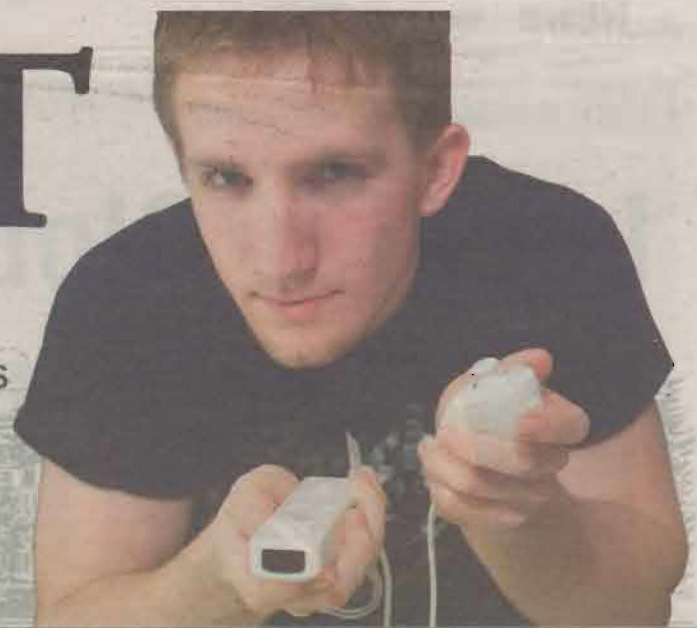


# THE MAST



**ROUGH WEEKEND**  
SOFTBALL DROPS FOUR GAMES  
PAGE 16

**GAME ON**  
LUTES RATE  
CURRENT CONSOLES  
PAGES 8-10



MARCH 16, 2007

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

VOLUME LXXXIV, NO. 17

## Miss Lute struts her stuff

**Annual drag show draws crowd; close competition**

LAURA ZAICHKIN  
Mast news reporter

The catwalk stretching across the CK darkened, silver streamers sparkled in the light that was left and approximately 300 audience members held their collective breath.

"Can we do a drum roll?" Miss Lute 2006 Dmitry Mikheyev, who was Miss Dominique D'Amour for the night, asked the audience.

Nearly all the students, faculty and staff present rapped their hands quickly across their thighs while the five male representatives of Tinglestad, Stuen, Hong, Ordal and Pflueger Halls balanced on high heels in anticipation.

About an hour earlier Wednesday night, the five Miss Lute contestants were prepping for Miss Lute 2007, the most popular event of "Gender Fest: Celebrate Yourself," which took place this week.

The weeklong celebration — formerly called "Gender Exploration Week" — is sponsored by the Residence Hall Association and is committed to exploring gender identity, stereotypes and roles.

Before last academic year, Miss Lute was an event independent of other events or purpose. After inspecting its role as a PLU event, RHA executives decided it wasn't up to standards, said Kerri Greenaway, RHA president and junior.

"We realized it wasn't as respectful as we would have liked it," Greenaway said, "and not as fun."

RHA instigated an application process for Miss Lute contestants, which included information about why the prospective applicant wanted to be Miss Lute and an essay about gender and roles. Once selected, Miss Lute is required to attend a drag queen etiquette workshop.

"It's a more valuable experience for them and



Photo by Brett A. Patterson

Please see Miss Lute page 4

Senior Kyle Franklin poses with the roses and crown that he received at the annual Miss Lute competition Wednesday night. Now that Franklin is crowned Miss Lute, he is expected to attend a drag queen etiquette workshop.

## Students celebrate the present

**Trinidadian festival makes a colorful study abroad trip**

MORIAH ZIMMERMAN  
Mast intern

Phagwa is a Hindu festival celebrated in Trinidad. The story begins with a simple man named Hiranyakashipu who was made immortal by another god. In his arrogance, Hiranyakashipu made people worship him. When the wrath of the gods came down on him, he was not harmed. When he was poisoned, he was not affected; when he was surrounded by lethal snakes, he did not die. Finally, he was made to sit on a burning pyre on the lap of his sister.

