

Vagina Monologues wow viewers

Reno Sorensen
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Eastvold's stage glowed pink 8 p.m. Saturday night as more than 250 students chatted in a nervous fashion and waited for the lights to go down on Pacific Lutheran University's 2010 performance of the "Vagina Monologues" by Eve Ensler.

The two hours were filled with alternating laughter and somber silence, as students and faculty told the stories of women who have experienced rape, sexual slavery and coming of age.

Monologues ranged from the comical "The Woman Who Loved To Make Vaginas Happy," performed by eight of the cast, to "Under the Burqa," a memory of an Afghani woman's plight at the hands of a patriarchal society performed by assistant professor of Hispanic Studies, Giovanna Urdangarain.

Juniorco-director Emma Kane acted in the Monologues in the 2008 and 2009 performances.

This is her first year directing.

"It's been different this year because we've had a different dynamic within the cast," Kane said.

Writer and women's activist Eve Ensler wrote the original script for the "Vagina Monologues" in 1996. Staple monologues such as "My Angry Vagina" and "My Vagina Was My Village" are performed every year, while a new "Spotlight Monologue" is added to reflect current issues.

"My Vagina Was My Village,"



Photo by Joshua Aten

Junior Alicia Coragiulo (left) and senior Kaitlin Hansen scream at each other during their performance of "Reclaiming Cunt" as part of the Vagina Monologues. The duo was part of a group of women on campus who performed in the event last Thursday, Friday and Saturday night.

a monologue which compared oppression and rape to the destruction of a peaceful, idyllic homestead, had a sobering effect on the audience. And not just the women.

"A lot of men I've talked to are really touched by the village

story," sophomore producer Joanne Nguyen said.

This year's spotlight monologue, performed by Kane and Nguyen, told the story of a young woman's attempts to survive sexual slavery in Africa.

"My Angry Vagina," performed by senior Ronni Anderson, comically personified the vagina as a person frustrated at the world around it.

Students interested in auditioning for next year's Vagina Monologues should

contact Bobbi Hughes at the Women's Center, co-director Brianna Gedrich said.

"Everyone should come and see it next year," Gedrich said, "because it tells people what women are all about, and that vagina is not a scary word."

Meant To Live: Storm Chaser Reed Timmer to blow PLU students away

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When Reed Timmer was 13 years old, he knew what he wanted to chase tornadoes for the rest of his life.

After he was "pelted with golf-ball sized hail that ruined the family camera," he was sold.

Timmer, Discovery Channel's "Storm Chaser," knew early in his life what he was passionate about. "Ever since that day, I've been obsessed with extreme weather and storm chasing," he said.

Faculty and guests will challenge students to find the same passion and drive that has

led Reed Timmer on his "adventures" at 6 p.m. Monday in the Chris Knutzen Hall in the University Center.

This Spring PLU Student Involvement and Leadership and Wild Hope will host the annual event, "Meant to Live."

The event invites students to explore the question, "What will you do with your wild and precious life?"

Meant to Live began in 2003 as a student-led initiative where students explore the meaning of vocation.

"Vocation is more than just what you are passionate about, it also involves and helps the community," said Amber Dehne, assistant

SEE TIMMER PG.3

Cave mural to be unveiled

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Tacoma is an exciting city with a vibrant culture and ASPLU wants to introduce students to their city.

Sophomore Brett Rousseau won a competition to design and create a mural in The Cave with the theme "PLU and the PLU community." ASPLU will host a "Welcome to Tacoma" party on Thursday, Feb. 25 from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. where the mural

will be unveiled.

Rousseau's design was chosen through a competition. ASPLU Venues Director Jono Cowgill initiated the competition.

He said, "The Cave was barren. The main reason I wanted to do it was to bring the Cave to a new level. It was an art project that celebrated the community while drawing people into a space that is nice to be in."

"The reason we chose to combine these is because the

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PLU Debate goes global

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Five members of Pacific Lutheran University's Speech and Debate team traveled to Antalya, Turkey over New Years to compete at the 2010 World Universities Championships (WUDC).

Seniors Mike Engh, Justin Kjolseth and Kelly Ryan and Junior Aaron Sherman competed in the eight-day long competition.

"PLU received two spots to WUDC this year," Forensics Director Melissa Franke said. "We registered in July with hundreds of other institutions and luckily we made the cut."

The team joined 1200 other competitors, judges and staff from more than 43 countries.

The competition consisted of nine debate rounds with four teams of two competing.

"Each round was very different. We often competed against students from three different countries in one round," team president Ryan said. "And the topics varied from Sri Lankan elections, inter-ethnic marriage rights, honor killings, etc."

The style of debate for the WUDC mimicked the British Parliamentary system, which is not as technical as the American style of debate.

"We had to adapt to judging and argument styles from around the world," Kjolseth said. "It was a very challenging but an educational experience."

The competitors also went on local excursions and historical tours of Antalya and Perge.

The University of Sydney won the competition in the last round against Oxford, Harvard and London School of Economics.

PLU did not leave empty-handed.

The PLU students chosen said the event became more than just a competition.

The WUDC opened the door for global citizenship.

"As PLU debaters, we not only got the chance to visit and experience a different country, but we got to meet and learn from a global community of debaters," Senior Mike Engh said. "Truly an unforgettable experience."

Students unPLUG for environment



Photo by Joshua Aten

Musicians Noah (left) and Abby Gunderson perform at the kickoff concert for Pacific Lutheran University's second round of unPLUGged. The competition encourages students to reduce their electrical consumption.

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UnPLUGged is a sustainability competition in which the eight traditional dorms have been competing in a bracket system to conserve the most energy and win their bracket's prize money.

UnPLUGged helps students "make lifestyle choices that last beyond this one month," or the couple months that this competition will last, said junior Danyelle Thomas, a student worker for the Sustainability Office.

Thomas explained that the goal of UnPLUGged is not just to save as much money as possible, but also to make it easier for students to see that "sustainability is not hard. It is just a series of little decisions."

Unplugging items such as

hairdryers, laptops, and coffee pots when not in use decreases the amount of energy used.

Sophomore Jana Horton, co-president for Harstad Hall, said getting students involved has been easy.

"When plugged in, a device is still using 80 percent of its energy, even if it's turned off. You can imagine how important that is in an all-girls dorm where there are so many hair straighteners, blow dryers, curling irons and whatever else. So for each girl to simply unplug when she's done, it makes a world of difference," Horton said.

In UnPLUGged, the goal may be to make lifestyle changes, but a lot of money is being saved.

Energy consumption reductions made in the first round, beginning in October, saved the school roughly \$1,800. That money was in the

budget and now that it has not been used it can go toward something else. If students continue to use less energy and save money, eventually this money will come back to the students.

UnPLUGged has been a way for the eight traditional dorms to battle in a sustainability competition for prize money. This prize money can be used however the winning dorms think it would be best benefit their residents.

If Hinderlie is the winner of their bracket, they have been talking about using the money to take their residents to see the new Tim-Burton version of "Alice in Wonderland" as soon as it hits the theatres, said Thomas.

To make this more sustainable, they plan on using public transportation, Thomas said.

* * * ATTENTION STUDENTS * * *

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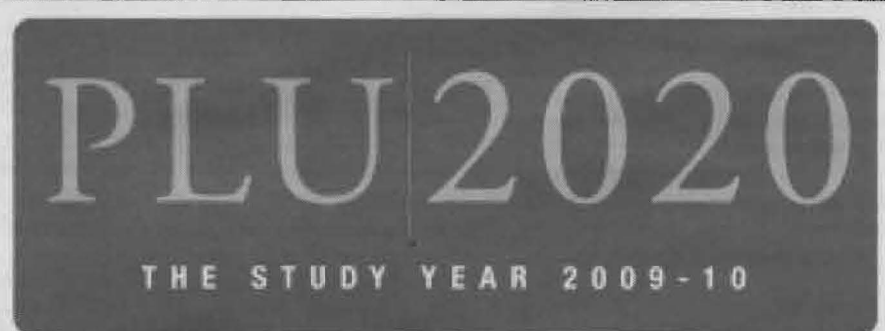
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Follow the discussion at: www.plu.edu/PLU2020

STATE, NATION and WORLD BRIEFINGS

Local to Global

Olympic droughts ended for Canada and the USA



AP Photo by Bela Szandelszky

Alexandre Bilodeau of Canada celebrates becoming Olympic champion in moguls at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics Sun. Feb. 14.

