

THE MAST

TRACK CONFERENCE
TRACK TEAMS PLACE FOURTH, SIXTH
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NORDIC FASHION
TRADITIONAL DRESS
DISPLAYED ON CATWALK
PAGES 12

APRIL 28, 2006

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

VOLUME LXXXIII, NO. 19

Students beaten outside off-campus party, rushed to emergency room

Suspects still at-large, were upset about being turned away from house

JENNY ZARELLI
Mast news intern

One of the most severe assault cases in recent months occurred early Sunday at an off-campus party just a few blocks from campus. Four students were physically involved and two were immediately sent to the hospital with serious injuries.

After the party on 123rd Street between Park Avenue and C Street was dying down at approximately 1 a.m., a vehicle dropped off two males in their mid- to late-twenties, aggressively asking to be let into the party.

As the clearly uninvited guests approached the door, they were told, "the party was over and people were leaving," senior Josh Owens said.

Owens said this offended them and, after uttering obscenities, they left the residence. They returned to the house minutes later with four or five more accomplices looking to cause "nothing but trouble," Owens said.

Senior Brian Manning described the night as "being at the wrong place at the wrong time."

When the violent group came back, Manning was standing outside, "minding his own business." Although he has basic knowledge and practice of self-defense, Manning said he did not have a chance to defend himself.

He said a man using brass knuckles un-



Photo by Jenny Zarelli

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Aftermath: Senior Brian Manning three days after his assault. Manning's injuries include torn neck ligaments, multiple chipped teeth and difficulty rotating his right shoulder.

New health insurance plan includes all students

Effective 2007, full-time students will be required to have health insurance

LILIAN CALDWELL
Mast news reporter

Approximately 700 PLU undergraduates each year go without health insurance and 15 percent of those students are first-years, according to studies by the university.

All of this will change under the new student health insurance plan, developed by a small task force led by Laura Majovski, vice president of Student Life, and Sheri Tonn, vice president for Finance and Operations, with the encouragement of ASPLU.

"Every college in the country wishes their students had health insurance," Majovski said.

This new health insurance plan will be implemented in fall of 2007 and will require all full-time students to carry health insurance. Those who already have a plan can be waived out of the program with proof of current and adequate health insurance.

Educational institutional insurance administrators, which offers the most cost-

effective program PLU has found, will administer the program.

Students who need academic program or co-curricular activity insurance will now have an affordable choice, Majovski said.

"It's important to have health insurance as an athlete because you're at higher risk of injury than the average student," sophomore Elisia Howard said.

PLU estimates the annual premium for undergraduates will be less than \$450, which is close to 50 percent of the cost of the basic health insurance plan for the state of Wash-

ington, Majovski said.

"Our plan costs more than UPS's plan, but it has more complete coverage for the student," Majovski said.

Under PLU's new health insurance plan, students will be insured up to \$10,000 for each accident or sickness, as opposed to \$5,000 coverage for UPS students. The prescription benefit limit is \$500 and 100 percent of hospital expenses are covered for the first \$500 and 80 percent after that. In some instances, a \$20 to \$50 co-pay will be necessary.

Under the plan, care will first be provided through the PLU Student Health Center and referrals to care providers and claim forms will be given for further treatment. When the Health Center is closed or when a student is out of the PLU area, medical treatment can be obtained from any general medical clinic, emergency room or from a personal physician. The student will need to submit a claim form in order for medical bills to be paid. Students will also have access 24-7 online to a medical professional.

There are numerous benefits to this program, task force members said. For example, students will have coverage during the summer even if they are not attending

"Every college in the country wishes their students had health insurance."

Laura Majovski
Student Life
Vice President

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Students commute to raise awareness

Global Night Commute recognizes endangered Ugandan children

ALLEN UNZELMAN
Mast news reporter

Approximately 30,000 people in 30 cities across the United States will participate tomorrow in the Global Night Commute. In the Seattle area, the commute will take place around the Green Lake area, and there will likely be around 100 students from PLU among the participants.

The purpose of the Global Night Commute is to raise awareness about the abuse of children currently taking place in northern Uganda. Participants will walk to a designated location and spend the night there in order to promote awareness of the issue.

The event was started by the Invisible Children Foundation after directors Jason Russell, Bobby Bailey and Laren Poole took a trip Northern Uganda in 2003 and were for-

Please see Children
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STATE, NATION, WORLD BRIEFINGS

Local to Global news

Former PLU president dies at 74: William Rieke, who was president of PLU beginning in 1975, died Saturday after a battle with cancer. A 1953 graduate of PLU, Rieke became well known in the field of medical research and published more than 50 works mostly in the cellular immunology field. He worked at the University of Iowa and the University of Kansas Medical Center before coming back to PLU. While president at PLU, he helped raise the \$8.9 million to build a new science building, which was named after him, and gave the university a more international focus. He is survived by his wife Joanne Rieke, three children and eight grandchildren. A remembrance service will take place 10:30 a.m. today in Lagerquist Concert Hall, and a funeral service is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. tomorrow at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lakewood.

Fox host named White House spokesman: Conservative pundit Tony Snow was named White House press secretary Wednesday, Republican officials said, in the latest move in President Bush's effort to remake his troubled White House.

Air Force One subject of Internet hoax: A startling Internet video that shows someone spraying graffiti on President Bush's jet looked so authentic that the Air Force was not immediately certain whether the plane had been targeted. It was all a hoax. No one actually sprayed the slogan "Still Free" on the cowling of Air Force One. The pranksters responsible for the grainy, two-minute Web video—employed by a New York fashion company—revealed Friday how they pulled it off: a rented 747 in California painted to look almost exactly like Air Force One. "I wanted to do something culturally significant, wanted to create a real pop-culture moment," said Marc Ecko of Marc Ecko Enterprises. The video shows hooded graffiti artists climbing barbed-wire fences and sneaking past guards with dogs to approach the jumbo jet. They spray-paint a slogan associated with free expression.

Miss Kentucky crowned Miss USA: Miss Kentucky, a business student who says pop stars may be getting too edgy for young people who see them as role models, now has a chance to be a role model herself—as the new Miss USA. Tara Elizabeth Conner, 20, of Russell Springs, was crowned Miss USA on Friday night.

Senate panel recommends abolishing FEMA: The nation's beleaguered disaster response agency should be abolished and rebuilt from scratch to avoid a repeat of multiple government failures exposed by Hurricane Katrina, a Senate inquiry has concluded. Crippled by years of poor leadership and inadequate funding, the Federal Emergency Management Agency cannot be fixed.

Iraqi terrorist rejects new government: Terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi revealed his face for the first time Tuesday in a dramatic video in which he dismissed Iraq's new government as an American



AP photo by Nasser Nasser

30 arrests made in Egypt resort attack: Egyptian authorities, already struggling with elusive terror cells in the rugged Sinai Peninsula, moved quickly Tuesday, arresting 30 men in the triple bombings that ripped apart a resort town on a tranquil holiday evening. Radical Muslim groups moved just as rapidly to distance themselves from the Dahab attacks, which killed 24 people. The leader of Egypt's banned Muslim brotherhood condemned them as "aggression on human souls created by God."

"stooge" and called it a "poisoned dagger" in the heart of the Muslim world. The video, in which he also warned of more attacks to come, was posted on the Internet only days after a breakthrough in Iraq's political process allowing its Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish leaders to start assembling a government.

The above briefs were gleaned from the Associated Press wire service and The News Tribune.

Business update

In the sports world, spring-time represents the return of baseball. Once upon a time, a group of wealthy businessmen came up with the idea to turn the sport of baseball into a nationwide enterprise. Today, Major League Baseball is a multi-billion dollar industry.

Upon consideration of all the different ways that profit is earned from Major League Baseball, it is quite astonishing. The sport of baseball has become one of America's most marketable sports. Entire staffs are employed for the purposes of promoting ticket sales and negotiating Internet, television and radio agreements. Advertising can be found on billboards, on merchandise and in stadium names. It often seems as if the revenue possibilities for team owners are endless.

But some Major League franchises are losing money. To explain this, it is necessary to observe a brief economic history of Major League Baseball.

In the early days, when a player signed with a team, they were committed to that team for the entirety of their career. Without the option of free agency, multiple teams never bid on individual players. Therefore, salaries were kept artificially low.

Things changed, however, when Marvin Miller, experienced

in steelworker labor fights, entered the baseball scene. By the 1960s, Miller had taken control of Major League Baseball's Player Association and had intentions of sticking it to the franchise owners. Miller then set out to find a way to improve the economic well-being of the players. In 1976, Miller introduced the concept of free agency.

In just a few years, the tables had turned dramatically. With different teams bidding for individual athletes, the salaries of the players increased significantly. Eventually, the salaries of Major League Baseball players would skyrocket to an all-time high. The results of these events are that franchises such as New York and Boston dominate the game, while franchises such as Kansas City and Pittsburgh remain at the bottom of the stack.

According to Tom Van Riper of Forbes Magazine, the best solution for this problem would be to centralize Major League Baseball and to divide all of the revenue amongst the different major league franchises. If such a concept sounds socialist, it's because it is. However, Major League Baseball is already a congress-protected monopoly and faces little or no competition. With the players' and owners' salaries being such as they are, it would be difficult to find any of them who feel like much of a socialist.

One thing that is indisputable is how much money is involved in Major League Baseball. Every time you go to the ballpark you are the target of numerous marketing strategies. So the next time you're at Safeco Field, take a look around. It will not be difficult to identify baseball's many corporate influences.

Business update compiled by Allen Unzelman.

SAFETY BEAT



April 17:

Campus Safety responded to a fire alarm in a residence hall. Central Pierce Fire and Rescue arrived and located burned food in the kitchen.

An employee called about some shelving that had been vandalized in the UC dining hall.

April 18:

A student contacted CSIN concerning her ankle, which she had injured outside the UC. The student refused transport.

April 19:

CSIN was dispatched for a fire alarm in the Rieke Science Building. CPFR responded and no cause for the alarm was found.

April 20:

CSIN was contacted by a student about the theft of his laptop computer from his room.

CSIN was dispatched to Rieke to assist a student who had spilled

nitric acid on her finger.

April 21:

An unknown person or persons attempted to steal a computer from a room in the Administration building.

April 22:

CSIN observed a vehicle belonging to a student had been vandalized. The student was contacted, and a report was made with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department.

CSIN was contacted by a student about several juveniles stealing products from a vending machine in the UC.

April 23:

CSIN, CPFR and PCSD were dispatched to an assault at a residence off campus. PCSD is investigating.

CSIN was contacted about a student who had been vomiting because of ingesting alcohol. The student was not transported.

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Showcasing science

VANESSA BRUCE
Mast news reporter

The biannual Academic Festival, hosted by the Division of Natural Sciences, will occur today and Saturday in Rieke Science Center and the Morken Center for Learning and Technology starting at 12:30 p.m.

The festival showcases student work from all the natural science divisions and gives students a chance to practice presenting in a professional conference setting. Biology, math, computer science, engineering and some chemistry projects are commonly displayed.

Poster presentations from several classes as well as oral presentations will be the focus of the festival. The presentations range in length from 20 to 45 minutes.

Some of the microbiology poster titles include "What's in your wallet" or the exploration of fecal coliform on a one dollar bill, "The tale of the dirty dish rag," and "The killing power of disinfectants."

"It is nice to highlight what other schools on campus are doing," said Matt Smith, biology assistant professor. "It gives a chance for other students to see what their peers are working on, not just the faculty."

This is the festival's 12th year. A couple of years before

this tradition was started, a former PLU professor, Brian Baird, promoted a university-wide festival. The event was poorly attended and thus failed to continue.

Vice president for Finances and Operations Sheri Tonn and professor of geosciences Jill Whitman decided to keep the festival going with a specific division focus. Because of their efforts, the festival has continued to be venue for capstone presentations and other displays of student work.

"It is a celebration of the accomplishments of our seniors as well as the work of other students and I think that it is great that (the festival) has continued," Whitman said.

Kearstyn Leu, a senior biology major, is presenting a poster for her neurobiology class.

"It's a good way for the science community to show what we've been working on," Leu said. "I really enjoy my biology classes and it will be fun to share what I've learned with the PLU community."

Keith Petersen said he also looks forward to the event.

"I like to see other members of the PLU community learning about science," he said.

Further information:
www.nsci.plu.edu/acfest/

Parking sometimes results in penalty



Photo by Kyle Duba

Katie Chapman, a South Hall visitor, parks Wednesday along the golf course fence line. The most common tickets issued per month at PLU are for failure to register or display decal and parking in an unauthorized lot.

Final story in series addressing campus parking

ANDREA CALCAGNO
Mast news intern

Parking at PLU is an ongoing topic of dispute and frustration both with students and faculty.

"We don't have a parking problem at PLU, we have a walking problem," Campus Safety director Marsha Stril said. "Students don't want to walk."

There are almost always spots open on lower campus in the Olson and Morken lots, but that is not where most students need to park to be close to their classes or residence halls, Stril said.

"Upper campus is the worst," junior Amber Plambeck said.

There are approximately 150 tickets given out by Campus Safety each week. The most common tickets issued per month are for the failure to register or display decal and parking in an unauthorized lot, Campus Safety officials said. The failure to display decal offense is a \$60 fine and parking in an unauthorized lot is \$20, according to Campus Safety rules.

This means, depending on the month, there is anywhere from \$12,000 to \$36,000 charged to PLU parking violators. However, according to Campus Safety specialist, Vikki Board, some of these tickets are issued to neighbors, contractors or visitors and are usually voided by Campus Safety. This

number is also not counting appeals or same day half-price payoffs.

Board said Campus Safety offers an alternative for parking illegally when students are late to class or parking at night.

"The average response time is three to seven minutes for our new 24-hour shuttle service to reach students who call," Board said.

Campus Safety's escort and shuttle service includes areas beyond the perimeter of campus, including Walgreen's or an off-campus house, Stril and Board said.

Some students have parked illegally because of the rumor that Campus Safety doesn't ticket at certain times of the week.

"I got a ticket for parking in the golf lot," sophomore Karen McMahon said. "I thought Campus Safety didn't ticket on the weekends."

In fact, Campus Safety does ticket on the weekends in all lots. Weekend tickets are limited, however, to reserved and marked spots including handicap, carpool and fire lanes. There is a warning period the first two weeks of fall semester and the first week of spring semester to prevent confused students from having to pay for tickets.

"We don't have a parking problem at PLU, we have a walking problem."

Marsha Stril
Campus Safety director

Appealing a ticket is also an option for ticket receivers. The appeal board is run by ASPLU and Campus Safety is not involved in that process at all. Some students don't appeal their tickets because they think their fine won't be reduced.

"I didn't appeal it because I knew I was wrong," Plambeck said. "I just went in that day and paid half of the price."

Instead of appealing, students can pay their fine the same day and get the fine reduced by half. This can be done at the business office. Campus Safety also has no part in the monetary process of tickets, Stril said.

"Campus Safety often gets blamed for ticketing; however, we just enforce the rules, not make them," Board said.

The parking fines and offenses are created by the Parking Committee, which meets about every other month. The committee uses park utilization charts made from Campus Safety officers. The officers record every open parking place in every lot specific weeks out of the year, Board and Stril said.

"The parking committee uses the charts to determine if we need more parking," Stril said.

On these specific weeks throughout the school year, they record openings at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for every lot on campus, Board and Stril said.

"We want people to understand, the reason parking enforcement is needed is so we can keep and eye on your car and keep it safe," Stril said.

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RHA gets new faces

Association picks 2006-2007 officers

AMBER SCHLENKER
Mast news reporter

Beginning the transition into next year, the 2006-2007 Residence Hall Association executive officers were hired this month.