His sister wore a scarf that would protect her. But when the fire started, the scarf flew off and protected Hiranyakashipu instead. His sister burned, and he remained alive.

In celebration of letting the past go and enjoying the present, Hindus celebrate Phagwa. Brightly colored packets of powder called abir are sold on the street. Participants throw the abir on each other, which dyes skin, clothes, and hair in vibrant (and often permanent) colors. Phagwa was celebrated this year on Sunday, March 4.

Please see Trinidad page 11



Photo by Moriah Zimmerman

Right: (from left to right) April Nyquist, Emily Nevels, Adrianna Caldero-Calderon, Ashley Wilson, Oakley Tyler, Samantha Rivera, Quinn Ulrich, Terra Marotz, Yumi Heath, Kaitlen Hansen, Daniel Heath show their dyed clothes after the Phagwa festival in Trinidad. Brightly colored packets of powder are thrown in the air as part of the celebration.

STATE, NATION, WORLD BRIEFINGS

# Local to Global news



AP Photo: John Froschauer

Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire right, shakes hands with Seattle Mayor Greg Nickles as King County Executive Ron Sims takes to the podium to talk about the options for replacing Seattle's quake-damaged Alaskan Way Viaduct March 14, during a news conference in Olympia, Wash. Voters in a Seattle citywide vote are turning their noses up at both a tunnel and a new elevated replacement for the existing viaduct, complicating an already messy struggle between city and state leaders.

## 9/11 mastermind confesses in Guantanamo

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, confessed to that attack and a chilling string of other terror plots during a military hearing at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, according to a transcript released Wednesday by the Pentagon. "I was responsible for the 9/11 operation from A to Z," Mohammed said in a statement read during the session, which was held last Saturday. The transcripts also refer to a claim by Mohammed that he was tortured by the CIA, although he said he was not under duress at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo when he confessed to his role in the attacks.

## Chiquita to pay \$25M in terror case

Banana company Chiquita Brands International said Wednesday it has agreed to a \$25 million fine after admitting it paid terrorists for protection in a volatile farming region of Colombia. The settlement resolves a lengthy Justice Department investigation into the company's financial dealings with right-wing paramilitaries and leftist rebels the U.S. government deems terrorist groups.

## WA man injured after car theft, I-405 chase

A man who drove off in a police bait car placed to catch car thieves led officers on a brief chase Wednesday on Interstate 405 and suffered minor injuries in a later confrontation with police, a police spokesman said.

Police fired at the car after the driver exited the freeway onto a side street, then turned around and drove back toward two motorcycle officers who had been pursuing him, Bellevue police spokesman Greg Grannis said. One officer was forced to jump off his bike while the other opened fire on the driver, Grannis said.

The driver then headed back onto an I-405 onramp before the bait car was disabled by a tracking company and the car came to a stop on the onramp's shoulder.

The driver was treated at the scene for minor injuries, then taken to a hospital to be checked out. Grannis said the 27-year-old Kent man either suffered a grazing gunshot wound or was cut by flying glass. His head was bandaged as he was taken by ambulance to a hospital.

Neither officer was injured. The southbound lanes of I-405 were briefly closed Wednesday afternoon.

The bait car had been parked at Bellevue Community College when it was taken, Grannis said.

## WA Senate passes bill to allow paid family leave for workers

Workers would receive five weeks of paid family leave to care for a new child or a sick parent under a measure passed Wednesday by the state Senate, with supporters saying it was a win for families and opponents saying it would add an unnecessary tax on workers.

"It seems to me that Washington workers shouldn't have to choose between their families and their jobs," said Sen. Karen Keiser, D-Kent and main sponsor of the bill, which passed 32-17. "It's important that workers have that flexibility so that they can have healthy families."