Jaime Aron
ASSOCIATED PRESS SPORTS WRITER

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Johnny Spillane ended an 86-year drought that few Americans even knew existed. Alexandre Bilodeau ended a much shorter wait that practically everyone in Canada had been agonizing over.

Spillane finished second in Nordic combined, just four-tenths of a second from making the first U.S. medal come in the best color.

Bilodeau's victory was the first by a Canadian in any event at an Olympics held in Canada. Although there were only two Olympics in Canada before Vancouver, there were 244 gold medals awarded over those games.

Bilodeau's breakthrough came in the 10th event of these games and well past the point of panic for a country that invested about \$6

billion in hosting and \$110 million in preparing its athletes to "Own the Podium."

After disappointments stretching from the Battle of Brians in 1988 to Jenn Heil coming up short in women's moguls on Saturday night, Canadians were holding their breath when Bilodeau stood at the start line, trying to beat the score posted by Dale Begg-Smith — a native Canadian competing for Australia.

He moved into first with a swift, soaring run, then had to wait out one final foe.

It proved worth the wait. On the evening of Feb. 14, Bilodeau stood atop the medals stand and bowed, revealing a large red maple leaf on the back of his white helmet as his prize was placed around his neck.

Millions of folks from Yukon to Newfoundland were surely singing along to "O Canada."

"I had it, I took it and now I belong to history," Bilodeau said.

Georgian luger remembered at service in Vancouver, BC

Stephen Wilson
ASSOCIATED PRESS SPORTS WRITER

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — The Olympic luger killed in a crash was honored with prayers and candles at a memorial service Monday, his body beginning the long journey home to his devastated village in Georgia.

Grieving teammates and officials, as well as international and Vancouver organizers, attended the brief private service for Nodar Kumaritashvili at a Vancouver funeral home.

The brown casket was placed in a gray hearse and driven away with a police motorcycle escort. Later in the day, the body was being taken on a flight to Georgia, where it will then be flown to Georgia for burial in Bakuriani.

"He's on his way home," said Patrick Hickey, head of the European Olympic Committees.

The 21-year-old luger died during training Friday hours before the opening ceremony. He lost control of his sled on the lightning-fast track in Whistler and slammed into a trackside steel pole at nearly 90 mph.

Tears streaming down his face, senior

Georgian Olympic official Ramaz Goglidze said Kumaritashvili's village of 1,500 people remained in deep mourning.

"For every family in the village it's a tragedy," he said. "Even people who never met him cry all day, everyone."

About two dozen people attended Monday's service, including Kumaritashvili's uncle and coach, Felix, who broke into tears outside the funeral home.

The mourners gathered on the street, consoling each other, before going inside where Kumaritashvili's body was in an open casket. Members of the Georgian team filed past and touched the body. Others lit candles and said prayers.

"People stood around in shock and sorrow," Hickey said. "There were no speeches. People had their own private moment, reflecting on the situation. It was a really solemn occasion, everyone so unified standing around sharing in the sorrow."

"It was extremely moving and heartbreaking to be there," Furlong said. "We did the best we could to bring the appropriate environment to bring closure to what happened here."

ART CONT. FROM PG. 1

mural is about PLU and the Parkland community," ASPLU Programs Director Emily Isensee said.

The mural includes the Rose Window, musical instruments, the Community Garden, the duck pond and Mt. Rainier. The mural took over 200 hours to complete and is entitled "Discover Your Routes."

"I love the idea of public art. Not in something where I want to get my name out there, but anonymous art that people can enjoy. This is much more approachable than going to the museum. It's one of the things I'd love to do," Rousseau said.

Sophomore Jenny Snipstead and the step team are scheduled to perform at the party and Urban Exchange will have a fashion show.

Students can also receive free t-shirts saying, "I love my

city" and coupons for Tacoma businesses.

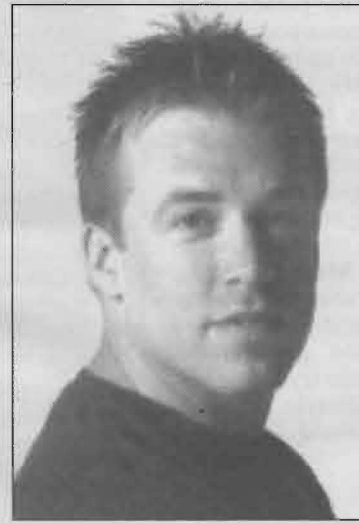
"We really want to encourage students to get outside the PLU bubble by enticing them with coupons and information about places in Tacoma that we think are pretty cool," Isensee said.

ASPLU hopes students learn that PLU, Parkland and Tacoma are great places with endless possibilities.

"This is not just for me, this is for everyone—it's to make the school more beautiful," Rousseau said. "When you're doing a big mural, considering the environment is very important. It's something I learned for the future."

Rousseau is "definitely" planning on creating more murals in the future. She has started a mural in the Community Garden, to be completed when she returns from her semester in Senegal.

TIMMER CONT. FROM PG 1



Reed Timmer

director of Student Involvement and Leadership. This is the first year Meant to Live has been themed within an academic division: the Natural Sciences and is called "Unearth your Passion." Along with the natural science theme, Reed Timmer has been invited to speak at the event as the keynote speaker at 6 p.m. Monday in Chris Knutzen Hall.

Timmer continued to follow his passion by studying natural science and meteorology. He has captured over 200 tornadoes on film since 1998 and is the first to capture high-definition video inside a tornado using a 300-pound TVN tornado probe. The two-day event will give students the chance to discuss and listen to the meaning of vocation "on and off campus," Dehne said.

"To sustain a vocation you need a passion, it's not always easy or fun, but your passion keeps you committed," Dehne said.

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Documenting Uganda: Students share life-changing experiences

Guest Columnist
Jacob Pugh

“Seek first to understand...”

This past January Term, 18 lucky students were given the chance to take the study-away course of a lifetime in Uganda. Soaking up each new experience, we sought to understand, shattering our stereotypes of Africa with each step of our journey. With one such experience, this would be easier said than done.

Uganda, my new favorite country, has recently found itself in international spotlight due to the anti-gay legislation working its way through Parliament. This law commands that any participation in an act of homosexuality is punishable by life in prison. Any person with knowledge of these acts that does not report it to the authorities would be fined and face up to 3 years in prison. Lastly, any person with HIV/AIDS would face the death penalty. Viewing this as a clear violation of human rights, Western nations have put pressure on Uganda to amend the proposed law, via the threat of withholding aid. Despite re-examination, there are very strong vocal advocates in Uganda still fighting to get the bill passed in its original form, including Pastor Martin Ssempe. At a press conference our class attended, Pastor Ssempe garnered more international attention when he showed a PowerPoint presentation displaying acts of homosexuality to try and show all that was wrong with a gay lifestyle, trying to enforce why it should be condemned. Once we

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

-Ghandi

witnessed Pastor Ssempe's actions, most of the class left.

By all accounts, as a gay man, what I saw should have been enough to send me running with the departing crowd. I didn't run. I was the last member of our class to leave. To my very core, I didn't agree with Ssempe. I didn't agree with him but he fascinated me. Like a moth to a flame, his words drew me in. I sat there and soaked up every word. I was witnessing polar opposite views from those of my own and, neither out of agreement or complicity, I was seeking to understand.

Being gay is not someone's defining characteristic. Gay, straight, bisexual, we are all so much more than our sexual orientation. It is not what we think or say, it is our actions that define us. That day, at an international press conference in Kampala, I would experience my moment of definition. I wanted to fully understand all sides of a debate that would affect my life so drastically if I were a citizen in my host country. To fully consider yourself a global citizen, you have to fully engage yourself in the moment. I implore each and every one of you to explore all sides of any interaction, political or otherwise. Be fully informed. Be true to yourself. Be ready for your moment of definition. But most of all, like Ghandi said and our professor liked to quote, “Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

For more international blogs, visit my.plu.edu and create a guest account

From the editor



“When will you come back?”

These words resonate in my mind and in my heart, bringing tears to my eyes each time they replay in my memory. Monica is 10 years old. I met her in Namuongo, Kampala's largest slum. She was wearing no shoes and an oversized red lace dress. Her hair was short with small knots all over. She had the most innocent, beautiful face I have ever seen. The life she lives is something I have never known, and she has probably seen more than I will see in a life time. Her smile, her face, her laugh, her touch, her hug, her voice is forever burned in my memory. I am heart broken to think that odds are I may never see her again. But, despite this, she has had more of an impact on me than any other person that has briefly walked in and out of my life. I will never forget her, and I hope that our bond touches her life the way it has touched mine. Will I come back? In my mind and in my heart, yes.