"I love PLU's community, and I am excited for this upcoming year; all of the fun that we have in store and watching the organization grow and develop," said junior Kerri Greenaway, next year's RHA president.



Greenaway

For the 2006-2007 school year, Sophomore Ian Jamieson was elected RHA vice president, first-year Brian Pedey was selected as programs director. Sophomore Michelle Mason will serve as spiritual activities coordinator, communication director will be first-year Jess Lee, finance director will



Jamieson



Mason

be sophomore Jennifer Lau and first-year Brian Erikson will serve as RHA's environmental justice and diversity director.

RHA is a student-led organization that seeks to enhance every aspect of the university experience. RHA coordinates on-campus events to develop campus life. RHA provides a great opportunity to work as a team and meet a variety of people while giving back to the PLU community, Lau and Mason said.



Lee



Lau

"I see RHA as a way to fully participate in the community of PLU and make campus events scumtrulescent," Lee said.

The new RHA officers said they plan to bring fun and excitement to the community of residents.

"I have always felt welcome here," Mason said about her aim to relate to students.

RHA officers said they want to be involved with PLU and all the people.



Erikson

"I came to PLU for the people," Erikson said. "Everyone on campus is easygoing and loves to hang out. The people at PLU are amazing: professors, faculty and students."

"I see RHA as a way to fully participate in the community of PLU and make campus events scumtrulescent."

Jess Lee
finance director

Reception showcases value of internships

Transition to workplace aided by co-op centennial

KAYLEE M. DAVIS
Mast news reporter

PLU continued its celebration of the centennial of cooperative education Tuesday evening with a reception in the Scandinavian Cultural Center.

The reception, "Becoming a Professional: Transition to the Workplace," was hosted by the Academic Internship/Cooperative Education Office and included a mix of employers and alumni as guest speakers.

Maxine Herbert-Hill, director of the Academic Internship Program said she hoped students would come to hear first-hand from former alumni to better understand how internships "enhance stepping into the career field and also gain understanding of the transition process into the workplace."

Senior Rachel Curry attended the reception to learn more about the experiences of alumni who had transitioned into the workplace after graduating.

"I'm sadly disappointed that more students aren't here, but I am inspired by the women speaking tonight," Curry said.

Curry will soon graduate with a double major in Spanish and global studies and said she knows that internships and networking are a valuable piece of the experience.

"The act of networking itself is a fact," Herbert-Hill said. "The reception gives stu-

dents a chance to try it here, where they are more comfortable."

Amber Krick, who graduated PLU with a business and economics double major did a continuous internship where she applied learned skills in human resources and customer relations, which also gave her the opportunity to intern in Italy one summer to apply her economics knowledge.

"Internships helped me figure out that I didn't want to become an economist," Krick said.

Krick works as a project manager at Tyler Technologies and credits her multiple internships for the reason she got the job.

"Students need to realize that internships give them a sample of the real world without having to commit to it, while also adding options to your resume," Krick said.

Alumna Renee Gallagher interned for United Way working on the helpline.

"Funding came available and I was hired for the position because I had done the internship because I already knew the system," Gallagher said.

Gallagher chose to work for a non-profit because she knew she wanted to be involved in service work.

"I wanted to know about resources in the community that are there to help people," Gallagher said.

Other guest speakers included, Beverly McConaghy of Financial Network, a Tacoma based firm that

employs PLU interns, and Kristen Bales, human resources representative of State Farm Insurance in Dupont. Both McConaghy and Bales said interns give employers a chance to look at prospective employees.

"You really get the chance to know the student and know if they are a good fit, unlike hiring someone from a couple of interviews and a resume," Bales said. "And internships help students know where they are lacking and to get help with the skills they need."

McConaghy and Krick both urged students to be aware of the transition that takes place between college and work.

"The transition or void between school and work is a very difficult time," McConaghy said. "Going from structured to unstructured can be very intimidating. After a student does an internship, they have confidence in themselves and that helps ease that transition."

When students land that first job, the reality of 9-to-5 sinks in.

"No longer is there the freedom of afternoon napping, summer vacation or spring breaks," Krick said. "After I started working and traveling five days a week, some of my friends couldn't understand why I didn't want to go out on Friday night. They didn't understand that I just wanted to do my laundry."

The evening closed with a half hour of student-employer networking and refreshments.

**"Internships helped me figure out that I didn't want to become an economist."
Amber Krick alumna**

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Assault
Continued from Page 1

out having the opportunity to look at his attacker, Manning said he was on the cement being kicked by six or seven men.

Seniors Robert Gray, Craig Stahl and Owens said they rushed out of the house to defend Manning.

"If these students would not have come out to help, the situation could have been a lot worse and Manning could have even lost his life," said Marsha Stril, director of Campus Safety.

The attackers then split up to attack Owens, Stahl and Gray and ran away minutes before Campus

Safety showed up.

"It definitely wasn't a fair fight and the men took advantage of the situation," Stril said.

Manning and Stahl were admitted to the hospital. Manning's injuries include torn neck ligaments, multiple chipped teeth and difficulty rotating his right shoulder, he said. Manning's doctor recommended that he not be left alone since the extent of his head injuries are not fully determined.

He has been released from the hospital and is residing with his sister in Puyallup. He might not be able to return to PLU this semester.

It was also reported that Stahl suffered a broken nose, and Gray was left with a black eye as a result of the attack.

Manning said he has been to his fair share of parties, but has never witnessed or been involved in a case as violent as Sunday morning's.

"This kind of thing isn't surprising anymore," said Ed Troyer, Pierce County Sheriff's Department detective. "It's always been a sporadic issue over the years. Young adults need to realize that by mixing alcohol and parties, you subject yourself to law enforcement and outside visitors."

Troyer advised that if students are going to have a party with people coming and going, they need to realize that, more often than not, they are going to attract unwanted visitors.

Stril emphasized that students need to utilize PCSD deputies who patrol campus. Campus Safety is closely partnered with PCSD and is here to step in harms way, she said.

The students hosting the party did the right things to avoid conflict, Stril said. The party was a controlled, age-appropriate and overall quiet party.

"We, at Campus Safety and at the university in general," Stril said, "want students to be fully aware of these potential possibilities in any situation, especially parties."

Insurance
Continued from Page 1

summer classes.

The plan will continue to provide to juniors and seniors despite their age. Also, the plan provides basic health insurance for students studying abroad.

In addition, seniors will be covered for up to three months after they graduate.

"I wish this plan would have come into effect sooner because most employers have at least a three-month probation period before new employees are covered under their health plan," senior Cindy Tingley said.

Majovski and those on the advisory committee for the health plan encourage students to offer feedback on the policy.

MORE INFO

For more information on the new student health insurance plan, call the Health Center at ext. 7337.

Children
Continued from Page 1

ever changed by what they saw.

The Invisible Children Foundation, a nonprofit corporation established in 2004, is dedicated to raising awareness on an issue that the United Nations has declared as "the greatest emergency involving children in the world today."

The Global Night Commute represents the excursion that thousands of children in northern Uganda are forced to make as they flee from their homes in the villages and migrate to the city of Gulu, where they often sleep on the streets. They flee the villages in order to escape the threat of being abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army, which is fighting a civil war against the government. The rebels abduct the children, often between the ages of 5 and 12, for the purposes of forcing them to become soldiers and brainwashing them to fight against the government.

As they are forced to live their lives in constant fear and refuge, these children do not receive education. They also often lack proper food and medical attention.

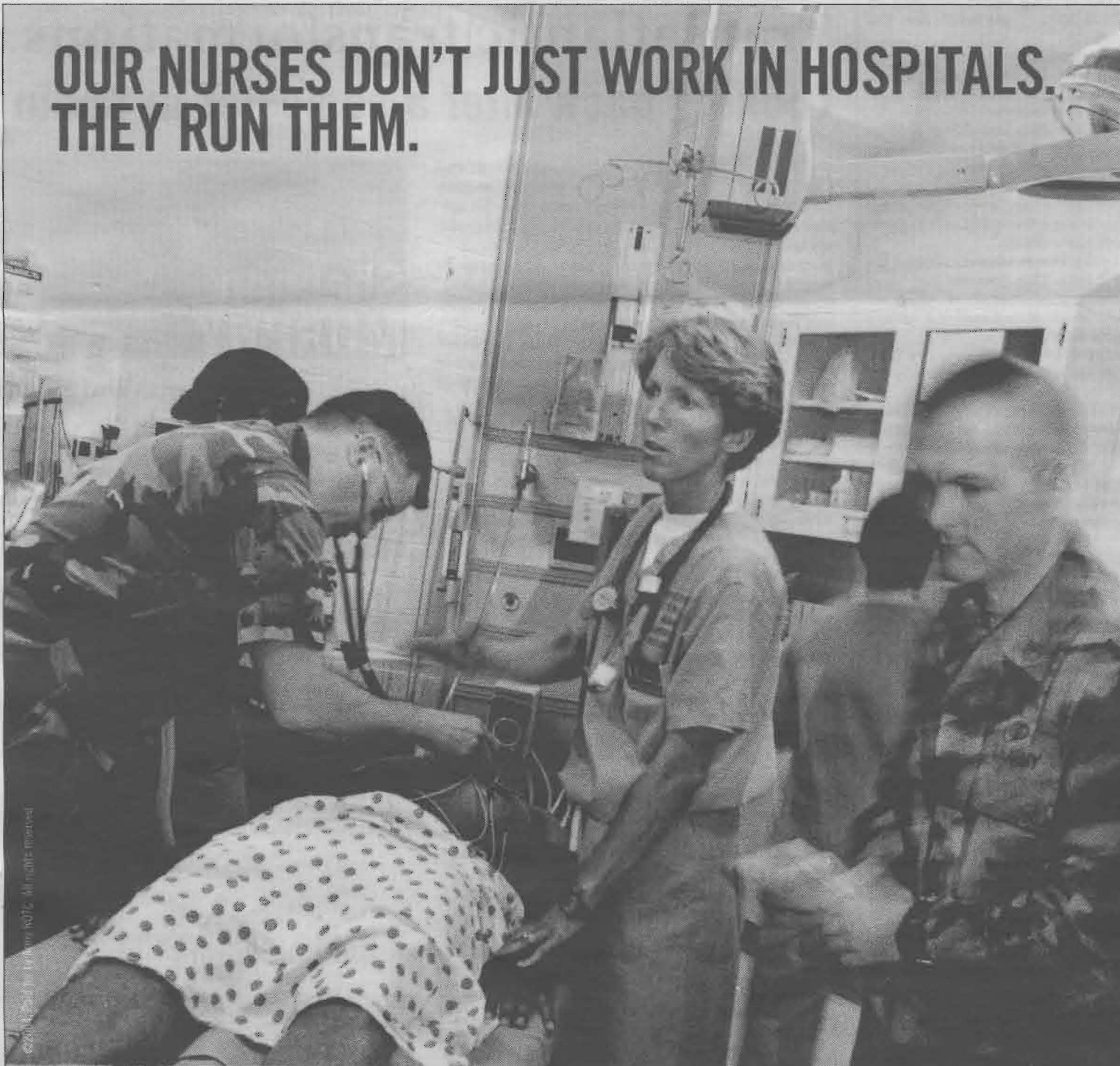
The Invisible Children Foundation's objectives go beyond that of just providing education and basic survival needs. Their ultimate goal is to convince the United States government to take an active role in the events taking place in Uganda and to end the 20-year war. In order to do this, they need to create nationwide awareness about their cause.

Recently, the group released a movie depicting the events that continue to haunt this war-torn region. Titled "Invisible Children: Rough Cut," the film was the first of many steps taken to create awareness of the ongoing tragedy. Recently, the movie was shown at the United Nations, the United States

"This kind of thing isn't surprising anymore. Young adults need to realize that by mixing alcohol and parties, you subject yourself to law enforcement and outside visitors."

Ed Troyer
Pierce County Sheriff's Detective

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"We hope to create awareness of the tragedies that are taking place in Uganda."

Michelle de Beuchamp
sophomore

Capitol Building and the Carter Center. Senators Sam Brownback (R. Kans.) and James Inhofe (R. Okla.) have also recently begun to rally support for U.S. involvement in the Uganda region.

"By promoting this event on campus, we hope to create awareness of the tragedies that are taking place in Uganda and inform students of how they can get involved" said sophomore Michelle de Beuchamp, ASPLU lower campus senator and programs chair for Films and Lectures.

Sophomore Kyle Morean said student awareness would make the greatest impact.

"By participating in the Global Night Commute, we can demonstrate to our government that this is a social justice that we are interested in and must be addressed on an international level," Morean said. "The U.S. has powerful international status and if our government shows interest in such issues, other governments will become involved."

Students from the University of Washington and Seattle Pacific University will also be taking part in the Global Night Commute.

If you would like to learn more about the Global Night Commute or the Invisible Children Foundation, the event will be promoted outside the UC Cafeteria. Information can also be found online at www.invisiblechildren.com.

From the editor

Oil only the beginning

When I was 16 and about to get my driver's license, my dream car was a black Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited—a sweet sports-utility vehicle with dark tinted windows and gold trim. I lived in a small suburban town not far from PLU, and most of my friends came from upper-middle class homes. It was normal for most of my classmates to receive new cars for their birthdays, and an SUV was the ultimate status symbol.

Alas, a black Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited was out of my family's price range, but my parents found a different black SUV, used but in good shape. On the day I got my license, I came home and found my new ride in the driveway. For a few days, I had the coolest car in the high school parking lot, until the novelty wore off (and my friend Tim bought a red BMW M-5 with white leather upholstery).

I drove all over the place, and I have many great memories connected with that car: late-night runs to Jack in the Box, mini road-trips to away football games, moving across the state for my first year of college at WSU.

I still have the SUV, and for the most part, it has been a good and faithful steed, like Black Beauty with a stereo and power seats.

It was a great car, that is, until the price of gas began its sharp climb to \$3 a gallon. When I first got my car, it took approximately \$30 to fill up the tank. Now, five years later, a \$30 tank would be a dream.

Over the last few years, motorists have voiced hearty complaints about the price of gasoline, thinking that prices would eventually normalize. It became water-cooler talk, similar to complaining about bad weather or a losing baseball team. Time has passed, however, the cost of filling up has continued to increase, and I fear we're not far away from riots and wars over gasoline...well, riots at least. The war began more than three years ago.

Motorists in the United States have complained, yet I find it interesting that our gas-using habits have changed only a little, if at all, over the last few years. Information from the Department of Energy and the Department of Transportation shows that driving habits increased by more than 10 percent from 1999-2005, in spite of gas prices that had nearly doubled in the same span of time.

Since Hurricane Katrina took out oil refineries in New Orleans, newspapers across the country have reported that mass transit use and other oil-saving solutions have become more popular, but a larger, organized national effort is needed to ease the fuel crunch.

While I was in Australia for J-Term, my class was shown a documentary called "The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream." The filmmakers interviewed several geologists, energy analysts and politicians, who all agreed on a few key points.

First, that oil production cannot continue at its current high levels. One day, not long from now, oil supplies around the world will begin to decline—and then a \$3 gallon will seem like a dream.

Second, and this is the important part, that consumers around the world must dramatically change their habits. This does not just mean driving habits—this means we must change our ideas about where we live, what we eat, where we shop, how we heat and cool our homes, how we grow our crops, and the list goes on and on.

Think about it. Isn't it odd that many of us are willing to pay \$3 or \$4 for 20 ounces of Starbucks coffee, yet we complain about paying the same amount for a gallon of gasoline?

