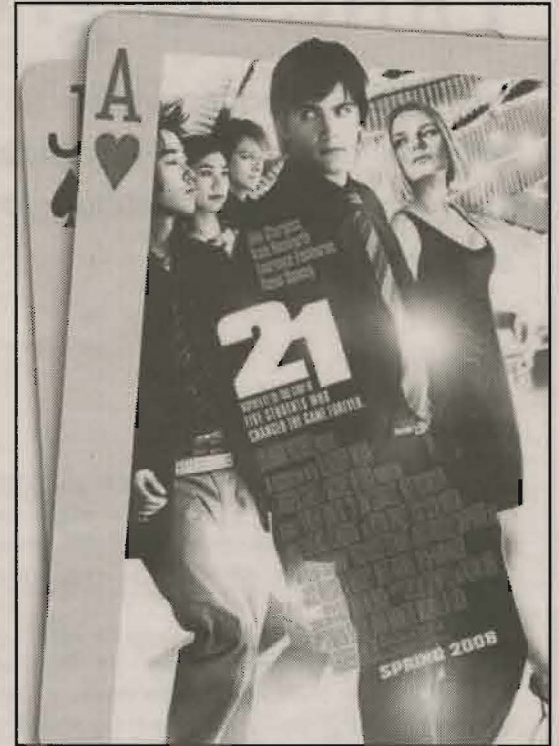


Rosa (Hollywood veteran Kevin Spacey).

Rosa invites Ben to a group he heads up devoted to teaching students how to "count cards," a technique used to cheat at Blackjack.

The group soon goes to Las Vegas, where Ben intends to use his winnings to pay for his education. However, Rosa has other plans for Ben, and threatens to spoil his ambitions.

Despite the intriguing plot, this movie is dull and predictable. The entire time, we know what will happen next. The actors, even veteran Kevin Spacey, are lifeless on the screen. Moments of conflict induce sleepiness and intended emotions from the actors fall flat. Though the screenplay is pretty good, the execution is horrible. In terms of entertainment and quality, "21" is possibly the worst yet this year.



# Quirky director releases edgiest film



*Wes Anderson shifts perspective, maintains style*

Kolby Harvey  
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Recently released on DVD is director Wes Anderson's latest outing, "The Darjeeling Limited." Easily his best film since "The Royal Tenenbaums," "The Darjeeling Limited" is also Anderson's edgiest film, with characters that engage in both drug use and promiscuous relations.

During "Hotel Chevalier," the introductory short film, we see a rendezvous between two characters played by Natalie Portman and Jason Schwartzman, a scene that is as close as Anderson has ever come



to showing full-on sex. The film's principle characters are connected by the recent death of a loved one, and Anderson even shows the death of a young child.

Despite a harder-edged tone in general, "The Darjeeling Limited" is not a complete departure from Anderson's previous work, and the nostalgic innocence that pervaded "The Royal Tenenbaums" is still present. His trademark visuals, attention to aesthetic detail, and the hand-made qualities of his sets are all given an Indian make-over, combining American kitsch with Bollywood extravagance. Anderson's soundtrack is,

as usual, catchy and eclectic, ranging from obscure Hindi tunes, to the Rolling Stones, to campy French classics like Joe Dassin's "Les Champs-Élysées."

Most of Anderson's standard troupe of actors is back, including not only Owen Wilson, Schwartzman, and Anjelica Houston in its major roles, but also cameos by Bill Murray and Kumar Pallana (the only actor to have appeared in every one of Wes Anderson's films).

Adrian Brody, Wilson, and Schwartzman play well off of each other as a trio of estranged brothers that reunite for a spiritual journey that entails more prescription drugs than praying.

As a DVD, "The Darjeeling Limited" is pretty middle-of-the-road, offering up a handful of typical special features but nothing particularly remarkable. Despite this, "The Darjeeling Limited" is worth purchasing and is easily one of last year's best movies.