The bill now goes to the House. If it passes there and is signed into law, Washington would join California as one of two states with paid family leave measures on the books. New Jersey and Massachusetts are considering similar measures, according to the National Partnership for Women & Families.

The measure would give workers up to five weeks of paid family leave each year. Originally, the bill would have allowed workers to use the time as personal sick leave, but a replacement bill offered on the floor removed that language.

The paid leave program would take effect in 2009 and weekly payments would initially be \$250, but would rise with inflation each year after.

Employees would pay a tax of 2 cents an hour, deducted from their paychecks by their employers.

The measure would also require employers to hold workers' jobs open while they are on leave, although an amendment would exempt small businesses from that requirement. Another amendment would provide a tax credit for small businesses that hire replacement workers for those taking leave.

Under federal law, paid leave is not required, but businesses with 50 or more employees must give workers up to 12 weeks of medical leave per year for themselves or to take care of an ailing relative.

## Chavez says attacks on Bush not personal

President Hugo Chavez has called President Bush a devil, a donkey and a drunkard. But on Wednesday the Venezuelan leader said his comments were "nothing personal." Chavez, who had stepped up his verbal assault during Bush's Latin American tour this week, suggested that the two adversaries might eventually overcome their differences and even play a game of dominos or baseball together.

Briefs gleaned from the Associated Press Wire Service.



### March 5

CSIN was contacted by a student who had found that someone had forced open the door to her room. Nothing appeared to have been stolen.

A student reported the theft of her vehicle from the 12500 block of Park Ave. PCSD was contacted for a formal report.

### March 6

A staff member reported a series of e-mails and voicemails that had been sent to *the Mast* regarding a recent article. The matter was investigated and the author advised.

CSIN received a report that several youth were attempting to break a bottle on the south side of Harstad. The youth departed and CSIN discovered a check and a couple of receipts belonging to a staff member in a small pile of trash.

### March 8

CSIN was contacted by a staff member who reported that she had interrupted a young woman who was attempting to vandalize a bathroom in the Morken Center.

Two students reported the theft of their PLU keys and IDs while off campus.

### March 10

CSIN was contacted to assist RAs in contacting a student for a possible alcohol violation and not cooperating. The matter has been forwarded to Student Conduct.

A student reported that she had received a harassing phone call in her room. The matter is under investigation.

### March 9

The automatic fire alarm was activated in a residence Hall. CPFR was contacted and the cause was determined to have been due to a small fire caused by food in the drip pan of a stove. The fire was extinguished and no damage was sustained.

CSIN was contacted for medical assistance for a student who had jammed her finger during the Ordal Beach Party. Ice was applied and further assistance was not needed.

### March 11

CSIN was contacted for medical assistance for a Dining Services employee who had suffered a seizure. The individual's parents were contacted and further assistance was not needed.

CSIN was contacted for medical assistance for a student who had spilled hot tea on her arm. The injury was cleaned and bandaged, and ice was applied. Further assistance was not needed.

## Safety tip of the week:

Never compromise your safety for a roommate who asks you to leave the door unlocked.

# Bookstore Moving

Sale Items Must Go!!

Closed

The PLU Bookstore will be closing its doors in the UC at 3pm Thursday, March 15th.

We will be located in the Golf Shop starting Saturday, March 17th. 7:00am-7:00pm Monday-Sunday

www.luteworld.plu.edu  
PLU Bookstore (253) 535-7665

# Students hope to continue conversations

## Four-year Iraq War anniversary motivates students to hold die-in

JESSICA HOLDEN  
Mast news intern

While protests in Olympia, Seattle and the Port of Tacoma this week may be pointed, assertive or even violent, PLU students will mark the four-year anniversary of the Iraq War with a much different tone.

A group of students on campus have worked hard to create inclusive, thought-provoking activities to commemorate the March 19 anniversary.

PLU Democrats wants to be sure that death tolls of Americans and Iraqis are more than a number we see and hear daily, they want us to remember and honor those who have died and to keep talking about the war.