Namuongo was the most culturally shocking experiences of this trip. The neighborhoods have four districts, and from what I understand (and anyone can correct me if I am mistaken) over a million people live there, many of which are young children. The community is a make-shift collection of homes and families that are illegally “squatting” after seeking refuge from the North. The first thing you see is run down train tracks and heaps of burning garbage. The smell is unlike anything you can picture, and because of the poor sanitation, sickness is very common.

We walked through the slum, a sea of Mzungus, gazing at the trenches full of sludge and garbage, with narrow alley ways and many people congregating going about their normal business. Children flocked from all sides yelling “Mzungu! Mzungu! How are you?” grabbing our hands and pulling on our arm hairs. These children were wearing ripped clothes and no shoes, yet had more joy than any child in the U.S. playing with a Game Boy or PlayStation.

I was silent throughout the journey, taking it in that this was not a tourist attraction—to them, this is life. I was very unsettled that many of us were so overjoyed and excited to be there—I felt like we were treating it like a trip to the zoo. To me, no matter how happy these children seemed, I couldn't get over the smell or the sights. These children, happy or not, deserve more but don't know any different. Parents were trying to give away their children, handing over their babies saying “take my child with you, please.” This was too much for me to handle emotionally. I didn't know what to think, and I still don't.

After our walk that attracted many children (some of which followed us so far they lost their way home), we had lunch with a local family. This home was wonderful! The meal was so authentic and the trimmings of the home so refreshing. Everything inside that garnished the house was bare essential--

no unnecessary drapes or decoration, just the basics to live a humble life. The walls were decorated with awards and collegiate plaques. It was fascinating to me that even a family with a decorated college history, they were still loyal to their slum community. It was a cozy home in the middle of a poverty stricken area. I still don't fully know how to interpret such a paradox, but I am working through the experience in my head even now.

Following a delightful lunch of posho, rice, beans, chicken, and other fabulous local food, we set off for the primary school. The school administrator Grace showed us the way to a shaded classroom full of children of all ages. We taught each other songs and performed them to the group. After the Mzungus taught a silly campfire song, the local children taught us a song that went something like this: “Aids Aids, our friends, many people have died, Aids Aids, our friends, many people have died...”

If reality hadn't set in yet, at that moment it did. While we were learning our ABCs as children, these children were learning about life beyond anything adults in the U.S. know about. Dying, orphans, sickness, struggle...all of this came out in such a catchy and powerful song. You couldn't help but hold back tears. Despite the weight of such a song, these



Photo by Hilary Hilpert

children sang it with pride and joy, which is something I am still trying to digest.

Following our lesson, a group of us Mzungus were privileged to play football (known as soccer to most of you) outside. I, however, had the pleasure of spending even more time with Monica and her 9-year-old friend Rose. We played beauty shop and took photos and

played with my foreign Mzungu hair. The blonde-tinger combination is something they had never seen before. It was the most beautiful hair style I have ever rocked. I told them before we were through that they would make wonderful hair dressers, and should work at a beauty salon someday. Their faces lit up, and it was amazing.

When we were about to leave, Monica and Rose did not leave my side (just as they hadn't for the previous two hours). They held on tight to my pale freckled arm, and smiled wide the whole way to the bus. When I told them I was leaving they gave me the biggest and most heart-felt hug I have ever gotten. I have never seen such a genuine response from such a young group of girls. When I got back onto the bus, Monica ran to the back and found where I was—she didn't take her eye off of me for one second, and smiled the entire time. Who would have thought that letting a young girl play with your hair would be so impactful?

It was when the bus started driving off that she reached in the window, grabbed my hand and yelled “When will you come back?” My heart stopped and I was speechless—I didn't say a word. I didn't know what to say, and my heart is broken because of it. I may never see her again, and tears come to my eyes this moment thinking about that. But, despite the heart break, my hope is that for a short time I made a difference in this little girl's life—because she made a world of difference in my life. Maybe in the future, that short three hour beauty shop inspired her to pursue her dreams—whether that is working in a salon, or going to Makerere and changing the world. My hope is that whether I see her again or not, she lives a joyful life and thinks fondly of me, for I will be thinking fondly of her. To me, Uganda will always remind me of her touch, her voice, her smile.

I may not have changed Monica's life, but she

Mast Staff 2009-2010

The Mast is published each Friday by students of Pacific Lutheran University, excluding vacations and exam periods. The views expressed in the editorials, columns and advertisements do not necessarily represent those of the PLU administration, faculty, students or The Mast staff.

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 class standing (e.g., first-year, junior, etc.) for verification will be discarded. Letters should be no longer than 500 words in length and typed. The Mast reserves the right to refuse any letter. Letters may be edited for length, taste and errors.

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U should know

ASPLU informs you about the issues

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The Pacific Lutheran University campus is often referred to as the "Lute Dome" or "PLU Bubble" which refers to the fact that many PLU students never venture far from campus. The PLU campus is a comfortable place for those who live there, and students could go days, weeks, and months without leaving campus if they chose to do so.

The problem with this is that staying in the "Lute Dome" means missing out on all of the experiences and opportunities that the Tacoma/Parkland area has to offer. In an effort to pop that bubble, ASPLU is hosting an event in the Cave where students can learn more about the opportunities Tacoma has to offer, as well as seeing entertainment from PLU students. This event will also be an opportunity to see and celebrate the new mural created by Brett Rousseau which covers an entire wall in the Cave.

Welcome To Parkland Party and Mural Unveiling
Thursday, February 25th in the Cave
Featuring: Fashion Show by Urban Exchange, The Step Team, Music by Jenny Snipstead and Free T-Shirts!

Facebook faux pas

Amusement today, regret tomorrow



Facebook is an incredible social and networking tool that is helping to define our generation, as well as aiding older generations in reconnecting with lost friends and distant relatives. However, it can also cause a lot of harm, especially as teenagers and young adults misuse it.

I have seen many times among my friends list immature, unprofessional, and even illegal behavior being exhibited – often proudly! – for all the world to see. The problem that our generation often forgets is that no matter what their privacy settings, everything on Facebook is being shared with the World Wide Web. Many students at PLU are friends with professors and employers from school. As friends, they have access to see pictures of underage students drinking alcohol, read status updates about dreading work and witness many other forms of immature behavior.

Even if they aren't your direct friends, people can still see what you post publicly on other people's walls, regardless of your own personal privacy settings.

And, here's the most startling fact: even if you delete it, it is never truly gone. Once you have posted something to the Internet, it is out there forever, floating around in cyberspace. Facebook hides in their fine print that whatever you post becomes Facebook's property. Google creates caches of pages that are far out of date and often even non-existent, which people find with a simple search. Your current privacy settings won't hide an old page.

Some things seem so common sense, and yet it never fails to amaze me how blind some people may be. The website Texts from Last Night proves to be a very entertaining, albeit "not safe for work" site that many college students enjoy reading for hours on end. A group of students from PLU have created their own version of Texts from Last Night on Facebook, where students post amusing texts and conversations that happen on, around and relating to campus.

While some posts are perfectly harmless, some may cause embarrassment

or even lead to serious trouble for the posters. And here's the key difference between the real Texts from Last Night site and PLU's Facebook version: the original site is anonymous, whereas the Facebook group lists posters by name.

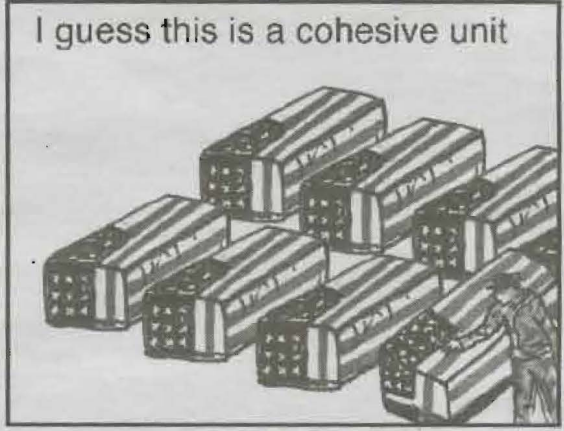
Facebook is not a safe haven that is limited only to your little bubble of friends. Facebook is a global networking site that future employers may use to learn more about you. Sexy pictures of you or photographs of you getting trashed at a kegger are not going to impress anybody, and it may cost you a future job. Complaining about your existing job, boss, or coworkers is also a surefire way to cause you trouble, or at the very least reflect poorly on you as immature and unprofessional.

The next time you post something to Facebook – on your own page or anyone else's – stop and think twice about it. Don't let a little fun and amusement today be a constant regret tomorrow.