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**SIDEWAYS** (R)  
Fri-Thurs: 8:15

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# The **K** Federalist Papers

weekly pop culture commentary

## Time to grow up, Paris

*Heiresses, celebrities and socialites need a wake-up call to get real and finally contribute to society*

Katie Blatman  
MAST A&E REPORTER  
blatmaka@plu.edu

With a family that watches TMZ, E! and VH1, and a father who brings home tabloid magazines, it's hard for me to ignore the world of hot, young heiresses, award shows and who is wearing whom at what event.

When I see a young starlet about my age, their actions are vastly different than my own. They are always sighted at clubs, or socials or events of some sort. I am a college student and readying myself to take a place in working society.

Luxury and wealth seem to have an unfortunate side affect. These are retarding the adulthood and maturity of many of Hollywood's rich and famous. Growing up, I (like most others) did not have millions of dollars in disposable income.

My mother and father were not heirs to any fortunes, and I grew up in a modest house and went to public school. I had to grow up fairly early compared to most of Hollywood's youth. At one point I was waitressing, working retail and going to high school full time. I had to mature, and I learned my fair share about the real world.

This humbling life experience is absent from many of those in the entertainment industry. With their accumulation of wealth, they are financially secure enough after only one or two projects. Those who inherit money don't need to work at all.

The majority of the population has to work constantly to support their lifestyles. With this financial freedom and the luxury of not having to preoccupy themselves with finances, they are free to act carelessly and prolong their childhood as long as they wish. Paris Hilton is 26 and she still goes out to clubs every weekend.



AP Photo  
Hotel heiress Paris Hilton talks about her life of leisure on a German talk show. The socialite is 26 now and many believe it's time for her to grow up.

When I imagine my peers here at PLU at that age, I imagine them settling into their careers, traveling a bit and possibly even getting married. In other words, I imagine them growing up.

I am not against those who have by great luck accumulated wealth. The way that some characters in young Hollywood have used their fame is what I find disagreeable. Why not use fame to bring light to an otherwise overlooked cause instead of constantly getting embarrassing pictures in the paper?

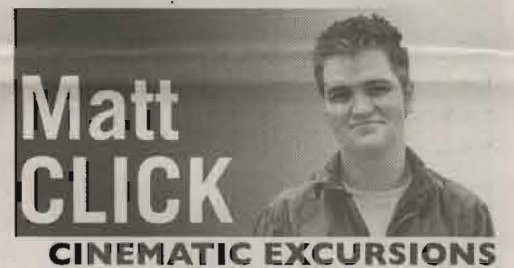
Why not think of something more than five minutes into the future? I think it's time for the socialites in Southern California to stay out of rehab, stop crashing their cars into telephone poles, and grow up.



## ATTACK OF THE SPOOFS!

*Why the modern parody film represents what is wrong with Hollywood*

When folks ask me why I have such an axe to grind with the modern film industry, I usually have a few standard answers: Michael Bay, the Wayans brothers, and the "Star Wars" prequels, just to name



**Matt  
CLICK**

CINEMATIC EXCURSIONS

a few. But in terms of the general deterioration of cinema, there is no better example than the parody film — movies like the "Scary Movie" franchise, "Meet the Spartans," and the recent "Superhero Movie."

It wasn't always this way. Before Leslie Nielsen cashed the paycheck for the 15th "Naked Gun" movie, before five of the eight guys that brought you "Scary Movie 3" brought you "Scary Movie 4," before spoof films spiraled into the insipidly stupid mish-mashes of bumbling pop culture jabs they are today, there was Mel Brooks.

Though it can be argued that Brooks produced his fair share of stinkers, the man was also responsible for "Young Frankenstein," "Spaceballs," "Robin Hood: Men in Tights" and "Blazing Saddles," the best the genre has to offer. Brooks' films were crude and silly, but maintained their dignity with fun casts, spot-on riffs and charming screenplays.

In the past decade, we've seen a definite shift. We've gone from the Brooks-caliber parodies of the 80s and early 90s to the moronic junk currently clogging our cinemas. If that isn't a gigantic, jet-pack-assisted leap backwards, I don't know what is.