"It's not anti-war," said Shannon Murphy, president of the PLU Democrats and one of the event's organizers. "It's not anti-Bush. It's not meant to be anti-anything. We want to encourage constructive conversation about the war."

But the planning process has not been easy.

The commemorative events have proliferated in the past few months. Student organizers have been a little startled by how the idea this fall for one small event has grown into a series of large events.

"The more we started talking about our plans around campus, the bigger it got," Murphy said.

The PLU Democrats decided last semester that the Iraq War is a priority issue for their organization. Even as they planned to hold a bold awareness activity, they soon realized that Students for Peace and the Global Awareness

Team were also planning events. The three groups began collaborating.

Even with the collaboration, planning the events has posed challenges.

First there was the question of what to call the chapel break event. While it was originally called a "die-in," some organizers began to feel the dramatic and graphic title was shutting people out instead of inviting them into the conversation.

Others argued that the original name should be kept. They argued it should have a bold and perhaps polarizing title, drawing people into conversation by provoking strong emotions.

Regardless of what it is called, organizers hope people will be moved by the activity in some way — enough to stop and think and to start those conversations. While Murphy did not want to fully disclose what will actually happen Monday morning, those walking near Red

Square will not be able to miss it.

The activity will involve more than 60 students and focus on the death tolls of American and Iraqi soldiers as well as Iraqi civilians. The British Broadcasting Corporation said that 3,144 American soldiers and 2,944 Iraqi soldiers have died since 2003.

Next came the challenge of deciphering whether there is an accurate number of Iraqi civilian deaths. While numbers of American and Iraqi soldiers who have been killed are accessible, it is nearly impossible to find a consistent estimate of Iraqi civilian deaths. This search prompts a con-

versation of its own.

In November 2006, the Iraqi Health Ministry estimated deaths were between 100,000 to 150,000 civilians. In July 2006, a Lancet survey of Iraqi households suggested that 655,000 deaths have occurred as a consequence of the war.

Like other major news organizations such as the BBC, the events at PLU will use the Iraqi Body Count, which uses media reports to generate its estimate: 52,187 Iraqi civilian deaths since 2003.

And then there is the quest for expanded visibility — how does the event engage students all over campus and encourage them to keep the conversations going?

For the past three years, Students for Peace has been making and distributing white commemorative armbands on the anniversary of the start of the war. It is not uncommon to see the bands adorning students' backpacks and bedroom walls throughout the year. Students for Peace will be distributing these visual reminders Monday in the UC.

The final challenge is not just one for the planning group; they issue it to students: engage in conversation.

A panel and student discussion will conclude Monday's events. The session will be in Xavier 201 at 6 p.m. Panelists will include political science professor Sid Olufs, philosophy professors Paul Menzel and Pauline Kaurin and will be facilitated by communication professor Amanda Feller. A candlelight vigil in Red Square will immediately follow the panel at 7:30 p.m.

"We hope Monday's activities will make people stop and reflect on our involvement in Iraq; some people tend to think only our governmental leaders need to be concerned about the war," Murphy said. "But we all have an obligation to stay informed and be an active part in the conversation. We should be talking about the facts and sacrifices made."

**"The more we started talking about our plans around campus, the bigger it got,"**  
Shannon Murphy,  
president, PLU Democrats

**GETS THE ADRENALINE GOING.  
YOURS AND WHOEVER READS ABOUT  
IT ON YOUR RESUME.**



The Army ROTC Leader's Training Course is a paid 4-week summer experience that marks the beginning of your career as an Officer, a leader of the U.S. Army.

**ENROLL IN ARMY ROTC**  
BECOME AN ARMY OFFICER



Find Out More About Army ROTC's Summer Leader's Training Course.

Contact PLU Army ROTC at 253-535-8740, email [rotc@plu.edu](mailto:rotc@plu.edu)

or visit [www.plu.edu/~rotc](http://www.plu.edu/~rotc)

# And the results are in

2007-2008 ASPLU President:

**Carl Pierce**



"I'm excited for next year. I'm excited to learn from this year's senate." Pierce absolutely plans on following through with his campaign promises.