In "The End of Suburbia," the interviewees said habits like these, would necessarily change once oil production begins to decline. People around the world will be forced to move back into urban areas, where essential goods and services are close at hand, making walking or biking feasible. Moreover, the rising cost of transport will encourage consumers to buy food and other goods produced locally.

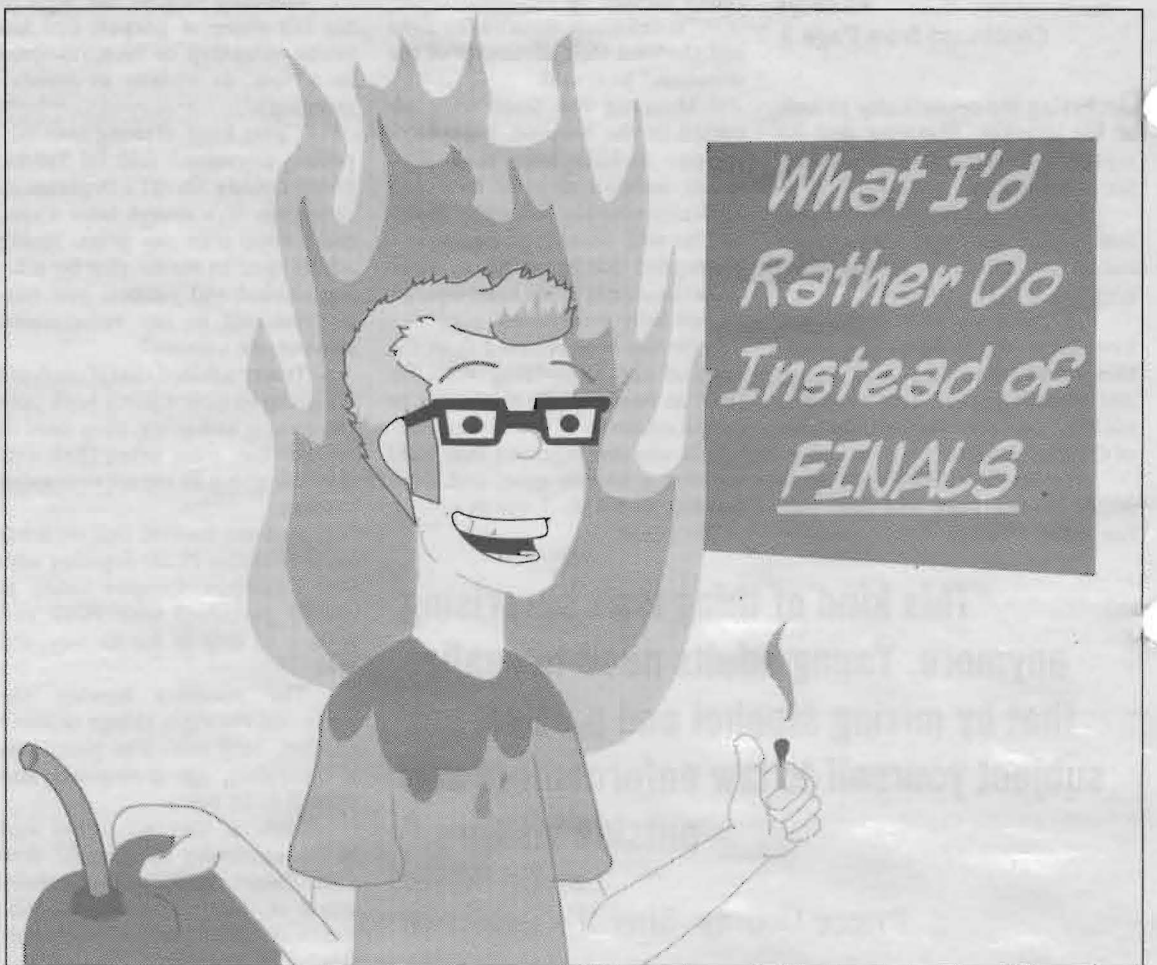
Organic farming will become a necessity, as well, since many fertilizers are petroleum-based.

These consequences may seem to be a distant possibility, but oil companies in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Kazakhstan, and the Middle East are reporting record production. We can only go down from here.

There is only one way to beat the rising cost of gasoline: a large-scale transformation of the way we live, even if by a series of small steps. At PLU, employees can join a carpool or ride a bus to work. Recycling helps—it takes massive amounts of energy to create aluminum, and if you throw away your Pepsi can when you're done with it, all that energy has been wasted.

We can all pay attention to the other ways we use energy. Sure, it helps to turn off lights and computers when not in use, but also think of the ways we use energy indirectly. Buying mangoes from New Zealand uses much more energy—think of all the airplane fuel it takes to get the mangoes from New Zealand to your local grocery store—than say, buying organic salad greens from a farm in Puyallup. I promise, the salad will taste much better when you know you've made a smart energy decision.

As for my black SUV, it will be retiring soon after I graduate. I may not like walking to work in rainy Washington weather, but I can walk a little happier knowing that I'm doing my part to end oil dependence.



Cartoon by Adam Spry

Transatlantic transformations Looking back after a semester in Spain

As my study abroad experience comes to an end, I find myself reflecting on what the past four months have meant to me. Sure, I always knew that this semester would change my perceptions, my habits and my tastes. I knew that there would be good days, incredible days and frustrating days. And I knew I would try new things, but also miss some old comforts. The following is a collection of facts, thoughts and realizations from the semester.

My favorite thing about Spain: These people are never worried about the time. My professors are constantly late for class and store owners will open their store 15 minutes late whenever they feel like it.

Siesta time: I was first a little annoyed that everything was closed every afternoon from 2 to 5 p.m. and on Sundays, but after four months, I realized that I take so much more time for myself here. Okay, I have to admit, it's not like I have nearly as many responsibilities here compared to the United States, but it's amazing how refreshed I feel after a two-hour lunch break.

What I miss the most: Carpet does not exist in Spain and from what I hear, most of Europe. In the winter, the floor was miserably cold and now I just miss plopping on some nice, fuzzy ground.

The food: The Spanish are certainly not known for the spices in their food. The three basic flavorings for all food are olive oil, salt and pepper, and somehow tomatoes, potatoes and bread are incorporated in every meal. I didn't love tomatoes before, but I now will eat a sliced tomato on toast with a little olive oil for breakfast. However, the first meal I have in the states will be smothered with some classic ketchup and mustard.

Biggest frustration: I can't walk three blocks down the street without a catcall and I can't sit at a plaza bench for more than an hour without a man coming up to me to just tell me how "guapa" I am. Legitimately, I have had some great stories—an 80-



Siestas and Fiestas

year-old proposed to me and one man invited me back to Morocco to visit his family. On the other hand, my purse was stolen when I was approached in a similar fashion.

My favorite language difference: In Spain, when someone wants another person to be quiet, they don't say "shhh," they hiss "sssss" like the snake sound. This is simply because the "sh" sound doesn't exist in the Spanish language. Most Spaniards cannot even pronounce my name because of its beginning letters.

The personal bubble (or lack thereof): Without much space in their streets, bars and restaurants, the Spanish stand much closer together than we do in the States. In the States, you might not notice someone's bad breath, whereas here you cannot avoid it.

The Spanish greeting: The Spanish kiss another person once on each cheek as a greeting or a farewell. I find the two-kiss tradition a more sincere way of personally greeting another person in the room, rather than a general wave to the whole group as

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Beware deceptively innocent-looking street kids

Money belts, traveler's checks and global ATM locators: Use these practical money tips when traveling abroad

When I was in Bolivia two J-terms ago, innocent-looking kids stole my roommate's wallet as we got off our bus. Even though they swarmed around us, ironically asking for money, she didn't realize they had taken the wallet from her backpack. It wasn't until we were walking in a market 15 minutes later that we discovered it was missing. I asked her if she knew her bag was unzipped. She didn't. Despite her quick action to get her stolen credit card cancelled, the thief had already purchased \$300 worth of items within the first hour... at a shoe store. In Bolivia, that's a lot of shoes.

Fortunately, my friend's credit card company ended up eating the loss, but not every one is quite so lucky. Dealing with money abroad is a sensitive issue that requires attention and forethought. While we can't make ourselves immune to all money mishaps, there are some concepts and tools we can use to lessen our chances of being the central figure of such stories.

Being an American abroad automatically screams "rich target." While I studied abroad in Ecuador for a semester, many of my program companions had their wallets or cash stolen. After attending an intense soccer game, a group of us were waiting in a packed area hoping to get free T-shirts. Instead, most of us felt the people in the crowd push up against us and stick their hands in our pockets.

I actually never had anything stolen from me. I believe this was largely due to the fact that I stored my money, credit cards, and other important documents in a money belt underneath my clothes, keeping them completely

out of sight. The other reason was that I kept my luggage locked at hotels (one of my group mates had \$700 stolen from her luggage while it was kept in a hotel storage room).

I took traveler's checks along with me, but next time I would just opt for an ATM card. It was hard to judge how much money I was going to need on my trip, and I actually ended up running out of traveler's checks anyway. Using my debit card to withdraw cash proved to be easier. I only had to keep track of my one card instead of multiple checks and could access my money even after the banks closed. Not to mention, I could always choose the amount of money I wanted to withdraw based on the value in U.S. dollars, even in countries where the dollar wasn't the main currency. If that didn't make it simple enough, all but one ATM I used could be viewed in English.

One tool I wished I had known about before I left is the worldwide Visa ATM locator. It would have been useful when I spent two weeks during Christmas on the coast with my host family from Quito. By this point I had spent all my traveler's checks and didn't know if I would be able to find an ATM by the beach. Therefore, I withdrew a significant amount of money to make sure I would be covered, but it had the ill effect of making me nervous to carry so much cash. Had I visited the global ATM locator ahead of time, I would have discovered there was indeed an ATM where we stayed. The locator shows you the street addresses of Visa ATM's in thousands of cities worldwide. It's available at visa.via.infonow.net/locator/global.



Adrienne YODER

Beyond Vagabond

Web links:

Worldwide ATM locator
www.visa.via.infonow.net/locator/global

I've learned a lot about money from my experiences abroad. The next time I travel, I plan to continue using my money belt and luggage lock, as well as my ATM card. By using the Visa ATM locator, I'll know where the next place is that I can withdraw money and therefore can ideally keep a minimal amount of cash on me. Hopefully, all these strategies will continue to keep me safe from being the next victim of pickpockets and deceptively innocent-looking street kids.

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we tend to do in the States. My favorite part of my day is when my host mom gives me two big kisses on the cheek and calls me her daughter.

Best part about living in Granada: History surrounds me everyday. Every street corner tells a story of 800, 600 or 400 years ago.

Best feeling living and traveling in another country: I feel so much more connected to humanity and the community of the world. Europe has been a great place to study abroad since there are so many cultures that spread into each country because of proximity. Not only have I lived with the Spanish, I have had conversations with people from Morocco, France, Britain, Germany and Sweden. The best part about these interactions is talking to them when Spanish is the second language for us both.

A friend told me a couple days before I left for Spain that studying abroad would be some of the highest highs and lowest lows I have ever experienced. There were days I missed friends and family, days I just wanted to watch a movie in English, and days I was fed up with the Spanish ways. But those days are overshadowed by the days I was overwhelmed with how fortunate I am to be here experiencing this. Just as I was nervous to first leave the States, now I am nervous to leave my new home abroad. But if living and traveling abroad has taught me only one thing, it's that there are always more places to explore.

So now the question on my mind is, "Where am I going next?"

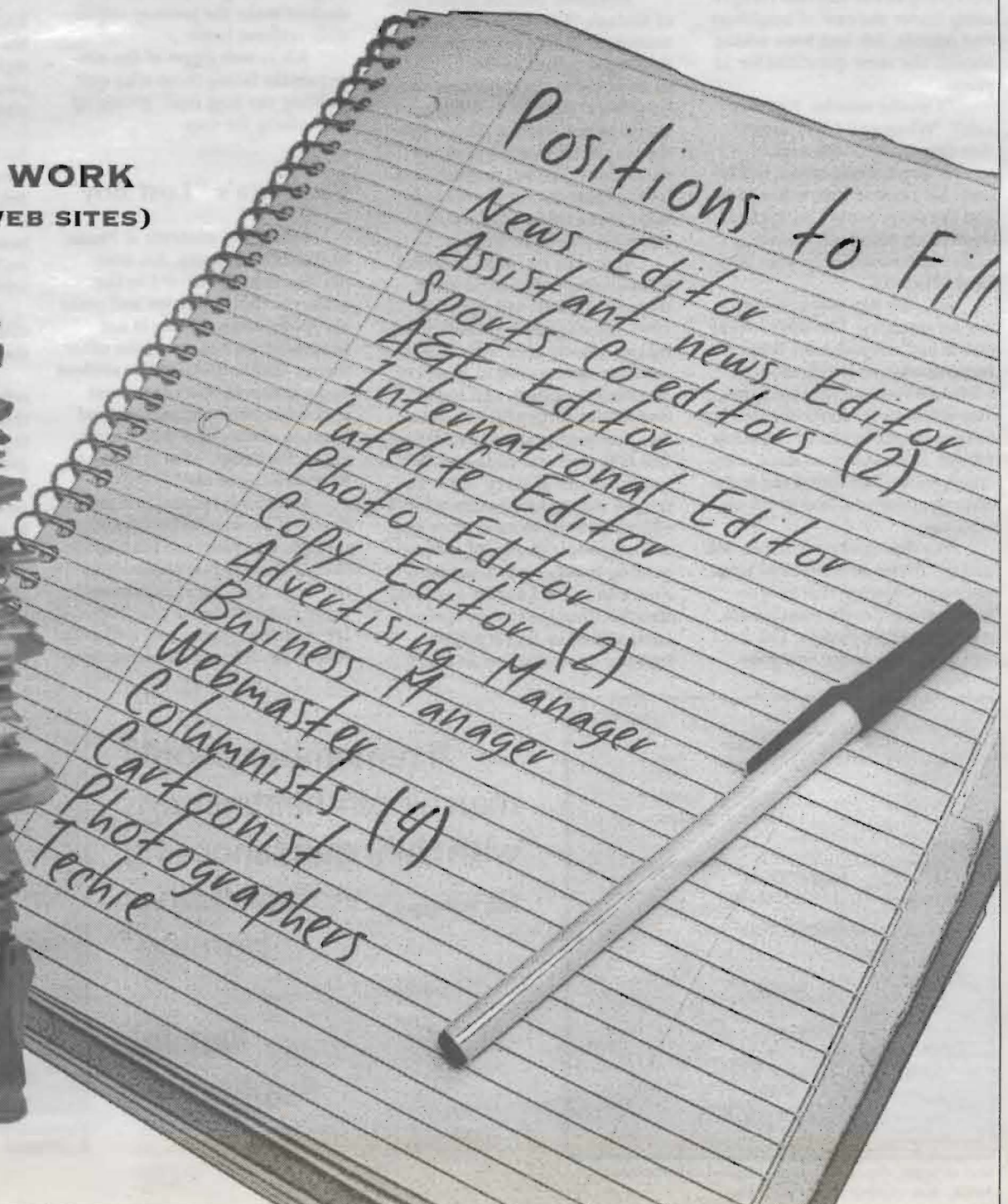
THE MAST IS HIRING FOR NEXT FALL

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"Lost Boy" escapes embattled Sudan, discovers second home

PLU student shares story of death, oppression, transition and hope

BEN BLANKENSHIP
TIM KELLY
TYLER OCHSNER
ERIC THOMPSON
Mast reporters

The merciless Kenyan sun had finally forced Abraham Dut Jok to stop walking. Covered in dust, he took what little shade he could find under a withered tree. The dry, cracked dirt that had blistered his feet all day was hardly noticed as it began burning his legs. Although no one in the camp could possibly know the exact temperature, Jok guessed it to be 115 degrees by the absence of his sweat. The dusty, smothering heat was too much for him to keep sweating, let alone continue walking.