Grab-bag Graphics

The argument used against repealing the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy is that it would threaten having a cohesive unit.

Here are some jobs the military fired gay people from: foreign translators, intelligence analysts, military police, infantry, those with special training in nuclear, chemical and biological warfare and medical specialists



Comic by Rebecca Scarborough

United States: Alleged superpower?



I am starting to wonder what exactly the point of being a "superpower" is if we can't get anything done. Our (I'm sure, extremely unbiased) public education system has poured mountains of sparkly propaganda down my throat about how the United States is the strongest, most powerful, richest, best country ever to exist.

As a college student, I'm beginning to believe that no country could live

up to that hype, and that we are doing more harm than good by expecting our country to play savior to the world. Particularly when we haven't gotten it right yet by our own people.

I spent J-term in Costa Rica, a country that is not powerful, and certainly not rich. They are experiencing such problems with their currency (the colon) that the government is considering switching to the US dollar in the midst of the recession. Still, this tiny little country has achieved things that our senators continue to argue over the basic importance of. Costa Rica has universal health care for residents, nonresidents and visitors, via a nine percent income tax for those who choose the public health plan. Citizens can also opt out

and go with private insurers. No one is turned away from public hospitals.

Costa Rica has created a free education system through post-doctorate education. Students are able to choose a career path, and the only stipulation is that they pass the entrance exams for the program of their choosing. The government even provides stipends for housing and other expenses. Imagine what a difference it would make for low-income and middle-class families if you could go to medical school or law school and have all your expenses paid, as long as you had the qualifying grades and scores.

While I was in Costa Rica, their 2010 election was in full swing, and while the candidates seemed to be as predisposed to preposterously grand statements as ours ("Liberty and Security!" "End to Corruption!"), one factor was

noticeably absent: the frontrunner was a woman, Laura Chinchilla, and no one seemed to notice. She became the first woman president of Costa Rica, and I never saw a mention in the newspapers, despite the country's conservative Catholic heritage. The lack of hurrah seemed me to show less consciousness of its significance, which in turn meant that maybe sexism wasn't a tangible concern in their culture.

I wish I lived in a culture where it wasn't a fireworks and cannons moment when a black man was elected president, and I didn't have to weigh in the cost of different graduate schools when deciding which ones to apply to. I wish I didn't have to decide between getting my teeth fixed and paying my car insurance. Why isn't our government using its alleged superpowers to address that?

Sidewalk Talk

What was most memorable about your J-Term?



"Snowboarding, even though it sucked this year."
Evan Carlton
first-year



"I went to the beach with my best friend."
Tina Davis
sophomore



"I showed up 10 minutes late to class every day."
Jeff Serdenia
sophomore



"Leaving PLU was the most memorable part of J-Term."
Trevor Olson
junior



AP photo by Talia Frenkel

Suzanne Puzo, a Canadian Red Cross nurse, removes bandages on Danise Diverge, 10, in Croix Des Prez, Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.

One month after the earthquake

How you can help the Haitian people

Beau Abajian

INTERNATIONAL REPORTER
poppenbf@plu.edu

On January 12, a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti near its capital, Port au Prince. In the city and surrounding areas, millions have lost their homes and are now living in tents or make shift shelters while close to one million remain homeless.

The number of dead and injured has increased significantly. The Haitian government says there have been 212,000 deaths and over 300,000 injured as a result of the earthquake.

In the time since the initial quake, aftershocks, including a 6.1-magnitude quake, have caused further destruction.

In communities, Haitians have coped by organizing aid distribution and neighborhoods have set up tent zones. Before the earthquake, Haiti's population was just above 9.7 million.

According to the United Nations 2.3 million have received aid from the World Food Programme. Hundreds of thousands of survivors are still waiting on food and water aid.

International aid coming to Haiti, the country known as the poorest nation in the western hemisphere, has progressively begun to reach the people of Haiti.

The American Red Cross has pledged \$10 million to Haiti and will continue distributing basic needs there. The international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders and the World Health Organization are orchestrating on the ground delivery of medical services, including thousands of



A building burns behind a statue of Madame Colot in Port-au-Prince, Friday, Jan. 22. A 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit Haiti on Jan. 12, killing and injuring thousands and leaving many homeless.

AP photo by Ricardo Arduengo

amputations for injured survivors. After local aid groups were set back by the earthquake and weeks of concern about international aid's expediency and efficiency, statistics show aid is reaching a large percentage of Haiti's population.

Haitian Aftermath

How to Help

- A \$10 donation to the American Red Cross can be made easily by texting "Haiti" to 90999 or by calling 800-733-2767.
- Salvation Army has run schools, clinics, a hospital and food programs in Haiti since 1950. They are accepting donations at 800-725-2769.
- Lutheran World Relief will be working with partners in Haiti. A donation can be made at 800-597-5972.

Since the quake, the US has sent, along with basic food, water and shelter aid, the hospital ship USNS Comfort and military support to Haiti.

US troops have largely controlled logistics and aid distribution, taking over the Port-au-Prince international airport once they landed in Haiti. US commanders tell the AP Haitians are now beginning to take control of certain tasks, including aircraft control.

Thus far, reports the AP, the Pentagon has spent \$234 million in relief effort. According to General Robert Gates, the US troop level in Haiti has decreased to 13,000 from a Feb. 1 peak of 20,000.

The initial security concern has been criticized by some Haitians for doing too little to address immediate needs. Speaking to the AP, a former Haitian defense minister said the military presence was too focused on security, but was helpful overall.

Much fewer Canadian, French, Italian, South Korean and Japanese troops are also in Haiti, as well as disaster relief responders from around the world. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been pledged by the international community.

The Haitian population and others caught in the earthquake need food, water and medical attention—immediately. Injuries received directly from the earthquake are a problem, and disease is an increasing concern.

In partnership, UNICEF, American Red Cross, the World Health Organization and others are planning an emergency vaccination of 140,000 people.

With the rainy season approaching, Haiti will likely be dealing with mudslides and floods that will affect those living in tents who will need to be moved to more secure housing.

Donations are needed to fund those organizations with the ability to deliver aid immediately, however Haiti requires a long-term commitment.

A \$10 donation to the American Red Cross can be made easily by texting "Haiti" to 90999 or by calling 800-733-2767.

Salvation Army has run schools, clinics, a hospital and food programs in Haiti since 1950. They are accepting donations at 800-725-2769.

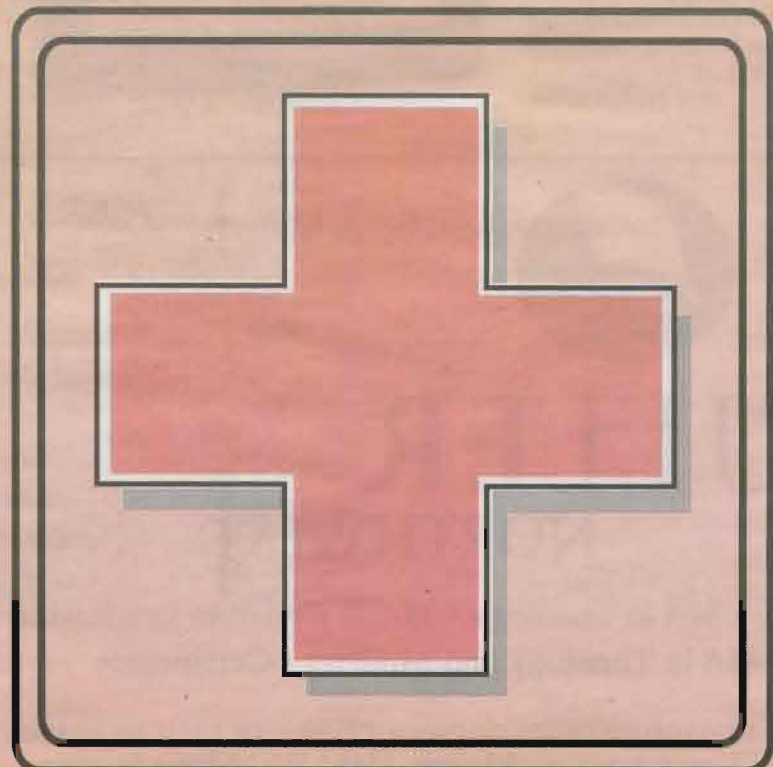
Lutheran World Relief has said it is committed to Haiti for the long-term and will be working with partners in Haiti. A donation can be made at 800-597-5972.