2007-2008 ASPLU Vice President:

**Tamara Power-Drutis**



"I'm incredibly grateful. I can't believe people wanted me to take this position."

2006-2007 ASPLU President:

**Anne Spilman**



"The general election had two qualified pairs. We are thrilled Carl and Tamara are going to fill these positions because they both exude a lot of passion and confidence in their leadership roles and the greater PLU community."

**615 students voted this year - that's twice as many as last year.**

**Miss Lute**

Continued from page 1

for the audience," said sophomore Mikheyev, AKA Dominique D'Amore, her blue, sparkly eye-makeup glistening.

All contestants and those dressed in drag, as a rule, are referred to with the pronoun matching their dress, Greenaway said.

Before allowing the audience to flood the CK for the "Dreamgirls"-themed event, the five contestants (there was not a Foss Hall contestant and Hinderlie's was ill) made last-minute touches to their makeup, hiked up their pantyhose and stuffed a bit more Kleenex into their bras, while Dominique D'Amore dealt with losing her crown.

"It was only mostly in my mind. I thought I was the queen of PLU," she said. "But I'm not building orphanages or visiting schools."

But the Miss Lute contestants were serious about winning.

"I'm excited, nervous," said first-year Miss Stuen Scott Larson, while applying last-minute concealer. "I think my

looks are superior."

The Miss Lute judges, seven women in drag from Harstad Hall, were also taking their roles seriously.

"(I'm judging) that they actually put effort into their presentation, and have knowledge of the event and its purpose," said junior and Harstad Residence Assistant with Additional Duties (RAAD) Tamara Power-Drutis through her drawn-on beard.

Miss Pflueger and senior Kyle Franklin said she was excited to be a contestant because it's important to celebrate yourself.

"I've been anticipating it since December," she said. "I've already won. This has been an amazing experience."

After booty-shaking down the catwalk, a revealing swimsuit competition and a question-and-answer portion

with Dominique D'Amore in front of the clapping and cat-calling audience, Miss Lute 2007 was about to be announced.

"I don't think it was that difficult," said judge and Harstad Resident Director Joey Weber after turning in her vote based on talent, swimwear, eveningwear, question and answer and overall effect. "To me, there were two candidates that really stood out from the rest of them."

Through the rap-rap-rap of the audience members' palms striking their seated legs, it was revealed that Franklin, Miss Pflueger, was the contestant who stood out most.

Franklin gasped and jumped up and down in her black, strappy heels, bouncing her platinum-blond wig when Dominique D'Amore announced her Miss Lute 2007. The crowd made any speech inaudible as she bent her freshly-shaved legs to accept her tiara.

"I'm so happy," Franklin said. "I never thought it would happen."

**"This has been an amazing experience." Kyle Franklin, Miss Lute 2007**

# Asbestos will not hinder renovation

**PLU wants to ensure safety of students, staff. New UC still scheduled to open on schedule in August**

**BRYANNA PLOG**  
Mast news reporter

The asbestos found in the University Center is not a threat to students and will not cause a delay to the renovation, said the PLU administration.

Asbestos, a chemical that until 1980 was routinely used as a fire retardant, poses a health risk when it becomes damaged and airborne. A special team will have to be brought in to remove the asbestos, known as abating, before the bulk of the work can be done on the renovations.

"The abatement will slow the project a bit," said Sheri Tonn, Vice President of Finance and Operations. "But the contractor has adjusted the time schedule so the renovation will still be completed in August."

The asbestos was found mostly in enclosed spaces and under floor tiles. Though a building survey in 2004 did find some asbestos, a second survey over Christmas break last year revealed much more than originally thought.

Since asbestos is so prevalent in buildings, Tonn said that the cost of renovation already includes the asbestos removal.