These films are the physical manifestations of Hollywood's clambering descent into desperate unoriginality. The screenplays are not so much working plots as they are copy-and-pasted stories overflowing with tasteless joke after tasteless, tired joke. It's almost as if the screenwriters just hung out for a weekend and made lists of all the current pop culture trends to include.

"Hey," one of them says, taking a generous swig of a Red Bull. "Y'know, people thought that 'Borat' movie was pretty funny. We should have that character make a completely unwarranted and nonsensical appearance in 'Epic Movie.'"

"Absolutely," the other says. "That's gold, Jerry. Gold!"

The worst part about these films is their focus on the current pop culture scene and their reliance on time-sensitive issues. Are teenagers a decade from now going to understand the Sanjaya joke or the Chris Crocker reference in "Meet the Spartans?" Are they even going to glean that it's a parody of "300?" Sanjaya and Chris Crocker aren't funny now, when they're timely — they're going to be downright baffling in a few years.

As the modern spoof film spirals further and further down the drain, it's up to us, the consumer, to put a stop to it. We should commend ourselves, because "Superhero Movie" opened in third place with a scant \$8 million to its name. Let's keep it up, OK?

So, we've seen "Scary Movie," "Epic Movie," "Date Movie" and, now, "Superhero Movie." With the rate that the producers are moving through the genres, it's only a matter of time until we see "Parody Movie" and the universe collapses under the strain of the paradox.

### Looking to satisfy your Philosophy GUR this Summer?

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**Philosophy 125: Ethics and the Good Life. Topic: Ethics of Food.** Why do philosophers devote so little attention to food, cooking and the practices that relate to them? This course examines the way food and eating are vital to understanding the good life. Dr. McKenna. 12:30-3:30.

**Philosophy 238: Existentialism and the Meaning of Life.** Is their ultimate meaning in life? How do we live with death? Despair? Is their hope? Can you really live authentically? Through film, literature, psychology and philosophy we take up these questions. Dr. Johnson. 9:00-12:00

#### TERM II

**Philosophy 121: The Examined Life.** Socrates said, "The unexamined life is not worth living." By carefully examining questions about values -- How shall I live? -- and faith -- Is it reasonable to believe? -- you will be better prepared to live a worthwhile life. Dr. Cooper. 9:00-12:00

**Philosophy 228: Social and Political Philosophy.** What is Justice? Whose to say whose right in political disputes? Are we free? Is democracy the best type of government? Must we war with each other? In this class we examine these questions and more through looking at such great thinkers as Plato, Hobbes, Rousseau, and others. Dr. Hogan. 12:00-3:00



Photo by Lisa Gilbert

Junior Rachel Wheeler Hoyt winds up to pitch during a game this season. The Lutes took a trip to California during spring break and lost five games to tough competition.

## California: not so hot Softball drops 5 straight in the sunshine state

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The Lutes could not heat up in the California weather during spring break losing five of six games.

The first game day pitted PLU against Cal Lutheran in Thousand Oaks, Calif. The Lutes split the twinbill losing the first game 4-3 and winning the nightcap 9-0.

The Lutes added up eight hits in the first game showing its offense to be on its game, but three costly PLU errors may have been the cause for the close defeat against the Regals.

The Lutes bounced back from the defeat with a shutout performance from junior Rachel Wheeler-Hoyt who allowed only two Regal hits while striking out two and walking one.

First-year Caitlin Brown helped spark the PLU offense with two hits in each game.

"I have been hitting the ball all year," Brown said, "I've been excited to play."

The Lutes put together 11 hits in the closing game. The University of La Verne swept the Lutes during PLU's second matchup winning 5-1 and 9-8.

The Lutes' lone run in the first game came from an RBI single from senior Lisa Gilbert that scored senior Heather Walling.

PLU gave the Leopards a tight game when the Lutes rallied to tie the second game 7-7 after being down by five runs.

Four of the seven runs came from a grand slam by first-year Stephanie Mullen, her second round-tripper of the season.