Before the earthquake, over 400 aid groups were working in urban and rural Haiti. Mainly due to political instability and debt, the country has been stuck in poverty much of the time since it became the first independent black nation.

As Haiti moves forward, it will need strong international support from governments and humanitarian organizations long into the future.



AP photo by Francois Mori
Jean Claude Beausejour uses orange skin to protect against the stench of dead bodies at a street in Port-au-Prince, Thursday, Jan. 21. While many of the dead have been buried in mass graves or cemeteries others are left in the streets by family or friends.



Apple's iPad: the device nobody asked for

Tablet computer to thrive in ad hoc market

Matt Click
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Steve Jobs took to the stage at a press event Jan. 27 to unveil his new darling — the Apple iPad. In Jobs' mind, he was dropping a big heaping surprise on the public. His fantasies likely included Microsoft and Google CEOs immediately surrendering and kissing his Doc Martins.

But the truth was, anyone with a working Internet connection had caught wind of the device's development in the months leading up to its official unveiling, and many speculated on the rumored-to-be-revolutionary gizmo and its capabilities. Word was, Apple was releasing a tablet computer to compete with Netbooks. And it was going to be big.

And yes, they were right. The iPad is a big deal. It's garnered more attention, positive and negative, than any other device in recent memory. Some sing its praises, claiming that it will change the computer as we know it. Jobs himself said it was "more than a smart phone, more than a notebook." Others, like myself, are a bit more skeptical (and rightfully so).

Now, let me be honest with you: I have always been more of a PC guy. This isn't to discount the worth and appeal of Macs. I've used Macs extensively, and appreciate them for what they are — powerful, easy-to-use machines. But I like my computer to have a little give, and Apple's iron fist approach to software development has always put me off. On top of this, I'm a lifelong PC gamer, so a lot of my loyalties do lie with that community.

But in this column, I will approach the Apple iPad with an open mind and an unbiased outlook to give it the scrutiny it deserves. There is a lot the iPad has going for it, and I'd be a bad journalist to not look at the good as well as the bad.

The iPad as a media machine

One of the big selling points for the iPad is its portability, obviously. It weighs a pound and-a-half and is barely the size of a typical magazine, and it packs a punch for its size. Early reports describe it as being incredibly fast and fluid to use. But there are several problems that I can already tell are going to hinder this thing as a viable media machine.

For one, let's talk about the aspect ratio. The iPad is 9.56 inches by 7.47 inches — that's roughly a 4:3 ratio, for those of you who, like me, haven't taken a math class in four years. Movies? They play at a 16:9 aspect ratio. That equals big black bars surrounding your movie, Mr. Kubrick. 4:3 is a dying aspect — in film, in television, in streaming online video. So why create a device that will forcibly resize 16:9 video? Jobs might as well have implemented an 8-track player, while he was at it.

The iPad's maximum storage capacity, on the most expensive model (\$699), is 64 gigabytes, less than half of a typical iPod.

The cheapest model (\$499) packs a meager 16 gigs. A movie file can take up anywhere from 500 megabytes to a full gig's worth of space, depending on the length and quality of the transfer. So cram those movies in with your music library, your hi-res photos, PDF files and applications library, and the iPad starts to look more like a can of sardines than a media player.

And for the record, this wouldn't be a big deal if Apple had stuck an SD-card slot or a USB port on the damn thing, without the user needing to lug around a bunch of ugly adapters. But that would just make too much sense, wouldn't it?

And no camera, either. But I guess that's what your iPhone is for, right?

Oh, wait.

The iPad as a mobile browser

This is probably the iPad's strongest facet. Because it utilizes multi-touch technology, browsing with the iPad will feel like holding a webpage in your hands. Yeesh, I'm sounding like Steve Jobs, aren't I? Magical wonderfulness aside, Jobs is right in one regard — the iPad is going to give us a whole new browsing experience, one that I expect to see implemented into many of our devices in the future, immediately preceding the robot holocaust. It's only a matter of time before we're pulling Firefox windows across a holographic screen like Tom Cruise in "Minority Report."

The big problem with the iPad's browser is the lack of Flash. Countless webpages use Flash in their layouts, and video hosting sites like Hulu rely on it solely. To not include Flash support is to present a broken browser.

The iPad as a Kindle-killer

Of course Apple needed to jump on the e-reader bandwagon. The iPad is being touted as a contender to usurp the Amazon Kindle's throne. But here's the big problem: devices like the Kindle, Sony E-Reader and the Barnes and Noble Nook have e-paper (also called e-ink). E-Paper is a type of display that looks a lot like, well, paper, and reacts to things like light in a very similar fashion. But the iPad will have a traditional OLED display, which would make it no different than, oh say, reading an e-book on your laptop screen. That means glare and eye-strain.

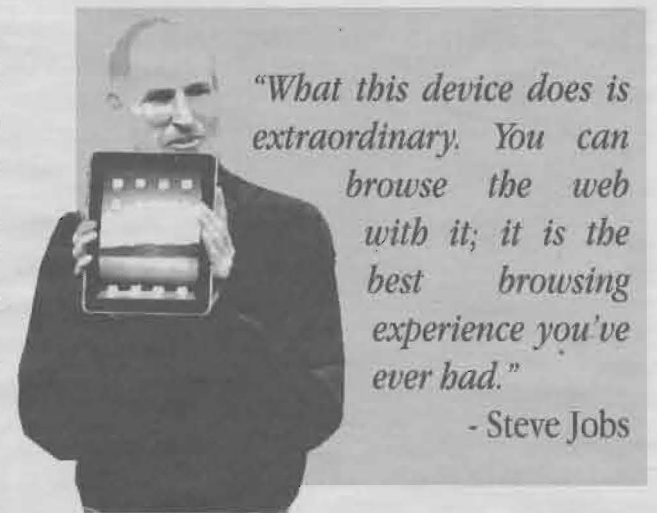
On the other hand, e-paper is black-on-white, whereas OLED is a color display. I can see myself reading comics and color PDFs on the iPad, but as for text-only e-books? I don't think so. Come back when the screen doesn't give me a migraine and we'll talk.

The iPad as a homebrew environment

Let's just be frank about this one — the iPhone OS (which the iPad will be running) is one of the most oppressive systems out there for software developers. The iPad will exclusively run apps from Apple's store, which bans programs such as Google Voice for no real reason other than to keep the environment under total Apple-control. Your preferred browser (read: not Safari) won't be offered, I guarantee it. Steve Jobs may have a community clambering for his products, but he sure as hell doesn't trust them with said products.

The iPad for college students

So all this opinion is fine and dandy, but let's bring it all



home. What does the iPad offer us — college students, professors and faculty members? Junior Jason Saunders doesn't think the iPad has much to offer him personally, because he is a power-user who regularly uses CPU-intensive software like audio and video editing programs. However, he is optimistic about the device as a whole.

"Most people spend a lot of their computer time online anyway," Saunders said. "The iPad takes everything you want to do and simplifies it into an easy-to-use interface."

The iPad could also be an asset when it comes to textbooks.

"I like the idea of having a half-inch-thick device that I can store hundreds of books on," Saunders said.

And plans are already in motion to bring e-textbooks to the iPad. Textbook publishers Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Kaplan Publishing, McGraw-Hill Education and Pearson have already signed deals to bring their electronic products to the iPad.

For college students, this is a good thing and a bad thing. It's awfully convenient to carry all of your textbooks around in a single, slim device, but digital books would effectively eliminate the used book market, meaning less options for students who might not have the dough to blow on PDF copies of their required texts. You can thank Digital Rights Management for that.

The bottom line

You might think that I've written the iPad off as a useless device. You'd be right, in some regard, at least. The iPad is filling a market that nobody wants, needs or asked for. It's a bridge between laptops and smart phones for those who don't want to get their feet wet crossing that meager stream. Jobs is creating an ad hoc demand for the iPad by calling it the next step in computers, while failing to concede that, really, what he did was make an iTouch more cumbersome (and took away the camera just to spite us).

But let's look a little closer at the iPad — at what it can do. It's a nine-inch glass screen, weighing under two pounds, that can do many of the things a laptop can do, at about twice the speed. Is it going to replace the laptop or the home desktop computer? Hell no. Is it going to kill the netbook? Just maybe.

"I think the iPad is just the first step of the general direction that computers are going in the future," Saunders said. He envisions a market in which most computers are simple, easy-to-use devices, while power-users will fall into a niche market. "I do a lot of audio editing," he said. "But my grandma doesn't need that."