Jok could faintly recall yesterday's drink of water. Sipping tiny capfuls of water was the only way to avoid the throbbing pains of a swollen throat. Five days without food made his last taste of corn porridge seem like a trick of the imagination.

"Tears came out because it was so painful to swallow," Jok said.

On cheerless, arid days like these, Jok thought of his home in Sudan. He recalled the night his family was separated. As the thatched roofs of the village burned, the government militia fired indiscriminately on those fleeing. Jok's younger brother and mother did not survive. Through the confusing sounds of gunshots and running feet, six-year-old Jok was separated from his father and younger sister. Neighbors fleeing the violence took him in. Surviving in the Kakuma refugee camp under the care of neighbors and friends, Jok had been asking himself the same questions for 12 years.

"I would wonder 'Are they safe?' 'When will I find them?' 'Are they alive?'" Jok said.

Worries about others would keep his cracked lips, aching feet and the deep hunger pangs from depressing his mind. Thinking of the past would help keep the future hopeful.

But that day was just too hot for thinking. The sun's brutal attack had warped Jok's brain so much that he could not hear a friend's voice calling his name. The sickly sweet smell of a nearby rotting corpse began to make Jok dizzy. It was obvious some scavenger animal had found the body, after the poor soul had given up walking.

In a dry cracked whisper, Jok told his friend he refused to keep walking, knowing that government militias would soon harass any straggling refugees. The food was gone. The water was gone.

More shooting would come soon. Hope was almost gone.

"I remember arguing with my friend that I would not go on. I couldn't," Jok said.

To this day, Jok remembers when hope almost left him. His friend finally pointed a finger at the corpse. He said, "Do you want to be like that? That's all I will say."

Jok did not remain seated for long.

What hope is there?

Inside a college lecture hall, Jok, 21, sits scribbling notes in the dark. The day's documentary on world poverty is nearing its end. His favorite professor, Dr. Ann Kelleher, boldly begins sharing some facts the film had left out. Jok keeps writing.

"A third of the world's population lives on two dollars or less a day,"

"In an area the size of Texas, there is not a single paved road. Hospitals are bombed. Schools too," she continued.

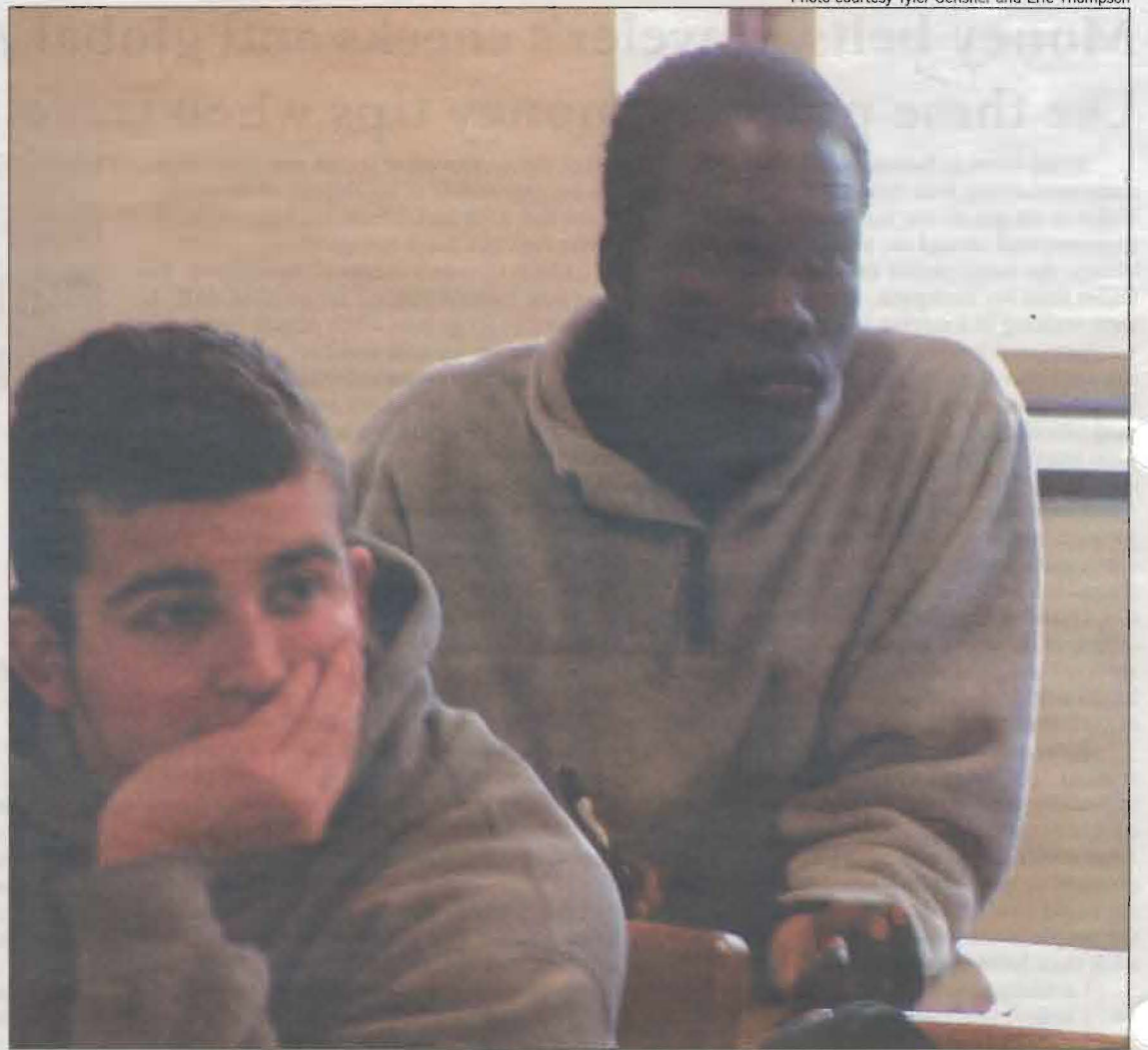
"All these people have ever known is war and struggle."

Jok's head rises from his paper. Nearly seventy students in the room strain their imaginations to picture a place in desperate need of aid. For Jok, the hard lessons of crippling poverty and the grim reality of war couldn't be clearer. He knows his professor is speaking of his homeland, Sudan. He knows the question still remains:

"As educated people, what is there to do about it? What hope is there?"

Abraham Dut Jok is just one of Sudan's "Lost Boys," a generation of children with parents missing or killed by the conflict in Sudan who are surviving on neighbors' support in refugee camps across eastern Africa. For the displaced victims, days are spent fleeing armed conflict, combating hunger, and searching for hope in the midst of the world's deadliest war since 1945.

Since the Republic of Sudan gained independence from the United Kingdom and Egypt in 1956, the country has been racked by two bloody civil wars. These conflicts were rooted in northern economic, political, and social domination of largely non-Muslim, non-Arab southern Sudanese. The first civil war ended in 1972, but broke out again in 1983. The second war and its famine-related effects resulted in more than four million people displaced and, according to rebel estimates, more than two million deaths over two decades. Despite a peace agreement signed in January 2005, fighting has continued in the



Dut Jok, rear, listens in class at Pacific Lutheran University. A sophomore, Jok maintained a 3.7 G.P.A. in high school and continues his academics at PLU as a political science major. Jok fled embattled Sudan to receive an education in the United States.

western region of Darfur, leaving another two million people in refugee camps.

A rare chance to immigrate to the United States in 2000 produced many other opportunities for Jok. In the United States, he found another family, new friends and a college education. Despite those blessings, the many challenges of being an international student make the journey impossible without hope.

Jok is well aware of the consequences facing those who quit walking the long road, giving up hope along the way.

Kakuma's "Lost Boy"

Like many students at Pacific Lutheran University, Jok does not like the food served in the cafeteria. Chicken strips and pasta are his favorites, but he is not impressed with many of the other dishes. Unlike much of the student body, however, Jok can at least appreciate an abundance of food because of his childhood experiences. He knows what it is like to have nothing to eat.

Kakuma is located in a semi-desert of eastern Kenya. There is no rain. Cars must use headlights during the day just to penetrate the thick dust. The huts are mud walls and palm leaf roofs. There are very few possessions and even less to eat. Jok and the other refu-

gees had between seven and 15 kilos of food to last them 15 days, the average time it took humanitarian aid groups to make deliveries. In the midst of fighting or bad weather, the wait could be longer.

"If you're lucky, you'll have one meal a day," Jok said. "But if not, you go five days without food."

With so little food, your body forgets how to eat. During the long waits, Jok's throat would tighten, making it difficult to swallow water, and nearly impossible to swallow food.

"After I received the food I had to boil water and drink it to loosen my throat so I could eat," Jok said.

If you asked Jok what was inside the huts, he would chuckle and smile, revealing his brilliant white teeth.

"Nothing," he said. "We didn't have anything to put in them."

Boredom ran rampant in the refugee camp. For the children there was sometimes basic schooling but most people gathered in groups to talk for hours about everything and anything, even creating fantastic rumors of peace to pass the time. But mostly they talked about the future, trying to avoid the inevitable time when they would have to go to bed with empty stomachs and nothing distracting them from the present or bad dreams of the past.

"Many people would criticize us for going to school, since it didn't feed us or heal the sick," Jok said. "There is a saying we have that if you are happy today, then there is hope for tomorrow."

A few years earlier Jok had been living happily with his family in a small village. Returning from a day's cattle ranching, he found the village under attack by an armed band from the North. His memories of the incident are scattered. Some things he can't remember. Some memories are all too clear. He was alone in the midst of a war. There was very little the villagers could do to resist the attack.

"I remember people marching in their uniforms with their guns shooting randomly, and the housings burning," Jok said.

His family had been forced to flee without him, eventually settling in an Ethiopian camp.

"People who have guns try to fight," Jok said. "But how do you fight the government if you are a civilian? If you're lucky you have 31 bullets in your AK-47, and then what do you do?"

Fleeing becomes the only option for many Sudanese, leaving their homes to burn. Under the protection of neighbors, Jok began the long migration to Kenya, running and hiding the entire way. Eventually Jok and his companions found the Kakuma refugee camp, just miles southeast of the Sudanese border. They settled in as best they could among the 62,000 others whose homes and families had been destroyed.

On the move again

In 1997, representatives from Lutheran Community Services, a humanitarian aid group, came to Kakuma to help some of the refugees escape the conflict. Jok and many of the others had heard such offers before, but those who promised flight to America had never kept their word, taking years to complete the process for children who had already died or fled the camp. They attended talks with the group regularly, mainly as a way to practice their English, but never really took hope in a



Map of Sudan, one of the largest countries in northeastern Africa. Map courtesy World Fact Book.

"I remember people marching in their uniforms with their guns shooting randomly, and the housings burning."

Dut Jok
Sophomore



A soldier of the SPLA stands watch in a camp in Khartoum, Sudan in 2005. (AP Photo)

life outside Kakuma. It was just another distraction from their situation.

"We would all come back to discuss what had happened. Someone would tell the older people what she was doing and saying," Jok said. "We would all argue and say 'That's not what she said!' and tell it again."

Eventually, Jok found a new home in the state of Washington. With his entire childhood spent surviving starvation and war, he did not know what to expect.

There was a stark contrast in the way people acted in New York and the Kakuma refugee camp. After his flight arrived in New York city, Jok had a layover that allowed him to explore the United States for the first time. Twenty-four hours earlier, Jok sat around finding ways to not think about their hunger. Now he could not understand why the people around him were so busy. More pressing, he wanted some explanation for the snow falling around him outside of his hotel. He had heard the word used before but never actually seen white snow fall, let alone catch a flake on his tongue.

"I heard people say it was fluffy and white but I didn't know that it fell from the sky and was frozen," he said.

Stuck in New York, with little money and even less English speaking skills, he had one chance to start a new life, if only he could find his gate.

"I remember that I could barely read my ticket. People pointed me in all directions," he said. "I remember wondering that if they couldn't tell me where to go, how did they get to their gates?"

He was utterly lost until a young woman seated next to him took the time to help him. "She could tell I was not from here. I could hardly tell that she was saying 'Seattle' because of her accent," Jok said. "I knew she could barely understand me either."

With her help, Jok eventually pressed his ticket and bags into the arms of a flight attendant moments before his plane departed.

"A-HA!"

Jok continued to face many struggles in his high school years adjusting to two new families, new friends and new challenges at school. Despite only having a primary school education, Jok eventually graduated from Ingraham High School, where his passion for learning led him to pursue a college education.

"I would throw the PLU catalogues in the trash," he said.

State schools, like the University of Washington, looked much more attractive. He had made friends with other Sudanese immigrants who were going there. It was close to his foster mother in Seattle. Despite his attraction to UW, Jok decided to pay the Lutes a single visit.

On a guest tour with plenty of events to attend, Jok stopped to listen to a lecture from political science professor, Dr. Ann Kelleher. In the scattered times he could actually go to school in Sudan, he had always been fond of government and civic studies.

Captivated by a discussion of the war in Iraq, he willingly spent the entire afternoon in class. His tour group had left him there to listen. As Kelleher would toss her hands in the air with every intelligent response, Jok knew that a PLU education was his next step. Luckily, substantial scholarships are paying for the chance to listen to his favorite professor.

"I just loved to listen to her say 'A-HA!' I wanted to stay all day and listen to her speak," Jok said.

Kelleher spoke a truth that rang true for Jok, for himself and his country: "It's not just that the world has changed. It is changing. Everyday. And the people who best understand how it's changing, and the complex reasons why, will be the ones who find success."

Hope for now

It's not uncommon for college students to have two jobs. He works for PLU's lobby staff, ushering concerts, and has also held a weekend job serving food at Children's Hospital since 2002. While most students are working for spending money or to pay for school, Jok has a different motivation: his family.

"Since I left Sudan, my first priority has been to find my family," he said. "I remember watching a documentary on a Jewish Holocaust survivor finding her family. I wondered why I couldn't do the same thing."

Determined to find his family, Jok spent hours phoning other refugees in Canada, Australia and Egypt, searching for information as to their whereabouts. Despite the setbacks, he eventually reconnected with his family over the phone.

It costs only \$5 an hour to call Africa. But there are no phones in Sudan, so every time Jok wants to speak with his father he pays for a courier to transport his dad on a plane from Sudan to Kenya. It costs him \$300 every time, but speaking to his father is important.

"Whenever I've seen that I have saved some money to arrange his transport," Jok said, "I call the person and say 'arrange my dad to come.'"

The rest of his money is used to sponsor the education of his sister and cousin. Two or three months of schooling, boarding and food for one child costs \$200, meaning that sponsorship costs Jok between \$1,600 and \$2,400 a year. These expenses leave little left over.

"I haven't spent anything on myself," Jok said. "I have the

shoes that I got in 2001. Sometimes friends buy me clothes for Christmas. I haven't really spent any money just to have fun."

Jok's remarkable loyalty to his family comes partly from his cultural influence. In places like Sudan, "when your family becomes old you know it's your responsibility to take care of them. That's how I see myself now. My dad is old. I have to take care of him. My sister too."