La Verne came out on top with two outs in the bottom of the seventh with an RBI single by Melissa Carlson.

The Lutes couldn't find a victory at the University of Redlands losing 6-0 and 7-2.

Walling scored Brown with an RBI triple and later scored a run of her own, producing PLU's only runs of the day.

"We made too many mental mistakes that made the physical ones seem unbearable," Gilbert said. "I think we all feel like we beat ourselves and those are the hardest losses to take."

The non-conference losses drop PLU's record to 11-13 on the season. The Lutes will next be playing at Pacific in Forest Grove, Ore. April 5 and 6 at noon.

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# Lutes brave rain, split with Bruins



Sophomore Rob Bleecker pitches to a George Fox player last weekend. The Lutes and Bruins braved bad weather and darkness to split a four game series.

Photo by Chris Hunt

## PLU takes 2 from the 3rd place team in the conference

Tyler Scott  
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Unconventional spring weather wreaked havoc upon Pacific Lutheran's Northwest Conference four-game showdown with George Fox.

After multiple rain delays extended Saturday's first game by 90 minutes, the second game saw a postponement due to darkness that forced the teams to show up an hour early Sunday morning to finish game two before playing games three and four. Needless to say, the weather Sunday morning consisted of cloudy with intermittent snow flurries.

With the game tied at three and the winning run in scoring position, first-year Ryan Aratani lofted what looked to be the game-winning single into left field. George Fox leftfielder Todd Siler fired a perfect throw to Fobert at home plate, narrowly beating the Pacific Lutheran designated hitter for the

second out of the inning.

Pinch-hitter Tyler Goarck stepped to the plate with two outs and Aratani standing on second. After missing the previous three weeks with a foot injury, Goarck made up for lost time by driving a single to right field that brought home Aratani and sealed the emotional win in the first game of the series.

"Rallies like those and nail-biter victories are huge for the morale and confidence [of the team]," Aratani said.

The final-inning drama of the first game was but a taste of what was to come in the rest of the series.

In the second game, Pacific Lutheran entered the bottom of the eighth inning trailing 5-1. As darkness was quickly setting in, the Lutes began to rally. Bruins head coach Marty Hunter walked to the mound to make a pitching change.

The pitching change wouldn't take place for about 16 hours, as home plate umpire Ron Williams decided to suspend the

game due to the loss of light.

Eleven o'clock Sunday morning allowed Hansen to finally step to the plate with the bases loaded and nobody out. As snowflakes gently fell to the ground, the leftfielder worked a walk to bring home a run and continue the rally. A pitch hit second baseman Carl Benton, bringing home another run and advance they tying run to third base.

Tyler Libadia entered the game as a pinch hitter and gave the Lutes their first lead of the game with a two-run single to centerfield.

Head coach Geoff Loomis called the four-run comeback "the highlight of our season," as it showed a turnaround for a team that had been 1-5 in one-run games entering the series.

George Fox would not experience all the heartbreak in the series, as the Bruins bounced back to take the final two games and earn a series split by ending final-inning PLU rallies in both games.

Pacific Lutheran entered the final inning of Sunday's first game trailing 5-0. Benton stepped to the plate with two outs and the bases loaded and was plunked yet again to bring home PLU's first run of the game and bring the tying run to the plate. The Lute second baseman has been hit by an astound-

ing 20 pitches this year, three shy of tying the team record for a single season.

"Our offense just couldn't produce... We swung the bats well and put balls in play, we just weren't able to produce key hits in key opportunities and it came back to bite us," Aratani said.

With four weeks remaining in the season, the Lutes find themselves mired in fourth place, six games behind Northwest Conference-leading Linfield in the loss column. The inexperience of a young Pacific Lutheran team has shown at times this season, but Aratani sees great progress and is excited by the potential. Immediately stepping into the starting lineup in center field as a first-year and leading the team with a .364 batting average, he will play a huge role in that potential.

"The team we have consists of a great group of ball players, but also a great group of guys and individuals. I just want to continue to help our team win games and get better every day," Aratani said.