For many people, the iPad might be a perfect fit for what they need to accomplish with their personal computing devices. This computer-user remains skeptical, however. Between my laptop and my phone, I've got most everything covered. Thanks, but no thanks, Steve.

Initial iPad Pricing		
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Marvel's landscape changes

Disney buyout marks drastic turnover for Marvel

As you may or may not know, Dec. 31, 2009 marked a historic day for millions of people. On that day, something happened literally overnight that changed everything. Marvel Entertainment, the company that brought you more than 5,000 comic book characters, was bought out by the Walt Disney Company for \$4.24 billion in a stock and cash deal.

This acquisition has its pros, namely that Disney's massive infrastructure of distribution and sales will help Marvel characters get the popularity they deserve. But the turnover also has a major con, about which many fans, including me, are apprehensive: will Disney ownership make Marvel's characters "soft?" I've been following Marvel's characters since before I thought of comic books and as a legitimate storytelling medium by watching the X-Men animated series, and I know that I don't want Wolverine third-wheeling with Mickey Mouse on a date with Minnie.

But I'll leave behind the bigger picture and zero in on the whole reason I got in on this columnist gig in the first place: the movies. The way I see it, movies have the same dilemma as the comic books themselves. On the one hand, now that Disney owns Marvel, a whole new plethora of animation technology is open to them, which makes it possible for movies about characters not easily represented in live-action (or those already horribly portrayed—Venom, anyone?) to be made using state-of-the-art animation mixed with live action. Just Google "Shuma Gorath" or "MODOK" and you'll see what I mean.

On the other hand, we don't want Marvel's foray into animated features to become the sole cash cow of the franchise. 2008's "Iron Man," with Robert Downey Jr., was a fiscal and critical success, and with a sequel on the way, the market for live-action superhero films is a green pasture. Look at it this way: I could get the same effect from an animated superhero movie as I could



The Cuddly Inferno

Rhain Leddy

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with an actual comic book. With live-action, you see everything brought to life in all of its explosion-y, modernized badass-ness.

Luckily, we have a bit of time before we have to worry about this. Marvel's existing contract with Paramount Studios still entitles them to at least five more movies, some of which are already in the works. For example, "Iron Man 2," "Ant-Man," "The First Avenger: Captain America," "Thor," and reboots of the "Spider-Man" and "Daredevil" franchises slated for release from 2011 onward.

The proposed reboots of "Spider-Man" and "Daredevil" are rather hit-or-miss for me. The first "Daredevil" was, suffice to say, really, really bad. As was the follow-up, "Elektra," in which Jennifer Garner took the lovely assassin's credibility and promptly ran it through with a sai. The upcoming "Daredevil," therefore, has little precedent to which to live up. Then again, it's not hard to improve on garbage.

Additionally, since Sam Raimi's departure from "Spider-Man 4," the project has been scrapped in favor of a reboot, which will supposedly follow Peter Parker's high school days and how he has to cope with his newfound powers. If it is anything like "Ultimate Spider-Man," a series written by Brian Michael Bendis (also known as the Supreme Master of Comic Book Writing), this film franchise has promise. Also, this means no more of Tobey Maguire's extremely ugly straining, yelling and crying faces. Thank God.

Despite all of the promise of gaining popularity and technology and the prospect of new franchises, I can't help but feel as though the end of Marvel's contract with Paramount spells the end of Marvel Comics characters' edginess and gritty realism. I just can't get used to the image of Wolverine's iconic cowl rounded off to look like mouse ears. For that, I am truly frightened.



Photo illustration by Matt Click

What does the future hold for Marvel heroes like Wolverine? Many fans worry that Disney's ownership of the comic book giant will force darker heroes to tone it down. Others are hopeful at the prospect of greater exposure and funding brought about by Disney's influence.

Record numbers try out

More than 100 dancers audition for Dance 2010

Jessica Ritchie
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Auditions for the Dance 2010 performance were held February 12 in the East Campus Gym, where 101 dancers vied for their moment on the stage of Eastvold. Of the contenders, 69 were chosen, though this number may change as the weeks progress and schedules are coordinated.

Pacific Lutheran University professor Maureen McGill said the number of participants had risen steadily in her time as coordinator and choreographer of the yearly PLU dance performances, including the number of male turnouts.

"There aren't any preconceived ideas anymore about dance," McGill said. "It's just become more popular."

Thirteen pieces are slated for the April 16 and 17 performances, choreographed by 13 people, including one guest choreographer, Crystal Smith, a former member of the Tacoma City Ballet. The pieces will cover a variety of dance forms, including ballet, modern, jazz, step, and a Bollywood piece choreographed by Rae-Ann Barras. McGill said she felt honored to have

Smith as a guest choreographer.

Other choreographers involved are Amanda Bates, George Culver, Claire Edgerton, Tara Holliday, Sydney Jaimes, Hillary Parsons, Cathy Patthall, Rebecca Sharp, Sara Stiehl and Tani Wright.

PLU's dance team, which performs during halftime at sport events and occasionally (though not this year) participates in competitions, will also perform for the event. Student choreographer Tara Holliday leads and choreographs the step team, but will also be choreographing a modern/ballet piece.

"It'll be an interesting show," McGill said. "I haven't had a guest choreographer do ballet before."

Of particular interest to the April 16 and 17 performances will be McGill's piece, which is a tribute to the soldiers who have died in the war in the Middle East. It's a collaborative piece with New York artist Laura McCallum. McCallum painted a scroll with 4,259 figures on it — each in memory of a fallen soldier.

Grammy-nominated composer Hui Cox composed a piece specifically for McCallum's scroll. The composition will accompany McGill's choreography, and she hopes to project the scroll behind the dancers.

Despite the evident rise in dance's popularity, there are no plans to increase performances to twice a year because of budget constraints.

Dance 2010 will take place on April 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Eastvold Auditorium. Tickets will go on sale at the campus concierge in mid-March.



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NORTH FACE (NR)

Fri-Sun: 12:45, *3:30, 6:15, 8:55
Mon-Thurs: 3:30, 6:15, 8:55

* A discussion will follow Saturday's 3:30pm showing

THE MESSENGER (R)

Fri: 4:50, 9:20
Sat/Sun: 12:00, 4:50, 9:20
Mon-Thurs: 4:50, 9:20

A SINGLE MAN (R)

Fri-Thurs: 2:30, 7:15

CRAZY HEART (R)

Fri: 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25
Sat/Sun: 11:40a, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25
Mon-Thurs: 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25

THE YOUNG VICTORIA (PG)

Fri: 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45
Sat/Sun: 11:50a, 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45
Mon-Thurs: 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45

WALLACE AND GROMIT: THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT (G) Sat: 10:30am

Lutes SPORTS SCHEDULE

Men's Basketball

PLU vs Willamette* Feb. 19, 8 p.m., vs. George Fox* Feb. 20, 8 p.m.

Women's Basketball

PLU vs Willamette* Feb. 19, 6 p.m., vs. George Fox* Feb. 20, 6 p.m.

Women's Tennis

PLU vs. Lewis & Clark* Feb. 19, 3:30 p.m., vs Pacific* Feb. 20, 1 p.m.



AN ASTERISK REPRESENTS A PLU HOME GAME

Men's B-ball loses twice, streak continues

Evan Hoover
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The Pacific Lutheran University men's basketball team lost its second game against the Whitman Missionaries this season Friday and dropped one more to Whitworth Saturday.

After losing 87-75 Friday and 97-55 Saturday, the Lutes fell back into fifth place in the Northwest Conference with a 6-8 conference record.

The men's basketball team continued its losing streak with its fifth straight loss, giving them an overall record of 8-13.

Sophomore James Conti expressed frustration about the team's recent performance.

"We can and have played better this year," Conti said. "These past four games have been disappointing."

The Missionaries were in control

for most of the first half in Friday's game, given the exception of junior Curtis Trondsen's three point shot to give PLU their biggest lead of the game 7-5 four minutes into the game.

Trondsen scored 14 points and four rebounds by the end of the game.

Whitman finished the first half with an eight-point lead and a score of 41-33.

Whitman was in control throughout the second half; this was not to say that the Lutes did not play without a fight.

First-year Andrew Earnest said the team could have performed better.

"I thought that we battled pretty hard throughout the game, but whenever we closed the margin down they had an answer," Earnest said. "We know as a team we could have shot the ball better, but some



Conti

nights are just like that."

Earnest ended with 11 points Friday.

With just over a minute left in the game Justin Artis sunk back-to-back free throws for the Missionaries, putting them up by 15 points and claiming their biggest lead of the game.

Artis finished with 15 points and seven rebounds.