Years of hard work, dedication and saving will pay off for Jok this summer. Sponsored by the Bellevue Rotary Club, he will be returning to Sudan to visit for the first time since his arrival in the States, reuniting with his family for the first time in 19 years. It's a reassurance that his persistent hope has paid off.

"All I have had is a picture of them," he said. "My sister sent me a picture of her and another girl and I didn't know which one was her."

Back in Sudan, Jok expects to be confronted with his past and the thought of what life would be like today had he never left.

"I'd be probably married by now," he said. He smiles again. "I'd be in the war."

Jok will probably remember the days spent unhappy, hoping that tomorrow would be different. Now, reunited with his family and receiving a good education, perhaps he can afford to focus on the present for once.

"Sometimes," he said, "I feel like everything is all right now."

Hope for later

The next five years are uncertain for Jok and his homeland. In 2011, citizens in southern Sudan will be forced to choose their independence or continued union with the northern government. Since peace has been so hard to maintain, Jok and many experts seem to think the Southern desire for autonomy will split the country in two. Jok believes this stress comes from the northern dominance of almost all influential government offices, especially when most southern Sudanese are not Muslim.

"They say, in the constitution, that no infidel will ever be president. What kind of peace is that? That's insulting," said Jok.

Though peace has been difficult to imagine for many Sudanese, Jok has witnessed the progress first hand in Tacoma. During his first J-Term in 2005, he was invited to the second, bi-annual Wang Symposium, a PLU event focusing on peace issues around the globe. Just days after delegates from the North and South signed the Naivasha historic peace agreement, two delegates from each party arrived on campus to discuss the fragile peace, for what Jok called the "best experience of college so far."

"I was so excited. I had so many questions I was burning

to ask them," he said. Seeing the leaders of his homeland on his campus, thousands of miles from the fighting will never leave Jok. "I could not believe they were here. I still could not."

Inspired by the things he has seen and the lessons learned at PLU, Jok plans to spend the next five years preparing for a second return to Sudan. Though he will reconnect with his family in Sudan this summer, he still has two more years of undergraduate study at PLU, and possibly two more years of graduate school to follow. He hopes to join some type of non-governmental organization to assist in the conflict.

"I don't want to join the government and be forced to do things that I don't believe in," he said.

For now, Jok is happy studying political science at PLU, where he has found a globally aware and welcoming community. He is getting the most out of his college education, something he never thought he'd be fortunate enough to receive. And he is eager to learn and accomplish more.

"To me, I never thought about ending education," Jok said. "I want to get a doctorate, but with this burden on me to pay for school and pay for my family, it is difficult."

Jok hopes his education will be the compass that guides him on his journey. An extremely challenging childhood and a long time away from his native home have not deterred his hopes to impact and assist his own people in the future.

Until his move to the United States, Jok believed his life's path had been a lesson in finding the means to simply survive. Today, knowing that hope is a journey has been the lesson he wishes to eventually share with those around him. Despite the daunting road to finding peace in Sudan, Abraham Dut Jok knows that any challenge can be overcome if one can only discover the hope to keep walking.



Rev. Canon Clement Janda of the SPLA spoke to PLU students in 2005. Janda spoke on the continuing struggles in Darfur. Photo Courtesy Scene Magazine.

"I'd be probably married by now. I'd be in the war."

Dut Jok sophomore



John Garang, founder of the Southern People's Liberation Army and former vice-president of Sudan, was killed in a helicopter crash in 2005. (AP Photo)

Road to war

Sudan has been plagued by conflict for over 120 years. These major events have all shaped Sudan's current situation:

- 1956: Sudan gains independence from Britain and Egypt.
- 1962: First civil war starts in Southern Sudan, led by the Anya Nya movement.
- 1972: First civil war ends. Southern Egypt gains autonomy under the Addis Adaba peace agreement.
- 1983: Second civil war breaks out in the south between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, led by founder, John Garang.

•January 2004: Northern army moves to prevent uprising in western region of Darfur. Hundreds of thousands of refugees escape to Chad.

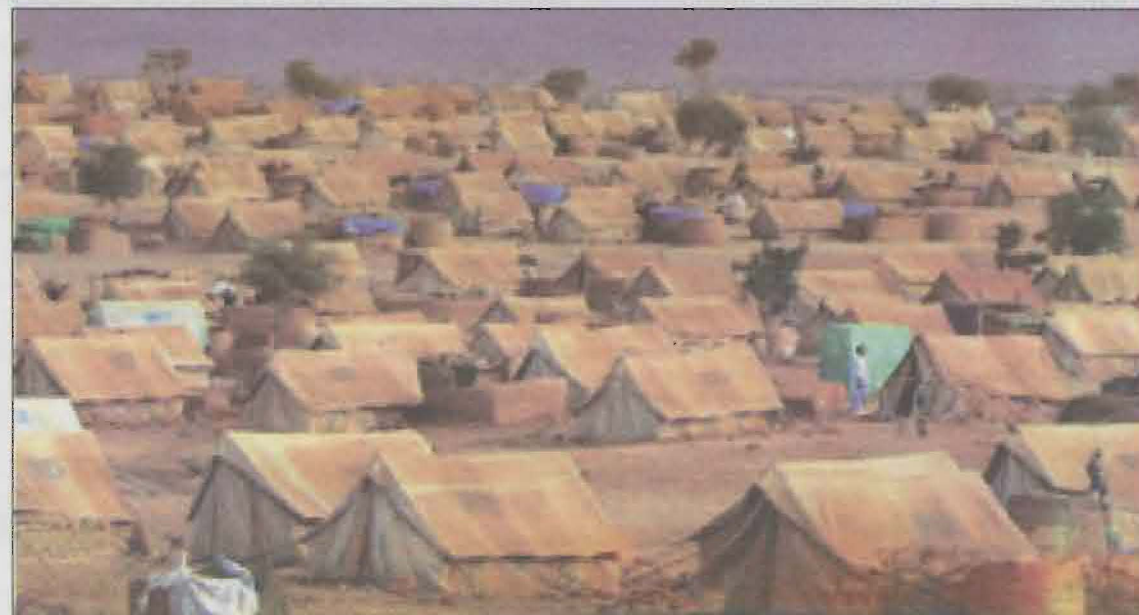
•January 2005: The Naivasha Peace Agreement is signed, creating a cease-fire in the south and the stipulation for a future vote for independence.

•July 2005: John Garang becomes Sudan's vice president. The South signs a constitution which provides more political involvement. A month later, his death sparks more controversy.

•2011: Southern Sudan will vote to decide its union with or independence from the North.



A young boy cares for his sibling in the Kakuma camp. Children as young as fourteen are often the guardians of their younger family members. (AP Photo)



A camp along the border of Sudan and Chad. Thousands of refugees occupy such camps searching for food, shelter and hope. (AP Photo)

Death portrayed as passive, sweet entity

Story of young girl's loss in Nazi Germany narrated from the perspective of Death



In Markus Zusak's "The Book Thief," Death himself narrates the story of a girl who loses her family in Nazi Germany. He tells of Liesel Meminger, whose "Kommunist" father disappears into the hands of the Nazis, and whose mother flees with her and her brother, taking them on a train to Munich and then to a foster home in the suburbs.

Death tells Liesel's story through a mix of blatant declarations and strange, sensuous metaphors. Liesel's brother dies en route from a cough, leaving Liesel with nightmares of his dead blue eyes staring up at her from the floor of the train. Death inserts the headline:

***** A SPECTACULARLY TRAGIC MOMENT*****
A train was moving quickly.
It was packed with humans.
A six-year-old boy died in the third carriage.

I never came to understand the function of such announcements in the novel, because in "The Book Thief," Death is mainly passive, sweet and contemplative. Occasionally, he strays from Liesel's story to give his own account of World War II.

"Please believe me," he asks the reader after his first trip to Auschwitz, "when I tell you that I picked up each soul that day as if it were newly born. I even kissed a few weary, poisoned cheeks. I listened to their last, gasping cries. Their vanishing words. I watched their love visions and

freed them from their fear."

Zusak writes in poetic prose, paying attention to the sounds of his words and using colorful imagery, odd but strangely appealing metaphors and playful language. As he arrives at the bombing of a small German town, the narrator tells us:

"Snowflakes of ash fell so 'lovelily' you were tempted to stretch out your tongue to catch them, taste them. Only, they would have scorched your lips. They would have cooked your mouth."

That, for me, is much more effective than the declarations in bold, but Australian author Zusak's books are marketed to teens (his novel "I Am the Messenger" won the Printz Honor for excellence in young adult literature), so perhaps the technique has an appeal for his younger readers.

Liesel's story at first feels a little like a fairy tale. Frau Hubermann, Liesel's foster mother, begins as a kind of wicked stepmother, giving verbal lashings and dumping her own work on her new daughter. Liesel has to help iron for her new mama's rich customers, pick up and deliver their laundry, and clean a disgruntled customer's spit from the door.

It's Liesel's new papa who embodies all that is good, comforting her after nightmares, playing music to cheer her, winking at her when her mama gets grumpy, and hiding a Jew in his basement. It's Papa that teaches Liesel to read. Liesel, the little book thief, who, among other crimes, rescues a censored book from the flames.

I loved most about "The Book Thief" its simple, human stories. Max Vandenburg, the Jewish man hiding in the basement, knows that Liesel, stealer of books, treasures words and stories above all else.

Max paints white some pages from the copy of "Mein Kampf" that he once carried to hide his identity as a Jew, and in place of Hitler's words, he writes and illustrates as Liesel's birthday present a thirteen-page book called the "Standover Man."

It tells the story of Max's life and his friendship with Liesel that sustains him during his lonely years hidden in the basement. Inserted in the midst of

Death's story about Liesel, "Standover Man" is the true gem in Zusak's novel.

As the novel progresses, some of the fairy-tale feel falls away. Zusak's novel is always wider than it is deep, but little by little he sketches characters and unfolds themes until "The Book Thief" becomes rich and complex.

"The Book Thief"
Markus Zusak
Random House
560 pp., \$16.95



"Jamie and the Jack off's" performed in the outdoor Mary Baker Russell amphitheater on April 20. Band members include sophomores Steve "Becky" Beckenhauer, Jamie Rottle and Mike Plotke. Sponsored by ASPLU, organizers of the event, such as first-year student Andre St. Hilaire, allowed any student performer to participate. The concert lasted from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

A Reading by Peter Orner
Thursday, May 4, Chris Knutzen Hall, 8 p.m.

El Patio provides quality

Local business combines friendly service and atmosphere



This week I chose to review a restaurant that my family has been going to since I was in elementary school.

Some may say this creates a little bias for a restaurant critic, but I would love to see this place get some local business.

El Patio Taqueria used to be located in the Kmart strip mall but moved into the old Dairy Dell a couple years back.

The inside is painted and decorated with giant inflatable beer bottles, parrot murals and flowers that will never die, which gives the place a permanent feeling of Cinco de Mayo. They dress it up for all occasions.

This is a family restaurant, hence the reason my family has been dining there for years, but it is also a great place for just two to dine.

You will always get great service at El Patio Taqueria. When you sit down, you are greeted immediately with amazing salsa and chips.

I would consider myself a salsa connoisseur: I make salsa, I love salsa and I am very picky about it. But I thoroughly enjoy the salsa at El Patio.

Usually it is just my Dad and myself sharing salsa, but we go through quite a bit and the servers are always more than happy to refill it.

On our most recent visit we enjoyed only one basket of chips before ordering, simply because we were both very hungry. We both ordered Cokes at \$1.95.

My father rarely gets anything other than the steak fajitas (\$11.95) because the marinade for the meat is amazing. On occasion I will have the vegetarian fajitas, which are very good as well, but on this evening I ordered a combination platter of a tostada and an enchilada for \$8.75.

The steak fajitas are presented sizzling and steaming from the kitchen and accompanied by a plate of rice and beans, sour cream, guacamole and pico de gallo. You are served tortillas to go with the fajitas. My father has never been dissatisfied with this meal in our long history with this restaurant.

My meatless meal was accompanied by rice and beans. They do have a vegetarian menu. I have tried almost every item and enjoyed them all. However, this time I was craving the basics. I was impressed because the vegetables on the tostada were very fresh and crisp to offset all the melted cheese goodness of the enchilada.

Our servers have always been very accommodating. The portions are quite large at El Patio and I took half of mine home with me for later enjoyment.

El Patio Taqueria is a high quality restaurant that most people just drive by. I don't think anyone in my family has had a bad meal here, otherwise we wouldn't keep going back. I give El Patio a 5.

El Patio Taqueria
(253) 539-3365
14506 Pacific Ave S
Tacoma, WA 98444

Did you know?
Captain Kirk never said "Beam me up, Scotty," but he did say, "Beam me up, Mr. Scott."
Source: www.corsinet.com/trivia

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The Notorious Bettie Page (R)
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Thank You For Smoking (R)
Fri: 2:20, 4:20, 6:30, 8:45
Sat/Sun: 12:15, 2:20, 4:20, 6:30, 8:45
Mon-Wed: 4:20, 6:30, 8:45
Thurs 2:20, 4:20, 6:30, 8:45

Friends With Money (R)
Fri: 2:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15
Sat/Sun: 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15
Mon-Wed: 4:30, 7:00, 9:15
Thurs 2:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15

Training for danger



Top 10: Ways to stay safe in Parkland

recommend holding hands for added security. This does not work, however, when it's just the two of us.

6. Security system: For those who live off campus, we recommend a medieval approach to keeping your home safe. Twelve-foot retaining walls, six-foot moats, and pet crocodiles will keep anyone short of Napoleon (pun intended) from storming your castle.

5. Carry lots of cash: Someone tries to attack you, simply offer a small bribe to keep them away. That said, we've also found that this has a small tendency to encourage some assailants. Muggers will also start to think of you as a walking ATM, so you'll have to come up with some clever disguises. No one has ever bothered us when we went out as Sonny and Cher.

4. Join the track team: An excellent way to get in top physical condition, we're pretty sure you'll be able to outrun any attackers. We don't believe in physical activity, so this is pure speculation. Remember to keep a balanced lifestyle, so lie on the couch and eat lots of ice cream on the weekends.

3. Protein shakes: Have more energy and gain that extra 150 pounds. People won't mess with you if you're twice their size, even if you're affectionately known as Jabba the Hutt. We've also heard rumors that this mixed with weightlifting increases muscle mass. If only we knew where the fitness center was. Oh well, it's probably too far to walk anyway.

2. Learn karate: We tried to sign up for a refresher class on the ancient art of ass-kicking (see number one), but somehow ended up in a yoga class. While we didn't become any more intimidating, our auras are aligned and we are in touch with our meridians. Yeah, we don't know what that means either.

1. Stay inside: Our one tried-and-true method of ultimate safety, there is no better way to avoid danger than avoiding everything. The fact that it hinders our class attendance and social lives is a small price to pay for surviving in Parkland.

With all the recent security issues surrounding Parkland and the PLU campus, we've decided that it is time to address the issue ourselves. Not that Campus Safety and the police aren't doing a good job, we just feel that there is only so much they can do. With our affinity for moonlight walks along the boulevards of Parkland, we feel that we have a special expertise in this matter. Here is our strict training regime, as well as some things we saw on late night TV:

10. Purchase the first through ninth season of "Walker: Texas Ranger." There is nothing more majestic than a Chuck Norris roundhouse kick to the face. People don't just make up facts, and before he forgot a present for Chuck Norris, Santa was real. You're an automatic black belt if you sit through all nine seasons.

9. Guard dog: A loyal, loving companion capable of ripping out someone's jugular. Chicks also love dogs, so it's a perfect situation. The only problem is where to keep him. We tried keeping him in the bike room, but now he won't let us in. Sometimes our tips work too well. Naming him Cujo didn't help matters either.