When certain types of asbestos become airborne, the fibers can be embedded into lungs and have been linked to lung cancer and other serious health problems. Because of the risk, no students or staff will be allowed near the abatement areas.

"The only people allowed in areas being abated are trained asbestos workers," Tonn said.

Whenever a renovation is done, PLU always has an asbestos inspection done as well, and asbestos surveys have taken place in 13 PLU buildings.

Last year, asbestos was removed from Pflueger. The renovations in Tingelstad also involved asbestos removal.

"Tingelstad has already had significant abatement completed," Tonn said. "Though there is still additional asbestos to be abated at the beginning of the summer."

Asbestos is can be found in floor tiles, roofing, certain types of insulation, ceilings and some ovens. PLU Environmental Health and Safety emphasizes in their asbestos awareness pamphlet that "these products only pose a health risk when they are damaged and (release) asbestos fibers into the air."

Before any demolition, construction or maintenance projects,

Environmental Health and Safety, along with Facilities management conducts a survey of the building. According to the Environmental Health and Safety, PLU also "monitors asbestos removal and repair to ensure that building occupants

are not exposed to asbestos fibers."

The precautions the PLU administration is taking should ensure that the asbestos will not be a threat to anyone on campus.

To learn more about asbestos visit <http://www.plu.edu/~safety/>

[safety-guidelines/asbestos-information.html](http://www.plu.edu/~safety/safety-guidelines/asbestos-information.html).

The official surveys of buildings on campus can be found at <http://www.plu.edu/~safety/safety-guidelines/asbestos-reports.html>

**THE SALON PROFESSIONAL ACADEMY**  
3702 South Fife St, Ste B102 • Tacoma, WA  
[www.TheSalonProfessionalAcademy.com](http://www.TheSalonProfessionalAcademy.com)

**\$10 Facial**  
with color or perm  
Expires 4/30/07

APPOINTMENTS 253.617.7008  
All services performed by supervised students.

GET INSPIRED. BE PART OF IT. **REDKEN**

# The Rubik's Hunt is on

## Senior places sixth in an international tournament, plans to compete again

ERIK WAHLQUIST  
Mast reporter

You may have seen him walking around campus, cryptic, colorful cube in hand, but would you have ever known you were in the presence of one of the world's best? Senior Chris Hunt is not just one of the only people around who can solve the perplexing Rubik's Cube, but he finds it a great way to get out and meet people.

Hunt received his first cube just three years ago as a Christmas present and began working on solving the geometric puzzle. By the end of the holiday break, he was able to get it done in about eight minutes, and began doing research on how he stacked up against others around the world. When he found out that the world's best could finish it in less than 20 seconds, Hunt went to work.

"Seventeen or 18 seconds is my average," Hunt said. He expertly uses an elaborate system of algorithms and other techniques to flip the spinning sides of the Rubik's Cube into uniformity.

The Rubik's Cube broke onto the scene in the mid-70's and was able to maintain more than a decade of popularity. Speedcubing, or solving the cube extremely fast (usually in competition) saw a rise and fall in prominence during this period. When the craze faded in the late 80's the international top time was 22.95 seconds for solving a 3x3 cube.

Speedcubing found a new generation when speedcubers in California held the first tournament in over a decade in 2003. Since then, the hobby has only risen in popularity. As of today, the top world time for a 3x3 cube is 7.12 seconds, according to speedcubing.com.

Hunt's best time in competition, according to the website, is 16.55 seconds at the 2006 UC Berkley tournament, but solving the cube with his eyes open isn't enough. Hunt also does it blindfolded.

At the World Tournament in Orlando, Fla. in 2005, Hunt finished sixth in the world at solving the Rubik's Cube blindfolded. In order to pull off such a feat, he actually had to memorize where the colors were and then solve the puzzle without looking.

"(I draw) a line from one piece to another in my mind," Hunt said.