The Lutes return to action this weekend, taking a break from Northwest Conference action to host Menlo in a three-game series at PLU field. Saturday will feature a doubleheader with the final game Sunday. Games on both days begin at noon and will be broadcast live on KCCR student radio.

### The upcoming week in PLU sports:

#### Track and Field:

» April 5, Shotwell Invitational (UPS), 9 a.m.

#### Crew:

» April 5, NCRC Invitational, Vancouver Lake, 7:40 a.m.

#### Baseball:

» April 5, Menlo at PLU 12 p.m.

» April 6, Menlo at PLU, 12 p.m.

#### Men's Tennis:

» April 5, PLU at Whitworth, 10 a.m.

#### Women's Tennis:

» April 4, Whitman at PLU, 4 p.m.

» April 5, Whitworth at PLU, 3 p.m.

#### Softball:

» April 5, PLU at Pacific, 12 p.m.

» April 6, PLU at Pacific, 12 p.m.

# Lacrosse rebuilds teams with young talent



First-year James Lupper battles for the ball against Central Washington University defender March 9 at Gonyea Field.

Photos by Isaac Van Mechelen

Maren Anderson  
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

The torn up field at PLU's east campus has yielded historically very successful men's and women's lacrosse teams who have been, repeatedly, ranked nationally. This year, however, both programs feel they are using this season to rebuild their programs.

The women's team, after hiring a new coach in early February, right before the start of the season, holds a 4-2 record after two weekend tournaments held at Marymoor Park in Redmond.

Due to the leadership of captains Courtney Stringer and Emily Ullom and an aggressive recruiting effort, eight rookies signed up to play.

"In my four seasons of lacrosse, this season has been the most competitive within the league that I have ever seen," Stringer said.

The women's team will be playing Oregon State Saturday, 10:30 at Marymoor Park in Redmond.

For the season, the men are 5-5 with a 2-4 record in the division. Junior forward Nic Tkachuk leads the team in goals.

The men's team has a strong defensive core led by seniors John Telyea and Matt Mickle. Due to an ACL injury for returning junior goalie Ben Resare, first-year goalie Greg Fredlund has stepped in.

"We have a young team and the guys on the team are picking up the game impressively fast and having a lot of fun doing it," Resare said.

With a large class of rookies, nine, the men's lacrosse team has experienced success this season in their efforts to ensure sustainability for their program in the years to come.

"The season is going well, we are a very young team that plays with a lot of heart. I couldn't be more happy ending my collegiate career with this team," Telyea said.

# Darn proud to be a Lady Lute



Ashley  
COATS

Popular nickname may not be politically correct, but it tells a story that cannot be ignored

I miss you, Lady Lutes.

The common nickname for female athletes is going in the same direction as many other gender differentiating nicknames. "Lady Lute" is heading into the cauldron of political incorrectness.

Too many women throughout history have made sacrifices for me to ever forget that I am not only an athlete, but a female athlete. Women have had to work hard to get their foot in the male dominated world of sports, and this is why I think it is important for me to acknowledge that I am not only a Lute, but a Lady Lute.

The Mast editorial board decided earlier this year female athletes would no longer be referred to as "Lady Lutes" in our newspaper. This decision was discussed at length and at the end of a long meeting the majority decided that refer-

ring to female athletes as "Lady Lutes," while male athletes get the title of "The Lutes," is a step backwards in the fight for gender equality. I appreciate that The Mast is working to address gender issues. For some, the prefix "lady" might seem to imply that female athletics is the subcategory of the male athletic teams, who are simply referred to as the Lutes. I disagree.

The real issue is that my gender is not being recognized. In many cases, recognizing a person's gender would not help define who that person is or their story. But in the case of collegiate athletics, particularly in light of the history of women in sports, it is necessary to differentiate gender. Athletic teams are separated into teams based on their gender and male athletics is still more widely supported than that of their female counterparts. This winter, it was not difficult to see that the men's basketball team at PLU received many more fans at the home games than the women's basketball team.