8. Mace/tazer/numchucks: While we don't support violence, no one in their right mind would mess with someone walking down the street with numchucks in their hands. A tazer gun also works well for settling roommate arguments. Just don't let Campus Safety know that you have any of these, as they're considered "illegal" on campus.

7. Stay in large groups: While PLU students are hardly the most intimidating people, if you bring your whole dorm wing along for your walk, you're in good shape. We also

Politically charged humor fills The Cave

Small venue allows audience to interact with comedians

ANDREW LUCCHESI
Mast reporter

Few things seem to pack the Cave quite like a comedy show. Not just one, but two comics were provided for a night of H.U.M.P. April 19, though the audience response was mixed.

Politically incorrect Chris Warren lent his name to the bill while his good friend, Ken McComb, provided the opening act. Though it was only a little more than an hour in length, this show provided both laughs and jabs enough for everyone present.

McComb opened the evening with an amusing blend of self-mockery and word play. Though he seemed a very clever and intelligent comedian, he was clearly not what the audience wanted on this particular night. He had a few very successful jokes, but by and large, he was fighting a losing battle.

McComb quickly brought up a point that was reiterated by Warren multiple times throughout the night: they felt that they had to censor their acts for the PLU community. Though I certainly wouldn't consider the show presented to be tame, I thought it was far from obscene.

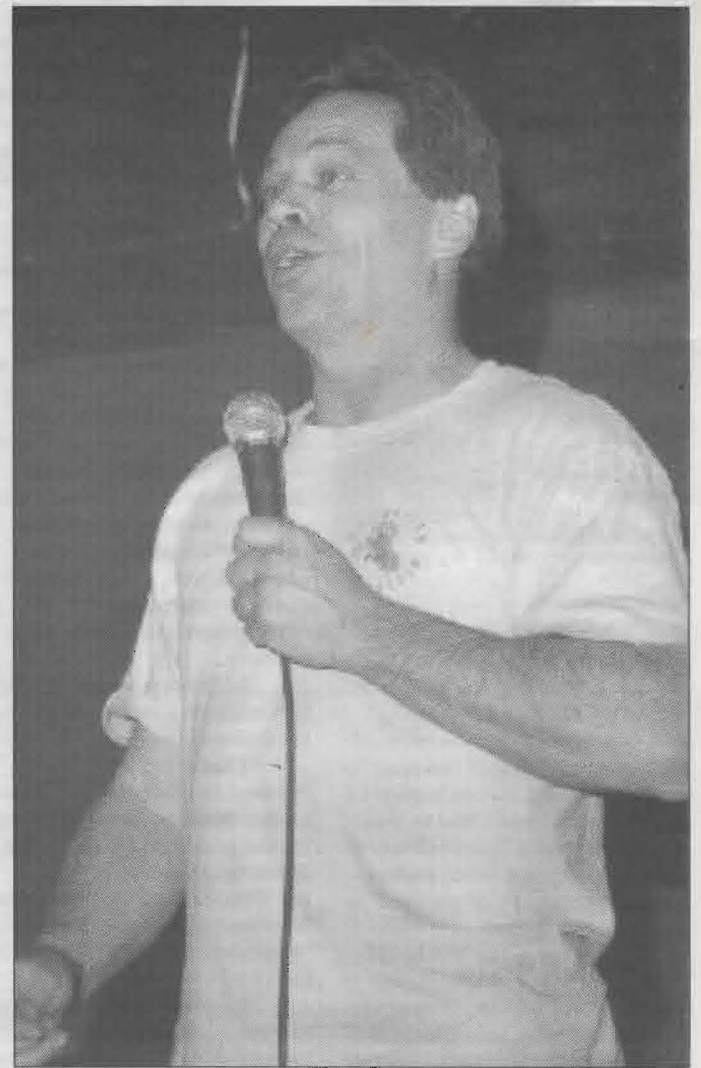
At any rate, McComb ventured quickly into the lewd, which was met with hysteria, before introducing his friend and cohort, Chris Warren.

Warren walked on with his trademark smile, his strongest weapon. It carried him through strings of offensive material and a vicious humor that at times felt more like an attack than a joke.

Warren's website says: "Chris Warren, the Politically Incorrect Comic, has been spewing forth his rhetoric on stages from coast to coast and throughout Canada for over 17 years, delighting audiences with his high energy, fast-paced style even as he tears apart the core beliefs of the politically correct, the environmental extremists, the religious freaks and the animal rights activists. He has honed his craft to the point where he can attack these touchy subjects with killer humor and his disarming smile so that even those who adamantly disagree with him still roar with laughter and approval, even as he tries to sell them baby seal head covers for their golf clubs."

Warren, who had just arrived in Tacoma from opening for Vice President Cheney in Spokane the previous day, provided an opinionated set that was not at all politically correct.

Though I personally was very much offended, I had to admit that he does have a way with delivery, if not with facts. His words seemed to actively condone animal cruelty, discrimination towards same-sex couples, and blatant racism in a way that at times left the audience at a loss for response.



Comedian Chris Warren brought his act to The Cave April 19, a day after he had opened for Vice President Cheney in Spokane, WA. Photo by Brian Bradshaw

"I am always glad when they invite special people to H.U.M.P., they try very hard," first-year Liz Gasperini said. "He seemed out of place though, I think. Very conservative, it caught me off guard." She commented that McComb was not as good as Warren, but the evening as a whole provided a good diversion from homework.

One of the key advantages of seeing a comic in such a small, enclosed space as the Cave is that it is quite possible to interact with the show. Numerous students spoke out to the comics throughout the evening, lightening the mood and adding a new element of fun to the event.

This night of H.U.M.P. had its ups and downs. McComb's rapid-fire jokes were hit-and-miss, but he carried with them an air of wit that seemed to simply work at times. Warren's politically charged humor set the audience on edge, and sent some to the floor laughing. Warren and McComb make an eclectic pair and complement each other well.

Throughout the night, Warren and McComb pushed the envelope, just as comics are expected to do. Regardless of one's political affiliation, the night was entertaining.

Poems transport readers into a moment

SHARLYN GEHRS
Mast contributor

William Carlos Williams' famous saying, "No ideas but in things," emphasizes the value in everyday situations and observations as the inspiration for modernist poetry.

By taking time to look carefully at "things," poets can develop a sharper sense of the world and will be able to create the purest visual representation possible in their poems.

At first, reading poems by Williams, like "The Great Figure" and "To a Poor Old Woman," seems all too easy. A reader may be left wondering how they are poetry. The purposefully chosen words and lawless structures of Williams' poetry represent a form that takes everyday occurrences, like a fire engine racing down a city street "unheeded," and turns them into the true moments of clarity that inspire poetry in the first place. In "The Great Figure," Williams writes:

"Among the rain and lights

I saw the figure 5
in gold
on a red
firetruck
moving
with weight and urgency..."

The poem is one run-on sentence that utilizes a short line, which quickens the reading to drive the poem to its end. With the only form of punctuation being the single period at the end of the poem, the pacing of the poem mimics the content. Each line folds onto the next, building up that sense of "urgency." Readers can easily visualize the "figure 5" blurring past them on a dark city street, and the energy of the poem realizes that blurring quality.

Another poem by Williams, "To a Poor Old Woman," simply depicts an observer watching an old woman enjoying the taste of a ripe plum. Williams writes:

"munching a plum on the street a paper bag of them in her hand
They taste good to her
They taste good to her
They taste good to her. They taste

good to her..."

This poem is another example of how Williams takes an everyday scene and creates a pure representation of "things." Williams effectively uses line breaks in the second stanza to emphasize different parts of the sentence, "They taste good to her." The close attention paid to where the lines and stanzas are breaking adds to the observational tone of the poem. It is fair to say that this poem is about nothing more than the scene that is being described and, to Williams, that is the point.

Williams' saying, "No ideas but in things," has popped into my head on several occasions when I have found myself looking at things a little closer than usual. The simple act of looking can incite beautiful imagery and intimate descriptions in poetry. Without the presence of images like those in Williams' poetry, poems would not be able to transport readers to an exact moment, to the space a poet creates with his or her language.

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Cigarettes and satire

'Thank you' smokes the competition with hilarious social commentary



Someone sneezed in my popcorn

It has been a long and trying journey for "Thank You For Smoking." I remember seeing the trailer for the film early in the fall. When it finally was released in theaters, I thought the wait was over, but it was only playing in select cities and I had to wait two more weeks. The filmmakers themselves experienced waiting as well, struggling to get the film onto the big screen.

"Thank You For Smoking" follows the life of Nick, played by Aaron Eckhart, a lobbyist for big tobacco who sells spin and loves doing it. He is a member of the M.O.D. Squad, or Merchants of Death, a group of lobbyists for the tobacco, alcohol and firearms industries. He is trying to reconnect with his son, who worships him and wants to know more about what exactly his dad's job entails.

Meanwhile, a reporter played by Katie Holmes is investigating Nick's occupation, and a senator, played by William H. Macy, is trying to get cigarettes labeled as poison. Nick handles some tough situations and some shady deals while constantly keeping a glowing smile plastered across his face.

The cast in this film is top-notch. Eckhart brilliantly carries the piece with a charm and elegance that makes you love him, as you find yourself empathizing with big tobacco.

The supporting cast gives phenomenal performances as well. Robert Duvall never disappears, especially as the tobacco tycoon known only as "The Captain." Sam Elliot demands attention as the cancer inflicted Marlboro Man. Rob Lowe is the world's most eccentric agent and Macy's Senator Finistire makes a villain of someone who is actually trying to do some good.

Adam Brody steals the show with his portrayal of a sleazy Hollywood agent's even sleazier assistant. Some of you may know him from Fox's "The O.C." He is probably one of the smartest young actors in the biz right now for taking small, character-driven roles in movies that give him more credibility in the industry. He isn't selling himself to every teen "Rom-Com" out

there, although I am sure he is getting quite a few offers. As long as he stays away from Lindsey Lohan, he'll do just fine.

The film's satire is some of the best, most biting social commentary I've seen in quite some time. Through that humor we can begin to see what all of the characters are actually doing.

Director Jason Reitman sums up the idea of the film with his interview in Premiere Magazine: "I'm someone who gets pissed about how much we censor ourselves, particularly in political conversation. I feel like that is what prevents us from culturally moving forward, because no one speaks frankly about responsibility. At a certain point, if you're educated, you have to make decisions for yourself, and it's the job of the parents to educate their children."

The process of getting the film made was an extensive one for Reitman.

"Thank You for Smoking" is based on the book by Christopher Buckley. It was adapted for the screen and directed by Jason Reitman, son of legendary director Ivan Reitman, who has directed such classics as "Ghostbusters" and "Kindergarten Cop."

The younger Reitman tried to steer away from the film industry after living his life on movie sets, until he nearly flunking out his first semester as a pre-med student. After making a few short films, he scored critical acclaim with his short film "In God We Trust."

Around that time a friend gave him a copy of "Thank You for Smoking" and he was blown away at how similar his sense of humor was to Buckley's.

Unfortunately, Mel Gibson's company, Icon Productions, had gained the rights to the book. Icon intended to make it a big budget comedy, but instead left it in developmental hell. Reitman wrote the first act of the screenplay in a weekend, took it to Icon and they hired him to write the full script. Buckley was even quoted as saying that Reitman was the first person to write a screenplay that really understood his work. However, no major studio would touch it and the project was dormant for three years.

It took Reitman another year to negotiate the rights away from Icon and make it himself. Finally, it premiered at Toronto in September of 2005. Audiences loved it and it was then picked up by Fox Searchlight Pictures.

Fast forward to the finally released product.

"Thank You for Smoking" is a well-crafted satire with a fantastic cast. The film isn't touting the message of big tobacco, it is emphasizing that you have the right to make your own decisions. This is a courageous message in a time that needs some people to stand up for what they think.

Nordic culture reflected in clothing

Outfits, songs help express Scandinavian culture

MARTA LARSEN
Mast reporter

Authentic costumes from five Nordic countries were displayed and modeled for guests Saturday, April 22, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Community members of Scandinavian descent were admitted into PLU's Scandinavian Cultural Center, some even wearing Nordic outfits themselves, and were served a luncheon by PLU students until about 1:15 p.m., when the fashion show began.

The President of the Scandinavian Cultural Center Council, Janet Ruude, was the director of the event, and introduced the spokesperson for each different culture's outfits. Ruude also informed the guests of the names of the traditional songs which were being played while they ate. The luncheon consisted of fruit, chicken, pasta, bread and dessert, and was in no way Scandinavian.

"The reflection of our different cultures today is represented in the clothes, not the food. The food is strictly American," Ruude said.

Ruude first introduced Nina Pederson, who is of Danish descent, and announced the models who were wearing clothes from Denmark. Pederson talked a little about Danish jewelry, and how daisy-themed jewelry is very popular in Denmark; every Danish woman should own at least one piece of jewelry that looks like a daisy flower.

The other popular jewelry was amber, a stone that is abundant only in Denmark, not the other Scandinavian countries. This is because petrified sap washes up on Denmark's sandy beaches, which Danish women

"One thing the Danish like to avoid is meeting themselves on the street. We have a lot of individuality."

Nina Pederson, Alumna



Photo by Chris Hunt

The Nordic Fashion Show, held in the Scandinavian Cultural Center April 22, featured a variety of authentic clothes from the five Nordic countries. Community members of Scandinavian descent were invited to the event, some of whom wore their own Nordic outfits.

make amber jewelry out of.

Each Danish outfit that was modeled was handmade and not mass-produced, trying to maintain a sense of originality.

"One thing the Danish like to avoid is meeting themselves on the streets. We have a lot of individuality," Pederson said.

Ruude next introduced Essi Krebs from Finland, who announced the Finnish outfits that were worn by several models. The clothes from Finland varied in color and style depending on what region they were from. The audience was informed that the most brightly colored and vibrant outfits are worn by people in Southern Finland.

"These people are called the 'Sunshine People.' You can really see their sunny personalities in their clothing," Krebs said.

Norwegian Auden Toven announced both the Norwegian outfits as well as the Icelandic outfits, then Kerstin Ringdahl stepped up to the stage for Sweden.

The fashion show not only contained models wearing traditional outfits, but more contemporary styles as well from current popular designers in the Scandinavian countries.

The Scandinavian Cultural Center was also decorated for the fashion show, including mannequins on display wearing Nordic clothes from Denmark, Norway and Iceland.

There were also glass cases of traditional jewelry on display in the center from all five countries, and a table of books filled with information on Nordic clothing.

The final exhibit on display during the fashion show were prints of watercolors and pastels done by Sharon Aamodt. Aamodt is of Norwegian and Swedish descent and has been drawing and creating art her whole life.

Her exhibit, called "Nordic Imagery," is hosted by the SCC Council, and consists of depictions of Scandinavian horses, landscapes and costumes from the five Nordic countries.

Aamodt has won numerous awards for the uniqueness of her art. Her goal is to show a happy view of the lives of Scandinavian people, since often their lives would have been very difficult. Aamodt hopes that her watercolors and pastels will be able to link people to their pasts, fitting in with the overall goal of the Nordic fashion show.

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Stuff or strikeout, Seattle's worst team debate

Mariners lost their Mojo, Sonics will regain greatness



Third and long and we're swinging for the fences

Bad management leaves Sonics lagging in potential

NICK PAGE
Mast sports columnist

The fact that Tim Kelly can call the Sonics the worst franchise in Seattle flabbergasts me. All Tim needs to do is look at the facts and he can see that the Mariners are by far the best team in the city.

The Mariners stink. And they have for most of their existence.