Junior Kyle MacTaggart led the Lutes in scoring with 23 points and came down with three rebounds.

Whitman's first-year Peter Clark scored 26 points and grabbed two rebounds.

The Lutes shot field goals with a 49 percentage, 24 percent from three point range, and 55 percent from the line.

PLU came down with 40 rebounds and gave up 22 turnovers.

The Missionaries shot 45.15 percent for field goals, 58.35 from long range, and 62.5 for free throws.

Whitman crashed the board with

41 rebounds and only gave up 9 turnovers.

The No. 8 Whitworth Pirates got their 20th straight win in Saturday's matchup.

PLU jumped out to a 4-2 lead in the beginning of the game, but after an 11-2 run from the Pirates, never took back the lead.

Junior Curtis Trondsen came off the bench and led PLU with 11 points.

Sophomore James Conti followed with 10 points and five assists.

Whitworth outrebounded the Lutes 37-23.

The Lutes play its last two games of the season tonight at 8 p.m. against Willamette and tomorrow, against George Fox at 8 p.m.

Both games will be hosted by PLU in Olson Auditorium.



MacTaggart

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Women's tennis served twin losses

Michael Martin
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martinmm@plu.edu

The Pacific Lutheran University women's tennis team came up short on the road Friday and Saturday against conference giants Whitworth and Whitman.

The Lutes battled against defending conference champion Whitworth Friday, losing all nine matches with a final score of 9-0.

"We played pretty good, even though we all had to play up a position," sophomore Ali Burnside said.

Though the match scores don't show it, the Lutes didn't go down without a fight. Sophomore Cora Wigen nearly split sets in the No. 2 singles spot, losing 6-3, 7-6 (3).

Out of the remaining five singles matches, PLU only took seven games from the Pirates.

Lutes doubles players faced the same level of athleticism from their opponents when PLU took only four games in its loss to the Pirates.

Sophomore Heidi Weston and first-year Kristine Aarsvold lead the Lutes doubles bracket, in the No. 2 position, with an 8-3 loss.

The Lute women faced a similar fate in Walla Walla, suffering their second loss of the weekend against the Whitman Missionaries.

"We're doing better than last year and we're

playing really tough teams even though the scores don't show it," senior Ashley Coats said.

Coats teamed up with Wigen for a near win in the No. 1 doubles position against seniors Hadley DeBree and Divneet Kaur. Coats and Wigen came up a few points short in a tie-breaker, losing 9-8 (3).

Aarsvold and Heidi Weston dropped their doubles match 8-4 while sophomore Ali Burnside and junior Caitlyn Hoerr, also suffered an 8-4 loss.

Women's singles matches came short of splitting sets and victory as Missionaries tennis held strong on their own turf, defeating all six singles teams. Final score 9-0 Lutes.

Though Women's tennis is lacking the usual foundation of Seniors and Juniors, with only three upperclassmen, they are looking forward to a season of growth and constant improvement as the younger players are stepping up and making big plays.

Coats emphasized the importance of the younger women on the team and listed Wigen as an able up-and-comer who has a talented future on the team.

Burnside also made note of the newcomers who will help make a difference this season.

"We have a lot of new players who are going to add a lot to our team," Burnside said.

Coats and company are looking forward to meeting Pacific again at home after a series of close matches last year.

PLU takes on Lewis & Clark today and Pacific tomorrow at PLU.



Coats

Women to miss out on tourney

Basketball hopes of postseason shattered by losses

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The Pacific Lutheran University women's basketball team's goal of making the postseason ended Saturday after losing 62-57 to the Whitworth Pirates.

Lutes held a lead the majority of the contest, but a late 11-2 run in the last three minutes for the Pirates was enough to gain the final edge.

A three ball from sophomore Melissa Pixler boosted the Lutes to a 42-38 lead early in the second half.

"I thought we played well," junior Jordan Westering said. "It was good to play well and play together."

PLU sophomore Sara Backstrom was able to sink a number of crucial shots to give her team a 55-51 lead and the last largest lead the Lutes would hold in the game.

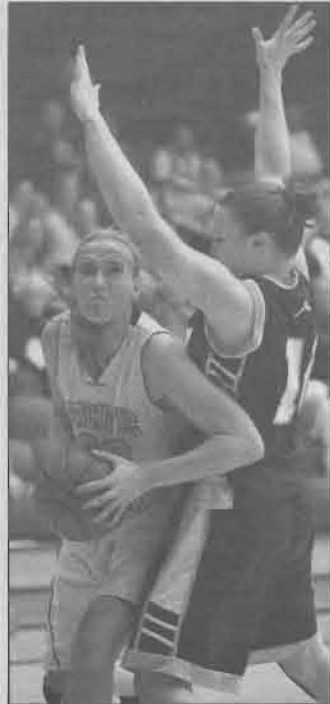
Whitworth sparked its late-game run with 3:33 remaining on the clock.

Pixler had a chance to change the game with a three-point shot again with the Lutes down 58-55 and fewer than .60 seconds to play, but her attempt was blocked.

The Lutes had no other option but to intentional foul and hope for a rebound on a missed free throw after the blocked shot.

PLU sent Whitworth to the line four times with less than 30 seconds left, but the Pirates made all four shots.

"The foul issue in the end got tough and we missed a couple chances late," junior Jordan Westering said.



Photos by Ted Charles

Left: Junior Jordan Westering elbows past a Puget Sound defender in a game earlier this season. Westering is currently the second leading scorer for the Lutes with 225 points. Right: Junior Mandy Wall wrestles for the ball in a game earlier this season while senior Meghan Dowling closes in.

The successful free throws dashed a Lute victory and chance at the Northwest Conference tournament.

"It was rough and upsetting and kind of crushed our hopes," Backstrom said.

Backstrom led the scoring for the Lutes with 20 points.

Senior Meghan Dowling led PLU with 10 rebounds and was the second leading rebounder in the contest.

PLU will go into next weekend as hard as it has all year despite the disappointment of missing out on the NWC tournament.

"We are trying to go in there and make an upset and prove we're good enough to make the tournament."

The Lutes finish the season this weekend, hosting Willamette Friday and George Fox Saturday. Both games start at 6 p.m.

Around the conference

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Whitworth women earn last playoff spot

The Whitworth University women's basketball team clenched the final spot in the Northwest Conference basketball playoffs after defeating Whitman College 71-69 Tuesday.

Whitworth had four of its players end the game in double figures.

The Pirates defeated Pacific Lutheran University Saturday, ending the Lutes' hopes of making the tournament.

Pirates go streaking

The No. 7 Whitworth University men's basketball team earned a 70-57 victory over Whitman College, giving the Pirates their 21st straight win.

The Pirates were led to victory by first-year Wade Gebbers who had a career-high 20 points.

The 21-game win streak is currently the longest in NCAA Division III men's basketball.

Whitworth sits at 22-2 overall, 15-0 NWC.

PLU competes at NWC Swimming Championships

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The Pacific Lutheran University swim team spent Valentine's Day weekend at the Northwest Conference Swimming Championships in Federal Way.

PLU swam many personal best times despite a very difficult season.

The men's team had eight swimmers competing at Conference and the women's had 12.

"Conference is going to be a big challenge for the team simply because of the size

of the team," assistant coach Patrick Carlisle said. "Most of the other teams will have a full roster of 18 swimmers, so we will be at a major disadvantage."

Juniors Jessie Klauder and Alex Limoges had strong performances at the meet.

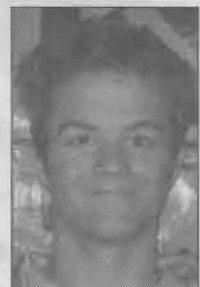
Klauder placed second in the women's 400 individual medley, fifth in the 100 breaststroke and seventh in the 200 breaststroke.

Limoges placed third in the 200-yard backstroke, fourth in the 100-yard backstroke and seventh in the 100-yard butterfly.

"We've been working really hard this last month so it will be great to see what exactly we are capable of," senior Elizabeth

Althauser said heading into Conference. "I think we'll see a lot of best times."

Althauser is a long distance swimmer and took 12th in the 500 freestyle and eighth in the mile. Both times were personal bests for her.



Limoges

More top performances for the PLU women came from first-year Rachel Troutt, 13th in the 100 breaststroke; junior Kasey Dorcas, 16th in the 400 individual medley;

junior Gina Wittman, 16th in the 100 breaststroke; sixth in the 200 medley relay; and eighth in 800 freestyle relay.

The PLU men ranked high individually. First-year Phil Rempe took ninth in the 100 butterfly; senior Matthew Kim placed 11th in the 100 butterfly and 16th in the 100 backstroke.