Ever since I began playing sports at the age of six, my parents let me know how privileged women in my generation are to receive benefits derived from others' suffering. They told me stories from the past that have paved the way for female athletics. Thankfully, laws were enacted along the way to help women attain equality. One such law, Title IX, has helped pave the way for female athletics.

Title IX is a law that prohibits schools from discriminating against athletes on the basis of sex. Historically, this may be the most important event for opening the door to athletics for me and other female athletes. While no law can guarantee

equality, it ensures that women have the opportunity to pursue their athletic aspirations.

Before Title XI, there was the "Battle of the Sexes" when female tennis star Billy Jean King defeated male tennis player, Bobby Riggs. Both King and Riggs were former No. 1 tennis players. Riggs challenged King to a tennis match that would end up being the most watched tennis match of all time. King beat Riggs handily in three straight sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3. This epic tennis match stands as a reminder of the battle that women have had to fight to gain respect in the arena of athletics. However, this battle, although symbolically important, did not end the war. Those of us who have benefited have a duty to continue to fight for equality to protect the opportunities given to us. We are not a subpart of athletics but our own independent and equal share of the athletic program. We have a name—Lady Lutes. It is good alliteration, it is dignified, and it is ours.

For some referring to "ladies" may sound discriminatory. However, for me it is a reminder of the opportunity that I have as a student athlete, an opportunity that was given to me by prior generations of women athletes.

I hope that The Mast, and others who are considering leaving out the "lady" when referring to the PLU female athletic teams, take a second to realize the importance of that little word. Too many women have worked too hard to be forgotten.

Maybe Gentlemen Lutes will catch on someday and there will not be a problem. Although, there is the issue of alliteration, let that be a concern for another day.

## Scorecard

### Men's Tennis

#### Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
Whitman	14-0	1.000	17-9	.654
PLU	11-2	.846	11-10	.524
Linfield	8-4	.667	8-7	.533
Whitworth	9-5	.643	12-8	.600
UPS	5-7	.417	5-7	.417
Willamette	5-7	.417	5-8	.385
L&C	3-11	.214	4-13	.235
George Fox	1-10	.091	1-12	.077
Pacific	1-12	.077	1-13	.071

(Individual Records as of 3/12)

#### Singles:

- Kevin Floyd - 5-10 (5-2 NWC)
- Justin Larimore - 6-9 (5-2 NWC)
- Justin Peterson - 9-9 (7-3 NWC)
- Michael Manser - 10-6 (6-2 NWC)
- Jared Vidano - 9-6 (9-1 NWC)
- Scott Sheldon - 8-7 (7-4 NWC)

#### Doubles:

- Justin Larimore/Kevin Floyd: 5-4 (3-0 NWC)
- Justin Peterson/Michel Manser: 3-6 (2-1 NWC)
- Jared Vidano/James Crosetto: 3-7 (3-4 NWC)

### Women's Tennis

#### Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
Linfield	11-0	1.000	11-5	.688
Whitworth	10-2	.833	12-4	.750
L&C	10-2	.833	10-4	.714
Whitman	8-4	.667	10-9	.526
PLU	6-6	.500	8-7	.533
Willamette	4-7	.364	4-10	.286
UPS	2-10	.167	3-11	.214
George Fox	1-11	.083	2-14	.125
Pacific	1-11	.083	1-13	.071

(Individual records as of 3/12)

#### Singles:

- Erika Feltus - 8-7 (7-5 NWC)
- Liz Currey - 10-5 (8-4 NWC)
- Ashley Coats - 10-5 (9-3 NWC)
- Ashley Brooks - 10-5 (8-4 NWC)
- Emily Starr - 7-1 (7-0 NWC)
- Esther Ham - 4-7 (2-6 NWC)

#### Doubles:

- Erika Feltus/Ashley Coats: 11-4 (9-3 NWC)
- Liz Currey/Emily Starr: 4-5 (4-4 NWC)
- Ashley Brooks/Morgan Jones: 3-3 (3-3 NWC)