Sure there was the 2001 season when the Mariners tied a major league record by winning 116 games, but what came of it? An exit in the ALCS.

The Sonics are the oldest franchise in the city and the only one with a championship. That alone puts them leaps and bounds ahead of the Ms.

The Sonics won at least 57 games every year from 1992-1998 and collected division title after division title. They had NBA icons Shawn Kemp, Gary Payton and Detlef Schrempf. They took the 1996 Bulls to six games.

The Mariners, in contrast, have done nothing but disappoint Seattle sports fans.

Before the 1995 season, the Ms had never even been to the playoffs (this is a franchise that was founded in 1977).

The 1995-playoff run was a magical one and the 2001 season was amazing, but those are only two in almost 30 seasons.

The Sonics had a sub par season this

year, but the loss of Coach Nate McMillan proved to be a distraction and the team got off to a slow start. However, the front office made some trades and the Sonics finished strong.

The Mariners have lost 90 games the last two seasons and are on their way to another dreadful year. Their attendance is the lowest it has been in years and the club can't seem to stay competitive.

The Ms spent big money in the 2004 off-season to get power hitter Adrian Beltre and he's currently batting .187 with no home runs.

The Sonics are a year away from greatness, while the Mariners are light years.

Ray Allen of the Sonics set the single-season record for three-pointers last week in the team's final game.

I was there and I can tell that there is still some magic left in Key Arena.

The Sonics team is a franchise that was great once and has the pieces in place to be great again.

Next year, the Sonics are going to make a playoff run. The Mariners are going to continue to struggle with a young roster and a weak bullpen.

Watch out Seattle, because the ones that were great once are about to be great again.

TIM KELLY
Mast sports columnist

After the Sonics' pathetic encore to a magical season, the downfall of the Husky football program and the Mariners' third straight year with a dismal start, I have become depressed. These three squads have had some great history, but one of them is more pathetic than the others.

The Sonics at one time were the main franchise in Seattle. Actually for 10 years (besides 1969 with the Seattle Pilots), they were the only franchise from the big three organizations around.

When the Mariners and Seahawks showed up, the Sonics responded by winning the NBA Championship and playing for another.

The 80s saw the Mariners struggle, the Huskies dominate and the Seahawks make the case that Seattle was their town. The 90s saw dismal results for the Seahawks and success for everyone else, but shortly would bring the downfall of the Sonics.

The 1993-1994 Sonics finish with the best record in the Western Conference and face the Denver Nuggets in a should have been first round victory in the playoffs. The Sonics somehow managed to get upset in the series and the victory by Denver is still considered one of the biggest upsets in NBA history.

The Sonics came back with a vengeance, meeting up with the 72-10 Chicago Bulls in the 1996 NBA Finals. The Bulls won, but the Sonics were able to take two games from arguably the greatest team in NBA history.

In an attempt to bolster the team, the Sonics went out and signed the dominant center their championship caliber team had been lacking. That center was Jim McIlvaine, and he received a contract bigger than All-Star power forward Shawn Kemp. The only problem: Kemp was proven and McIlvaine averaged two points, two rebounds and two blocks.

Obviously upset, Kemp asked for a raise, which he did not receive, and eventually was traded. Just like that the championship dreams were dashed. Sure the team got Vin Baker, but he turned out to be a bust because of personal demons.

Hopes were high when Howard Schultz purchased the team, but he did not get along too well with the players. He shipped out future Hall-of-Famer Gary Payton and ever since, has run a mediocre franchise. Schultz only seems to care about the team when they are winning, as he was not too visible on the sidelines this year.

The Sonics are the only professional sports team in town with a championship but with the current system of management, they have become the most poorly run show in Seattle.

Men's lacrosse advances to semi-finals after taking down Linfield

BEN BLANKENSHIP
Mast sports reporter

In the first round of the 2006 Pacific Northwest Collegiate Lacrosse League's B Division playoffs April 22, the Lutes won 12-8 over Linfield College. The win advanced the Lutes to this Saturday's semi-final round of playoffs in Tigard, Ore. against last year's division champions, Montana.

The No. 4 seeded Lutes entered the game against No. 5 Linfield with a valuable lesson learned the week before. The Lutes struggled against the less experienced cross-town rivals UPS April 13, scraping by with a 13-10 win. Little things like throwing away passes and having difficulty scooping up ground balls revealed their larger problem of overconfidence in late quarters. The Lutes extended their winning streak to five games, but knew their problem needed dealing with before facing the Wildcats for the second time this season on Foss Field.

Despite Linfield's aggressive strategy to lock out the PLU attackmen, the Lutes left the scoring to their midfield weapons. Sophomore midfielder Kevin Rose scored two goals and two assists to earn the coveted game ball. Captain Matt Weurffel, a junior and long-stick midfielder, scored back-to-back goals in the first quarter and an assist as well.

"It was a close score to the UPS game, but it had a completely different feel," Weurffel said. "We were in control."

Along with the victory, the Lutes celebrated the final home game of the 2006 senior class. This year the Lutes graduate two midfielders, David Rose and Wes Telyea as well as

attackmen Aaron Hushagen and captain Kris Olsen.

But the celebration couldn't last long. Olsen said his final home game was "surreal, but we already turned our focus upon Montana."

Despite trying not to downplay Sunday's final game, Olsen said many people around the PNCLL believe this is the real championship game.

"Whoever wins this has a plane ticket to Texas," he said.

The rivalry between the Lutes and Griz stems back to the 2005 when Montana overtook the lead in the last 10 minutes of the final championship game. But there's more at stake than last year's memories.

"We don't have (a) shot at an automatic qualifier to Nationals. Montana does," Weurffel said. "We have struggled to be the winning team we are now and want to prove it. I don't think Montana has seen any other real challenges except us."

The two teams met earlier this season, with No. 1 seed Montana winning 18-14. The Lutes lead for much of the encounter, but struggled in later quarters against the Griz's larger roster and East Coast experience. Captains Weurffel and Olsen agree that PLU may have the slight advantage this time around.

The Lutes have improved their man-up offense signifi-

cantly since the March 12 game against Montana.

"We only scored something like six out of 18 man-up opportunities the first time," Weurffel said. "Now we're closer to 75 percent. We also have Matt Kennedy back from injury to add some depth at our midfield."

Olsen said he feels the advantage is the trust that has developed between team members after their rough start this season.

"Our old mentality was to simply not lose games," he said. "Now we have a lot more trust on the field since we know what our intent is off the field."

The Lutes intend to keep their hopes of playing in the national tournament alive with a win tomorrow.

"We've been waiting for this all year," Weurffel said. "But despite the cliché, we have to take it one game at a time. This game has me so excited I cannot sleep well. I can't focus much on anything that isn't lacrosse."

The winner of the PLU vs. Montana game will face the winner of the Western Washington vs. Southern Oregon matchup for the title of PNCLL B Division Champions and an automatic qualifier to the national tournament in Dallas, Texas.

Results can be found at the league website, www.pncll.com.

"We have struggled to be the winning team we are now and want to prove it."

Matt Weurffel
long-stick midfielder

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Men's tennis continue reign: repeat as conference champions

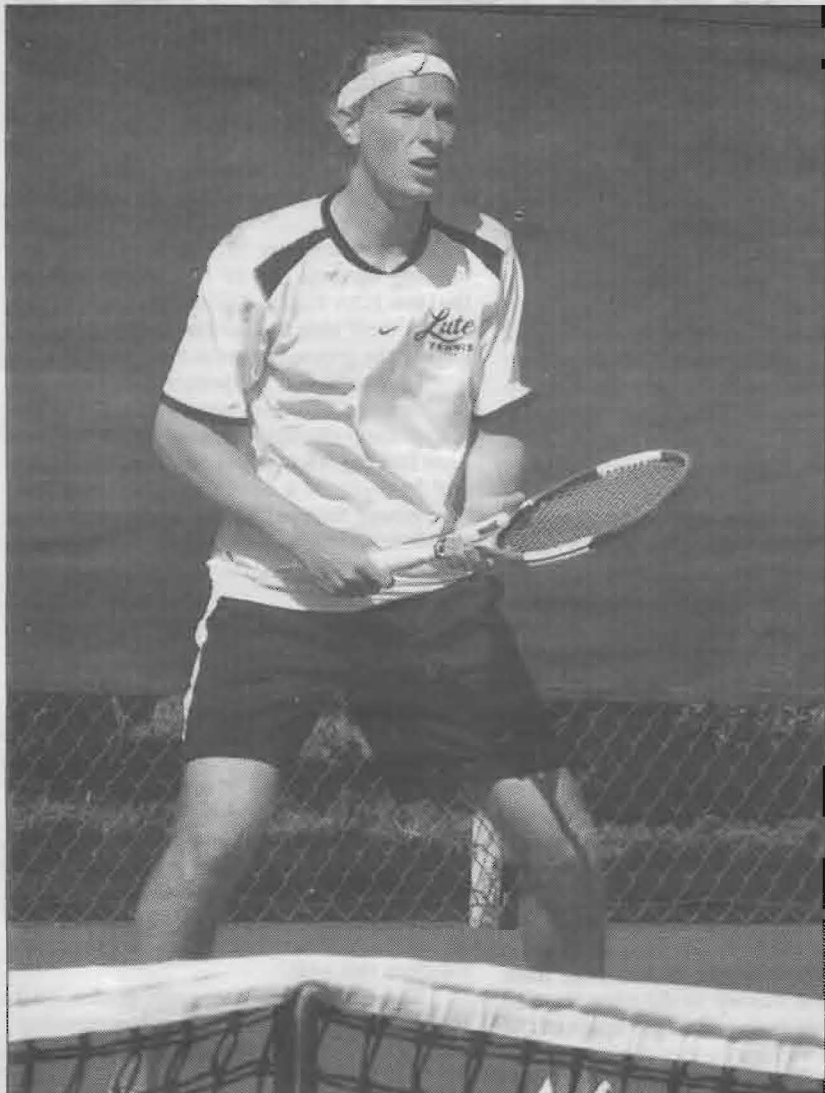


Photo by Tyler Ochsner

Above: No. 4 singles player Ben Schaefer prepares for a return against Whitman's Dane Miller. In his last conference match, Schaefer won in a three-set thriller, clinching the championship for the Lutes. The top six PLU players will compete in the Ojai tennis tourney this weekend in California.

Top right: (left to right) Coach Craig Hamilton, junior David Miller, senior Matt Larimore, sophomore Jared Vidano, junior Tyler Ochsner, sophomore Justin Larimore, senior Ricky Butenko, and junior Jeff Loranger celebrate after defeating Whitman 5-2 in the NWC championships Saturday.



SEAN MCILRAITH
Mast sports reporter

The men's tennis team added to a legacy of success last weekend as they captured their second consecutive Northwest Conference Championship against Whitman College.

"It's pretty cool since this is our second year winning conference," sophomore Justin Larimore said. "As a team our goal as a team is to make it as far as we can and the first step to nationals is winning conference."

The Lutes (19-8) defeated the Missionaries (19-7) 5-2 at the conference championship in Yakima to win the program's 30th NWC title.

"We knew the Northwest Conference was going to be tough this season, especially Whitman," co-head coach Craig Hamilton said.

In the doubles match-up, the first match went to Whit-

man as they defeated senior Ricky Butenko and senior Matt Larimore in a tiebreaker 9-8 (7-4). The Lutes bounced back in the second match as Justin and junior David Miller won with a score of 8-5. The third match went to the Missionaries with an 8-4 loss for junior Jeff Loranger and senior Ben Schaefer.

"It was really close," Justin said. "When we play Whitman, it's always really intense."

The singles matches were a different story for the Lutes as they won five, with four going to the third set or tiebreaker. Miller captured the first match in three sets, followed by Butenko in two sets, Matt in a tiebreaker, and Schaefer in a three set victory. Whitman captured the fifth match, but Loranger squashed the Missionaries momentum by winning the sixth match in a superset tiebreaker.

"I told the guys I couldn't have scripted a better ending," Hamilton said. "They had the

momentum after the doubles and we won five singles matches with our guys coming up big."

With the NWC championship in their possession and a top five ranking in the West Region, the Lutes have a great chance to be invited to the NCAA D-III Regionals on place May 6-7 in Trinity, Texas. PLU has already played lost two matches to Trinity this season.

"Going into the season we had high expectations and purposely set up a tough schedule," Hamilton said. "We wanted a tough schedule and I think we've begun to see the benefit of it."

This weekend the PLU men are participating in the Ojai Tournament in California. Several Lutes are expected to compete in this invite-only tourney.

"It's really cool that all three seniors qualified for Ojai this year," Justin said. "They all deserve it."

Lutes slide past Linfield, winning two of three games

SEAN MCILRAITH
Mast sports reporter

The PLU baseball team continued their domination trend at home by beating the Linfield Wildcats two out of three games last weekend.

PLU (21-15, NWC 11-10) swept the Wildcats (18-15, NWC 12-9) in two games Saturday with scores of 14-4 and 16-7, but fell 12-4 Sunday to conclude their home record, 14-3.

It was a big weekend for the Lutes: They guaranteed their third consecutive 20-plus-win season and honored four seniors who played their final home games wearing the black and gold.

"We experienced a lot of wins this season," head coach Geoff Loomis said. "We've had three 20-plus-win seasons in the past three years."

PLU scored five runs in the bottom half of the third inning. Infielder Eric Stanczyk and outfielder Tyler Green each knocked in two runs in that inning. PLU added one run in the sixth and two more in the seventh to put the score at 8-3.

However, the Lute squad was not done yet. In the bottom of the eighth PLU added six runs, including outfielder Justin Whitehall's two-RBI double and catcher David Fox's two-RBI single. Whitehall finished 4-5 with 3 RBI and Green went 3-4 with 3 RBI as well.

Joe DiPietro pitched a jewel of game for the Lutes, going 8 1/3 innings, striking out ten Wildcats and improving his record to 5-3. The Lutes dismantled Linfield in the second game 16-7.

PLU did not waste any time as they scored five runs in the bottom half of the first inning. Infielder Logan Andrews scored first on a Whitehall single. Fox drove in two more on his single and Green and designated hitter Chris Bowen each drove in a run.

PLU scored two runs in both the third and fourth to put the Lutes ahead 9-3. Linfield scored four in the fifth to close the gap, but the Lutes responded by scoring four runs on Whitehall's RBI single and Stanc-

zyk's two-out, three-RBI triple.

Fox's two-RBI double in the seventh put the score at 15-7 and also put Fox in the record books. It was his 19th double of the season, moving him into first place for the most doubles ever hit in a season by a Lute baseball player.

Senior Aaron Fulmer pitched five innings and received the win, improving his record to 6-3.

"These seniors have accomplished a lot this season," Loomis said. "All four of them are either in the season or career records for something. They performed well when we needed them to."

The tides turned Sunday as Linfield beat PLU, 12-4.

Bad defense plagued the Lutes as they committed four errors in the losing contest.

PLU held a 2-0 lead going into the third, but Linfield tied it up and controlled the game from that point on. The Lutes got close in the bottom of the fifth after Andrews scored on a fielder's choice, but it was not enough, as the Cats scored five in the sixth and three in the eighth.

"It was a little disappointing losing the final game to Linfield, but we had two big games against them earlier," Fox said. "(Beating Linfield two out of three is) something positive to go out on. Teamwise, we did well when you look at the big picture. We'll be walking away with another 20-plus-win season."

The senior class, consisting of Fox, Stanczyk, Fulmer and infielder Andy Benes, has now beat Linfield in four consecutive season series.

"Two out of three wins is always nice," Fulmer said. "Especially against a team like Linfield."