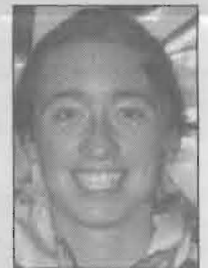
Jacob Nord ranked 16th in the 200 freestyle. Sophomore Rayan Carter took 11th in the 100 breaststroke, fourth in the 200 medley relay and eighth in the 800 freestyle relay.

John Pedack ended his senior year season with second in the mile swim. Whitworth University

won the Conference in both men and women's. Puget Sound followed in second.

PLU ranked seventh for the men's and eighth in Althauser the women's overall against eight other schools.

"Jim demands a lot out of us as far as attendance goes so it's a huge commitment, but in the long run, I think it helps everyone is there because they want to be," Althauser said.



Scorecard

Men's Basketball as of 2/16					Women's Basketball as of 2/16					Men's Swimming as of 2/16					Women's Swimming as of 2/16				
Team	NWC	%	All	%	Team	NWC	%	All	%	Team	NWC	%	All	%	Team	NWC	%	All	%
Whitworth	14-0	1.000	21-2	.913	George Fox	14-0	1.000	21-2	.913	Whitworth	7-0	1.000	7-1	.875	Whitworth	7-0	1.000	7-1	.875
Linfield	9-5	.643	11-11	.500	UPS	12-2	.857	20-3	.870	Whitman	6-1	.857	7-1	.875	UPS	6-1	.857	6-2	.750
George Fox	8-6	.571	11-12	.478	L&C	10-4	.714	16-7	.696	UPS	5-2	.714	5-3	.625	Whitman	5-2	.714	6-2	.750
L&C	8-6	.571	9-13	.409	Whitworth	8-6	.571	12-11	.522	Linfield	4-3	.571	5-3	.625	PLU	4-3	.571	6-3	.667
Whitman	6-8	.429	12-11	.522	Whitman	6-8	.429	11-12	.478	PLU	3-4	.429	4-5	.444	L&C	2-5	.286	4-5	.444
PLU	6-8	.429	8-13	.381	PLU	5-9	.357	7-16	.304	L&C	2-5	.286	3-6	.333	Linfield	2-5	.286	3-5	.625
Pacific	4-10	.286	8-15	.348	Linfield	4-10	.286	6-17	.261	Pacific	1-6	.167	1-7	.111	Willamette	1-6	.167	1-6	.143
UPS	4-10	.286	8-15	.348	Pacific	3-11	.214	6-15	.286	Willamette	0-7	.000	0-7	.000	Pacific	1-6	.167	1-7	.125
Willamette	4-10	.286	7-17	.304	Willamette	1-13	.071	3-20	.130										

Team FG Percent Leaders		Team FG Percent Leaders		Team Leaders:		Times Leaders	
Victor Bull: .479 (67-140)	Kyle MacTaggart: .473 (115-243)	Shelly Kilcup: .429 (39-91)	Melissa Pixler: .401 (87-217)	50 Free - Jacob Nord, 22.05	100 Free - Jacob Nord, 49.21	100 Free - Jessie Klauder, 56.73	200 Free - Jessie Klauder, 2:02.12
Team Scoring Leaders	Kyle MacTaggart: 312 pts. (14.9 ppg)	Team Scoring Leaders	Sara Backstrom: 231 pts. (11 ppg)	200 Free - Alex Limoges, 1:49.40	500 Free - Phil Rempe, 4:56.65	500 Free - Elizabeth Althauser, 5:25.26	1000 Free - Courtney Karwal, 11:28.45
Curtis Tronsden: 218 pts. (10.4 ppg)	Team Assists Leaders	Jordan Westering: 225 pts. (9.8 ppg)	Sarah Backstrom: 73 ast (3.5 apg)	1000 Free - Alex Limoges, 10:52.49	50 Back - Alex Limoges, 26.27	50 Back - Casey Jackson, 29.27	100 Back - Casey Jackson, 1:00.89
Team Assists Leaders	James Conti: 76 ast. (3.6 apg)	Team Assists Leaders	Many Wall: 43 (2 apg)	100 Back - Alex Limoges, 55.24	200 Back - Alex Limoges, 2:02.03	200 Back - Casey Jackson, 2:14.56	100 Breast - Jessie Klauder, 1:10.81
Tony Polis: 72 ast. (3.4 apg)	Team Rebounds Leaders	Team Rebounds Leaders	Tracy Goehri: 129 reb. (5.6 rpg)	100 Breast - Rayan Carter, 1:01.88	100 Fly - Phil Rempe, 53.39	200 Breast - Rachel Troutt, 2:33.69	100 Fly - Shelby Allman, 1:08.97
Team Rebounds Leaders	Victor Bull: 108 reb. (5.1 rpg)	Team Rebounds Leaders	Meghan Dowling: 128 reb. (6.1 rpg)	200 Fly - Mathew Kim, 2:14.16	100 IM - Rayan Carter, 57.81	200 Fly - Shelby Allman, 2:28.33	200 IM - Casey Jackson, 2:23.31
Kyle MacTaggart: 96 reb. (4.6 rpg)				200 IM - Alex Limoges, 2:05.94			

Lute baseball gets rolling

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A four-game sweep of Division III opponents at the Arizona Desert Classic last weekend gave Pacific Lutheran its best season-opening record in school history.

PLU, a perfect 7-0 to start the 2010 season, outscored its four opponents by a combined score of 48-14.

"Naturally, we wanted to win all four games and get some crucial experience before league play starts," sophomore Brock Gates said. "We did just that."

Pacific Lutheran followed up a three-game sweep of Saint Martin's two weekends ago to start the season with a dominant showing in Arizona.

The Lutes opened the four-game set with a 15-4 victory over Occidental Thursday, following it up with a 10-2 win over California Lutheran Friday.

Saturday's contest was the closest of the week, as PLU scored five runs in its final two at bats to pull away to a 10-4 win over Whittier. A 13-4 victory over La Verne closed out the week on Sunday.

"I think our fast start is a product of dedicated athletes and the unbelievable weather we had in January in Tacoma," head coach Geoff Loomis said.

Typically, when the Lutes take trips to California or Arizona in February, the cold January weather prevents them from substantial outdoor practice time prior to the tournaments, Loomis said. That has not been the case with the unusually warm weather so far this year.



Photo by Ted Charles

Sophomore Ryan Frost extends his bat while swinging at a pitch in a game last season. The Lutes have already jumped out to a program-best 7-0 start. In their first seven games, the Lutes have hit for a combined average of .400.

Transfer student, Gates, led the Lutes' offensive attack during the trip, pummeling opposing pitching staffs.

Through the tournament's first three contests (statistics were not available for the La Verne game), Gates had posted nine hits in 14 at bats, including four home runs.

He drove in 10 runs and scored eight.

Gates entered his first year at PLU with the task of replacing one of the best players in school history, former first baseman Jordan Post.

With four home runs and a .500 batting average through the first six games of the season,

he has made his mark on a team that is batting .407 as an offensive unit.

He credited the cohesiveness of the team for the strong start.

"Our team has done well to pick each other up in all aspects of the game," Gates said. "There is a lot of trust between us as players that, some way or

another, we will get the job done."

Despite the offensive explosion, Loomis credited his pitchers with



Gates

setting the standard for the season's early success. With a team earned run average of 2.94 through the first six contests, the pitching staff has never allowed opponents the opportunity to compete with PLU's offensive firepower.

Three starters - Robert Bleecker, Trey Watt and Scott Wall - all boast perfect 2-0 records through their first two games started.

Watt threw what Loomis considered his best game as a Lute against California Lutheran, pitching eight innings of six-hit ball with 10 strikeouts and zero walks.

Both Loomis and Gates praised the team's leadership and its role in the team's success.

"Our team has great chemistry and strong leadership," Gates said. "Coach Loomis has created a program that maintains a high level of competition that demands excellence, while also making it an extremely productive and fun environment to be a part of."

With nearly two weeks between their last game and their next contest, the Lutes will return to the practice field in an effort to build on their success.

Pacific Lutheran returns to action Feb. 26, facing Whitman at the Jim Doran Classic in McMinnville, Ore.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 22
 choose your own adventure
 11am-2pm CK West

The chemistry of chocolate
 2-3pm Regency Room

Need Timmer
 6pm CK

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23
 a vocation for animals
 12-1pm UC 201

NEXT panel
 4:30pm UC 133

women in science panel
 6pm Regency Room

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