### Baseball

#### Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
Linfield	13-3	.812	18-6	.750
Pacific	14-6	.700	15-9	.625
George Fox	11-5	.688	15-9	.625
PLU	11-9	.550	13-10-2	.560
Whitworth	10-10	.500	11-15	.423
UPS	7-9	.438	11-12	.478
Willamette	7-9	.438	11-14	.440
L&C	7-13	.350	9-15	.375
Whitman	0-16	.000	2-22	.083

(Stats as of 3/12)

#### Team Batting Average Leaders: Min. 60 AB

- Ryan Aratani - .364
- Josh Takayoshi - .353
- Jordan Post - .321

#### Team Home Run Leaders:

- Jordan Post - 4
- Kris Hansen - 2
- Matt Akridge - 2

#### Team RBI Leaders:

- Jordan Post - 21
- Kris Hansen - 20

#### Team ERA Leaders: Min. 20 IP

- Rob Bleecker - 3.13
- Trey Watt - 3.77

#### Team Wins Leaders:

- Rob Bleecker - 3

#### Team Strikeout Leaders:

- Rob Bleecker - 30
- Trey Watt - 30

### Softball

#### Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
Linfield	11-1	.917	22-2	.917
Pacific	9-1	.900	18-2	.900
Willamette	6-2	.750	12-4	.750
PLU	8-4	.667	11-13	.458
Whitworth	5-7	.417	8-16	.333
UPS	4-6	.400	8-13	.381
George Fox	3-13	.188	3-19-1	.152
L&C	2-14	.125	2-21	.087

(Stats as of 3/12)

#### Team Batting Average Leaders: Min. 40 AB

- Caitlin Brown - .429
- Stephanie Mullen - .354
- Rachel Wheeler-Hoyt - .348

#### Team Home Run Leaders:

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

#### Team RBI Leaders:

- Rachel Wheeler-Hoyt - 13
- Vanessa Bryant - 11
- Lisa Gilbert - 10

#### Team ERA Leaders: Min. 60 IP

- Hadley Schmitt - 2.46
- Rachel Wheeler-Hoyt - 3.98

#### Team Wins Leader:

- Rachel Wheeler-Hoyt - 6

#### Team Strikeout Leaders:



Photo by Collin Guildner

Sophomore Michael Manser prepares for a return shot in a match Wednesday against UPS. The Lutes crushed the Loggers 8-1. PLU had tougher luck in California during spring break, losing all 5 of their matches.

## Lutes stay solid

Women's tennis holds own in California, win big at home

Ashley Coats  
MAST SPORTS CO-EDITOR

The women's tennis team held its own on its spring break trip and dominated on its home turf this past weekend. The Lutes traveled down to sunny southern California and went 2-1. Upon their return to the snow and rain of Washington, the Lutes took down both UPS and George Fox.

The first match of the spring break trip for the Lutes was a match against the nationally ranked Redlands University, March 22 in Redlands, Calif. Redlands handily beat the Lutes in a 9-0 victory. Senior Liz Currey had a close match with a final score of 6-4, 7-5.

"It was exciting," Currey said. "It's extra motivates me to play teams like that."

After Easter Sunday, the Lutes traveled to Whittier College, March 24 in Whittier, Calif. The Lutes redeemed their previous loss when they walked away with a 9-0 victory against the Poets.

Senior Erika Feltus, Currey, sophomore Ashley Coats, sophomore Ashley Brooks, first-year Esther Ham and senior Morgan Jones all won their matches.

Brooks won her match with a final score of 6-1, 6-1.

"It was a lot of fun because we have never had to play those teams before and we didn't know what to expect," Brooks said. "You don't really know what your stepping into and you just have to play your best game every time."

The last match for the women's tennis team on their trip was against California Lutheran University, March 26 in Thousand Oaks, Calif. The Lutes had another strong showing, beating the Regals 8-1.

"I had a lot of fun. The weather was perfect and I was playing well," Currey said. Currey won both her singles and doubles match against the Regals.