Tomorrow the team will take on the Whitworth Pirates (18-17, NWC 12-9) in a three-game weekend series in Spokane. The two teams play a doubleheader tomorrow and will conclude the season Sunday with a single game.

"It is up to us older guys to pass the knowledge down to the younger guys because they will soon be carrying the torch," Fulmer said.

No love for Loggers

Women's tennis claws past UPS, falls to Linfield in NWC final

MEGAN WOCHNICK
Mast co-sports editor

Over the course of a nine-match stretch, the PLU women's tennis team had lost to cross-town rival Puget Sound, with its last victory over the Loggers coming during the 2002 season.

That losing streak to the Loggers ended Saturday with PLU upending UPS 5-4 in the second round at the Northwest Conference Tournament in Yakima to advance to the championship match versus Linfield.

"We were all really excited we beat them," junior Bria Smith said. "Everyone was celebrating. It was great."

The Lutes won three singles and two doubles matches.

Of the singles matches, Smith said her match was the deciding one for the team victory.

"We had four wins and we needed one more," Smith said. "When I won, all the girls came down and gave me a hug."

Smith defeated Katie Russell of Puget Sound 7-5, 6-0 as Nicole Petzelka and Erika Feltus both won their singles matches 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) and 6-2, 6-3, respectively.

In doubles, Petzelka and Feltus beat Melissa Snyder and Alyssa Sidoff 8-2 and Amanda Anuraga and Smith teamed up for an 8-5 victory over Molly Clevenger and Alyssa Newton.

Earlier that morning, the Lutes de-

feated Willamette 7-2 in the first round to advance to play Puget Sound and later the championship match.

PLU won two of the three doubles matches and five of the six singles matches.

"We knew we could beat them," said Smith, noting that Willamette was the lower seed. "We started out kind of slow, but then we all started playing a lot better."

PLU lost 8-1 in the championship match against the Wildcats of Linfield.

The Lutes' lone victory came from Katie Ogin, who defeated Hollin Buck because she retired on account of a back injury.

The closest match in doubles came from Ogin and Roz Currie, who forced a tiebreaker with Buck and Molly Nelson of Linfield, before losing 9-8 (7-5).

Of all the Lutes, Feltus and Smith came the closest to victory. Feltus lost 5-7, 6-4, 10-8 and Smith fell 7-6 (2), 7-6 (6).

"All of us were just really excited we got into the championship match," Smith said. "We were just playing our game like we know how, but lost to a good

team." Linfield won its fifth straight Northwest Conference title.

No team has achieved this since PLU did it from 1980 to 1984.

With second place, PLU earned its highest finish in the conference tournament since 2000.

The Lutes ended their season at 16-7 overall and 14-5 in conference play.

"It was a great year," Smith said, "and it was a great way to end the season."

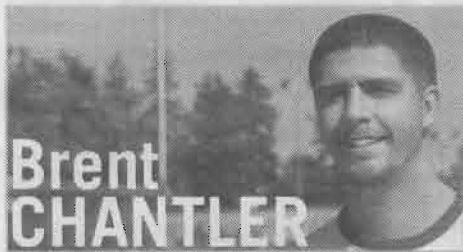
"All of us were just really excited we got into the championship match."

Bria Smith
Junior

	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
THIS WEEK IN SPORTS	• Track and field competes at the Western Oregon Twilight. Meet begins at 2:30 p.m.	• Softball hosts Willamette for a doubleheader. First pitch is at 2 p.m.	• Softball hosts Pacific for a doubleheader, starting at noon. • Crew competes at the WIRA Championships in Sacramento, Calif.	• The Mariners travel to play the Minnesota Twins. First pitch is at 5:10 p.m.	• The Mariners finish a two-game series with Minnesota, with the first pitch at 5:10 p.m.	• The Mariners face the World Series Champion Chicago White Sox at 5:05 p.m. The game can be seen on FSN.	• The NBA playoffs continue and can be seen on TNT and ABC.

And the Golden Lute Award goes to...

Women's basketball steals all female awards



Between the Lines

It's that time of year once again. Spring sports are slowly winding down, and students across campus are anticipating summer break, or for seniors such as myself, finally graduating.

It is also the time of year when I like to take a moment and honor PLU's amazing athletes with an award I like to call the Golden Lute.

This award is given to the best at PLU. There were a lot of great accomplishments this year, and picking just a handful was tough. However, I did manage to come up with a good list of award winners.

Let's hand out some hardware.

Men's Coaches of the Year: Craig Hamilton and Jeff Allen

For those of you that have been unable to make your way over to the tennis courts this spring, you have missed the men's tennis team that captured its second straight conference title last weekend.

A lot of that success can be credited to my co-Men's Coach of the Year winners,

Craig Hamilton and Jeff Allen. Hamilton and Allen are the co-head coaches of the men's tennis team. With Hamilton now in his seventh year and Allen in his third at PLU, they have been able to work together and bring success to the men's tennis team.

The team's two most recent conference championships in 2005 and 2006 are the first back-to-back championships for the team since its straight run of eight from 1992-99.

They ended this season with a conference record of 15-1 and an overall record of 17-8.

Both coaches have done a great job this season and each deserves a lot of respect.

Women's Coach of the Year: Gil Rigell

The winner of this award is not only a great coach, but also a standout figure in the PLU community.

He is about as friendly and helpful as you can get, and truly cares about his team and the students of Pacific Lutheran University.

Women's basketball coach Gil Rigell is my choice for Women's Coach of the Year.

The women's team posted a 24-4 overall record, and a 14-2 conference record on the way to its first conference title since 2002.

The Lutes success continued well into the NCAA Division III National tournament, as they were able to advance all the way to the Sweet 16.

Rigell's 2006 conference championship marks his fourth since becoming head coach during the 1997-98 season. Something tells me he will add a few more to that total before he ends his career at PLU.

Men's Team of the Year: Men's tennis team

The men's tennis team takes the Golden Lute again this year.

This is the first team to win a Golden Lute in back-to-back years. It's also to commemorate its back-to-back conference championships that I previously mentioned in the men's coach of the year award.

Only six of the team's 15 players suffered a loss during conference play.

One of the team's leaders, senior Matt Larimore, went undefeated with a mark of 12-0 against Northwest Conference opponents.

They are a great team, and with only three seniors leaving this year, it looks like they will be able to continue their success for more seasons to come.

Women's Team of the Year: Women's basketball team

Their coach has already won an award and now the women's basketball team is my choice for Women's Team of the Year. This is an all around team that exemplifies what a team can do when they work together.

Guard/wing Nikki Johnson, post Kezia Long, wing Kelly Turner and guard Mallory Mann were named to all-conference teams.

Head coach Gil Rigell was also named the Northwest Conference Coach of the Year.

Even with big name players leaving at the end of the year, the Lutes have all the tools capable of defending their newly won Northwest Conference Championship.

Male Athlete of the Year: Craig Chiado

This player was named to Don Hansen's Football Gazette 2005 NCAA Division III All-America Team as an honorable mention.

He also won all-conference honors, all-region honors, and led the Northwest Conference in receiving yards at 1,119, and receiving yards per game with 124.3.

Now this player can add a Golden Lute to his resume.

Most people would see this laundry list of accolades and look to a senior on

the team. Scary thing is PLU wide receiver Craig Chiado is only a sophomore.

Chiado was able to grab seven touchdown receptions and accumulated at least 100 yards receiving in five games this season. He also had two games of at least 200 receiving yards.

His 218 receiving-yard performance Sept. 24 against Wisconsin-River Falls landed him six yards shy of the all-time record of 224 receiving yards in one game set back in 1988.

The Lutes should be very happy knowing they have this man around for two more seasons.

Female Athlete of the Year: Nikki Johnson

It looks like the basketball team is going to sweep the female portion because junior Nikki Johnson is my pick for the Female Athlete of the Year.

Not only did Johnson receive the Northwest Conference Player of the Year award, but the transfer from Centralia College also received an All-America third team selection from D3hoops.com.

Johnson can be looked at as a solid all-around player, as she finished third in the conference in scoring, second in rebounds per game, 14th in steals, and fifth in minutes played.

She had a huge impact on the team this year, and her presence will be key next season.

There you have it folks. I could have a list a mile long of honorable mentions for each award. As students of PLU, we should feel privileged to have such quality athletes representing this university.

It has been a great year for PLU sports, and I will greatly miss being able to write about it next year. Congratulations to every team this season.

Attaway Lutes, Attaway!

Scorecard

Men's Lacrosse

Division B - North 2006 Standings

Team	Division Wins	Division Losses
WWU	7	1
PLU	6	2
Whitman	5	3
CWU	3	5
UPS	2	6
L & C	0	8

Tennis

Standings Men

	NWC	All
PLU	15-1	17-8
Whitman	14-1	18-6
Linfield	12-4	13-7
UPS	10-3	10-6
Whitworth	8-7	8-9
Willamette	5-11	5-11

George Fox	4-12	4-12
L & C	3-13	3-17
Pacific	0-16	0-16

Tennis

Standings Women

	NWC	All
Linfield	16-0	19-2
UPS	14-2	14-2
PLU	12-4	14-6
Whitman	10-6	10-12
Whitworth	8-8	9-9
Willamette	6-10	7-11
George Fox	3-13	3-14
L & C	3-13	3-14
Pacific	0-16	0-17

Baseball

Standings

Team	NWC	%	GB	All	%
George Fox	18-6	.750	—	25-9	.735
Pacific	13-8	.619	3.5	20-15	.571
Linfield	13-9	.591	4.5	18-15	.545
Whitworth	12-9	.571	4.5	18-17	.514
PLU	11-10	.524	5.5	21-15	.583
UPS	11-10	.524	5.5	14-20	.412
Willamette	11-13	.458	7	17-19	.472
L & C	10-14	.417	8	15-24	.385
Whitman	7-20	.259	15.5	7-32	.218

Softball

Standings

Team	NWC	%	GB	All
Linfield	20-4	.833	—	27-6
Whitworth	19-5	.792	1	24-10
PLU	16-6	.727	3	23-11
Willamette	13-7	.650	5	17-13
Pacific	12-8	.600	6	20-12
UPS	10-12	.455	9	20-14
L & C	4-24	.143	15	4-31
George Fox	0-28	.000	22	1-33

Baseball vs. Linfield

Game one

PLU 14, Linfield 2

Player	AB	R	H	BI	SO	PO	A	LOB
Logan Andrews ss.....	4	3	1	1	1	0	0	2
Ryan Thorne cf.....	6	2	2	1	0	3	0	0
Justin Whitehall rf.....	5	2	4	3	0	2	0	0
David Fox c.....	4	3	2	1	0	10	0	1
Bobby Benes 3b.....	5	2	1	1	1	1	0	4
Eric Stanczyk 1b.....	4	1	2	1	2	0	11	0
Bryce DePew dh.....	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Tyler Green lf.....	4	2	3	3	1	0	0	0
Roger Guzman 2b.....	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Joe DiPietro p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dylan Stanford p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.....	40	14	17	14	7	3	27	14

Baseball vs. Linfield

Game two

PLU 16, Linfield 7

Player	AB	R	H	BI	SO	PO	A	LOB
Logan Andrews ss.....	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
Brandon Sales ph.....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Matt Akridge 2b.....	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Ryan Thorne cf.....	4	3	1	0	1	0	1	0
Justin Whitehall rf.....	5	3	4	2	0	0	5	0
David Fox c.....	3	4	2	4	2	1	8	0
Bobby Benes 3b.....	2	4	1	0	1	0	0	3
Eric Stanczyk 1b.....	2	1	1	4	1	0	8	0
Tyler Green lf.....	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	1
Jordan Post ph.....	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Matt Wolford lf.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Chris Bowen dh.....	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	2
Kevin Dickson pr/ph.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jared Simon 2b/ph.....	5	0	1	1	0	0	3	5
Aaron Palmer p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jeff Galey p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jeff Danforth p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.....	33	16	12	16	8	3	27	10

This week in Lute Athletics

- Wednesday, April 26
Softball vs. Puget Sound, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 27
Softball vs. Puget Sound, 5 p.m.
- Friday, April 28
Men's Tennis at Ojai Tournament, Ojai, Calif., 8 a.m.
Track at WOU Twilight Meet, Monmouth, Ore., 2:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 29
Baseball at Whitworth, 12 p.m. (2)
Softball vs. Willamette, 2 p.m. (2)
Men's Tennis at Ojai Tournament, Ojai, Calif., TBA
M/W Crew at WIRA Championships, Sacramento, Calif., 8 a.m.
- Sunday, April 30
Baseball at Whitworth, 12 p.m.
Softball vs. Pacific, 12 p.m. (2)
Men's Tennis at Ojai Tournament, Ojai, Calif., TBA
M/W Crew at WIRA Championships, Sacramento, Calif., 8 a.m.

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Track and field competes at conference



Photos courtesy of Taylor Hacker and Kristi Riedel

Above: First-year Amy LeBrun competes in the 100-meter dash Friday at the Northwest Conference Championships Friday, April 21 in Salem, Ore. She placed third in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes to gather All-Conference honors. LeBrun also ran the anchor leg of the 4x100 relay team that finished first.

Upper right: Junior Stephanie Lewis throws the discus during the first flight of the discus competition at the Northwest Conference Championships April 22 in Salem, Ore. Lewis placed eighth as the women's team finished fourth at the conference meet.

Bottom right: First-year Luke Weinbrecht competes in the 400-meter hurdles at the Northwest Conference Championships April 22, in Salem, Ore. He placed third as the men's team finished in sixth place and was also a member of the 4x400 relay.

Crew breaks waves at NCRC Championships

STEPHANIE DUENAS
Mast sports intern

The PLU crew team traveled last Saturday to Lake Stevens, Wash. for the annual NCRC Championships and an entire day of races.

Other schools present at the regatta were Humboldt State, Lewis & Clark, Seattle Pacific, Puget Sound, Willamette and Western Washington.

"The team felt really good," first-year Kat Jenkins said. "In the varsity eight we did really well. We've been improving every week and it felt like a good race. We're pumped for our next race."

Lute rowers raced in 12 of the 18 events that day. Of those heats, six PLU boats ranked in the top three spots, with the men's pair, women's novice 4+ and the coxswain 4+ medaling in gold, silver and bronze, respectively.

PLU's pair, stroked by senior James Blankenship, crossed the finish buoys at 8:32.5, almost forty seconds ahead of the pair from UPS.

This win was especially significant because it resulted in the first medals for Blankenship and his pair partner, senior Ryan White.

For the women's team, the novice 4 finished just one second after WWU's 7:56.9; an impressive time for first-year collegiate rowers.

The last, and perhaps most entertaining, part of the day was the coxswain 500m race, a special feature of the NCRC regatta in which the roles of rower and coxswain are flopped.

Coxswains Caron Anderson, Sheri Sasaki, Lindsay Taylor and Savannah Warren rowed to a third place finish with James Blankenship in the cox seat.

"It's fun for (the coxswains) because they get to do what we do," Jenkins said. "It makes an interesting race because rowers can't really steer."

In addition to the day's triumphs, six PLU rowers were named to the All-Conference team: seniors David Bentsen, Blankenship, Katie Schleppe, Ryan White, junior Audrey Knutsen and Jenkins, the only first-year to earn the title.

"I was surprised," Jenkins said. "I wasn't expecting it."

Also in the awards ceremony, WWU took the conference trophies for both men's and women's crew. The UPS men and L&C women had previously held the titles.

The next step for the PLU crew team is the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships in Sacramento, Calif., which takes place tomorrow and Sunday.

PLU

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