According to Hunt, there are many opportunities to attend tournaments around the world, and setting up a speedcubing tournament is easy. Hunt attends five to six tournaments a year and is planning on attending the biannual World Tournament this October in the Rubik's Cube's birthplace: Budapest, Hungary. Tournaments can consist of as little as 12 solvers, and can expand up to hundreds of enthusiasts at events.

Here at PLU, cube solvers are seemingly everywhere on campus. The swim team is notorious for handling the enigmatic boxes, and Hunt has a large network of cube-solving friends here on campus.



Photo by Brett A. Patterson

Senior Chris Hunt shows off his Rubik's Cube. Hunt is currently sixth in the world at solving the cube. He competed in Florida and plans to travel to Hungary in Oct. to attend the biannual World Tournament.

Hunt has also put his computer expertise to work in creating his very own website (strangepuzzle.com) which is committed to all kinds of brain-testing puzzles. Although the World Cube Association has Hunt's fastest solving time at 16.55 seconds, his website features a video of him completing the puzzle in 13.85 seconds. The site also has videos of solvers from around the world, a message board with cube news, and a timer that Hunt provides to help speedcubers keep track of personal bests.

The website also exhibits solvers of puzzles ranging from 4x4 and 5x5 cubes along with similar brain-teasers with mysterious names like Magic, and UFO.

Hunt said that anyone who wants to learn more about solving the Rubik's Cube can feel free contact him.

"Everyone can learn," he said.

## Speakers relive experiences with Israel and West Strip barrier

CHASE CARNOT  
Mast news intern

"The problem is with the media. No one is speaking about the non-violent. Everyone is looking for the violent," said Mohammed Khatib of Bil'in, a village in the West Bank. Khatib is secretary of the village council and a leading member of the Popular Committee Against the Wall, a group protesting Israeli occupation and the wall nonviolently.

In 1994, Israel built a "separation barrier" between itself and the Gaza Strip. Since the late '90s, a barrier has been under construction to separate Israel from the West Bank.

Khatib and Feryal Abu Haikal shared their experiences in the speech "Grassroots, Nonviolent Resistance to Israeli Apartheid in Palestine" Monday night in Nordquist Lecture Hall.

Khatib said the media portrays the conflict as between Palestinian terrorists and the Israeli military. But Israeli settlers have also been active in the violence since June 1967, when Israel began settling in the West Bank.

"I was at that time 21. I remember that day. It's very hard. Occupation, it's a very hard thing, whether you be the youth or anyone," Haikal said.

Roads connect Israeli settlements well inside the West Bank. The roads, which are only for Israelis, divide the West Bank.

"The map of the West Bank looks like swiss cheese," Khatib said. "This will kill any opportunity for continuous state."

Israel's wall between itself and the West Bank also extends into the West Bank beyond the Green Line, the de facto border. This route cuts through Palestinian villages including Khatib's village of Bil'in.

The Israeli government says the wall is for security. Khatib believes it confiscates lands that were part of his village.

Khatib said he and protesters look for legal loopholes. When Palestinians complain about settlers building on their land, they are told it takes time to remove the structures. Khatib said this gave them the idea to build outposts on their land, but the government changed the law.

"If we find window, they close it and change the law because the one makes the law is the authority," he said.

Khatib showed photos of protests depicting the wall as a snake and a gallows with participants hanging from it.

"They (the international community) see but no one speak," Khatib said.

Haikal and her students passed through checkpoints on their way to school. Soldiers search students' bags daily.

"The soldiers stopped us to reach the school at the checkpoint, then we teach the students at the street," she said.

Haikal said Israeli soldiers often enter her home, leave the family in one room and search the house and computer, sometimes deleting things.

"There is no way. We must continue our life. There is no other choice," she said.

Khatib further justified their actions.

"We will not die in silence," he said

Haikal ended her speech by saying: "I ask the free men and women of the free world to help us to bring justice to all the world, not just Israel only. We ask and we will keep hope alive in Palestine."

MONEY FOR COLLEGE

NOW

Because Aunt Joan needed more Botox®\*.