After the Lutes flew back to Washington, they immediately returned to conference play. The Lutes faced off with George Fox, March 28. The Lutes won two of its doubles matches. The No. 1 team of Feltus and Coats won 8-5 and the No. 2 team of Currey and Brooks won 8-5 as well. All of the top four singles players won their matches in straight sets.

The next day the Lutes had a match against their rivals, the UPS Loggers. The Lutes started off strong with wins from all three of their doubles teams. The No. 3 doubles team of first-year Emily Starr and Jones were down 0-2 and came back to win the match 8-4.

"We had never played together before so we were getting used to each other's game," Starr said about her comeback victory with Jones. "I feel like our team is really young, but we are holding our own."

The Lutes cleaned up the match-up with wins from all six of the singles matches, giving the team a 9-0 victory overall.

The Lutes will continue to defend their home turf this weekend. They play Whitman at 4 p.m. today and Whitworth at 1 p.m. Saturday on the PLU courts.

## Spring break hard on PLU rackets

Men's tennis gets rocked by tough opponents in California

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PLU men's tennis didn't have a stellar showing in California during spring break as their trip ended with a 0-5 record.

The Lutes were playing against some top performers, but some of their matches were close. Despite losing against all five opponents, they improved their performance as the week went on. The five teams they played were the toughest teams they had faced all season.

To start off the trip, Monday, March 24, they were up against Point Loma Nazarene and lost 9-0. Point Loma Nazarene is ranked No. 11 among NAIA teams.

The following day, PLU took on another team ranked No. 11, University of Redlands, in the NCAA Division III ranks. The Lutes lost 6-3.

They then competed against Pomona-Pitzer Wednesday, March 26, who ranked eighth in the Division III West Region. They lost 5-4. Their next opponent was the most difficult and that was Middlebury (Vt.), which is ranked No. 5 in Division III men's tennis and they lost 7-2.

Their last contest was against the second team from NCAA Division I Harvard, which PLU fell to 6-1. The Lutes are ranked No. 29 in Division III.

In San Diego, Calif. the Point Loma Nazarene Sea Lions

gave up only five games in three doubles matches, with only one of the singles matches going beyond two sets. Sophomore Michael Manser, playing No. 4 singles for the Lutes, competed hard as he went into a super tie breaker against Craig Johnson before losing 6-7, 6-1, (12-10).

PLU was off to a good start against the Redlands bulldogs in Redlands, Calif. but couldn't come away with a win. PLU was successful in two out of the three doubles matches.

"We faced a lot of good competition and we had spurts of good play," Sheldon said. "I thought we improved as the week went on."

The Bulldogs were able to pull off five out of six singles victories. The standout for the Lutes was Manser, who had the only singles defeat for PLU at No. 4 against Mike Reading, 1-6, 6-4, 6-1.

"I played really well and the matches I lost were really close," Manser said. "As a team, we were up against some stiff competition, but didn't do as well as we could've."

In Claremont, Calif. the Lutes had a solid performance. This was their closet match. The Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens had a head start as they won two of the three doubles matches. PLU proved to be tough in singles play with three of the matches going into a third set.

The last leg of the Lutes' spring break trip was in Claremont and Santa Barbara, Calif., which unfortunately concluded with a couple of losses against Middlebury and Harvard.

"It was a nice break from Tacoma and to get away from the rain, also, to re-energize and refocus for the remainder of the season," Peterson said.

The Lutes' men's tennis team will travel to the other side of the mountains this weekend to compete against Whitworth in Spokane, Wash. Matches will start at 10 a.m. The Lutes are now 10-10 overall and are in second place in the Northwest Conference with a 10-2 record.

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



Washington, D.C., 35 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

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## PLU top track performers: Linfield Multi-Event Meet

Junior Nolan Adams:  
Decathlon 14th Place  
4,518 Points



Adams

Junior Jeffery Rockenbrandt:  
Decathlon 15th Place

First-year Lakie Arceneaux:  
Heptathlon 7th Place, 3,404 Points