She got a facelift, you got the tuition bill.

Not to worry, a Campus Door student loan can cover up to 100% of your education costs, with online approval in less than a minute. All without the painful side effects.

campusdoor.com

CAMPUSDOOR®  
GREAT FUTURES START HERE™

\*Botox® is a registered trademark of Allergan.

Like this poster? Download your own printable PDF version at [campusdoor.com/posters](http://campusdoor.com/posters)

All loans are subject to credit approval. Programs, rates, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Other restrictions apply. Trade/Service marks are the property of Campus Door Inc. and/or its affiliates. Lender is Lehman Brothers Bank, FSB. ©2006 Campus Door Inc. All Rights Reserved. Equal Opportunity Lender.

From the editor

**Letters lacking names will not be printed**

One of the most informative and entertaining parts of a newspaper is the "Letters to the Editor" section. Yet, a recent experience has led the *The Mast* to realize readers need to know about a particular *Mast* policy.

While we try to have a variety of voices in our paper, there is one type of voice readers will find it hard to find — anonymous ones.

A letter sent to *The Mast* last week from an alumnus, who was upset about a column printed in *The Mast's* Feb. 16 issue titled: "No excuses, see Vagina Monologues." The individual particularly did not like the words used in the column and decided to turn the words on the entire PLU community, saying things like all of the students here are "cunts" who are all earning a "worthless degree." He did not include his name in the letter, but after some research we determined his identity.

The editors wanted the rest of the PLU community to see this letter because it sent a message to the entire campus. We also thought it would have educated students about an extreme view on feminism. Yet, when we told the writer we would publish his letter, he said we could not print it with his name. He also made it clear that if *The Mast* printed it with his name he would not go away and might take legal action.

The writer did not call or e-mail until Thursday morning, which is right before *The Mast* goes to press, with the fact that he was quite adamant about not having his name on the letter. A quick decision had to be made and it was thought best not to print the letter.

*The Mast* will not run a letter without a name because it gives too much power to the writer. It would not be fair to allow someone to call everyone at this school "pussies" and then leave no name for people to respond to. At *The Mast*, reporters always put names on their pieces and do so for a reason — they are proud of their work and want people to know who the work is coming from. Letters are part of our paper and we hold our audience to this same expectation.

*The Mast* decided not to run the letter with the alumnus' name because it was uncertain what kind of reaction the individual would have if we did. I, the editor-in-chief, did not want to put anyone on *The Mast*, myself or our adviser Joanne Lisosky, at risk. I brought the issue to my editorial board Monday and they understood my decision.

Being editor-in-chief of this paper sometimes involves making tough decisions. The only thing I regret about not printing the letter is not getting to publish the responses I know students would have written.

The editorial board at *The Mast* thanks all who have been willing to put your name in print with a letter to the editor.

**Breakers: bring souvenirs back, not STDs**

A lot of students have already begun the year-to-year complaint about professors loading on enough homework to make spring break no break at all. Just remember if you do get a real break and head somewhere fun or exotic, there are two things that never make a spring break. Sexually transmitted diseases and the Internet do not take vacations and do not care if they ruin yours.

Many students use spring break as a time to break loose and drink a lot of alcohol. Just remember there could be consequences greater than a hangover for your actions.

Going to a romantic and foreign land can make people feel uninhibited, especially when bars are offering spring break specials.

This feeling of freedom may cause some people who are typically sound to go off the deep end and have sex with a complete stranger. Please remember: coming home with souvenirs from the Caribbean or Mexico is great, but coming home with Chlamydia will really put a damper on your health and social life.

Do not believe people who say they are clean. These people have no reason to tell you the truth and the costs are too high for you to gamble on the chance that they are honest.

For those out there who might feel like cutting loose in a more social atmosphere, be warned of the dangers of the Internet.

Every ridiculous thing you do will be caught on camera, especially now that everyone has a camera phone on them 24/7.

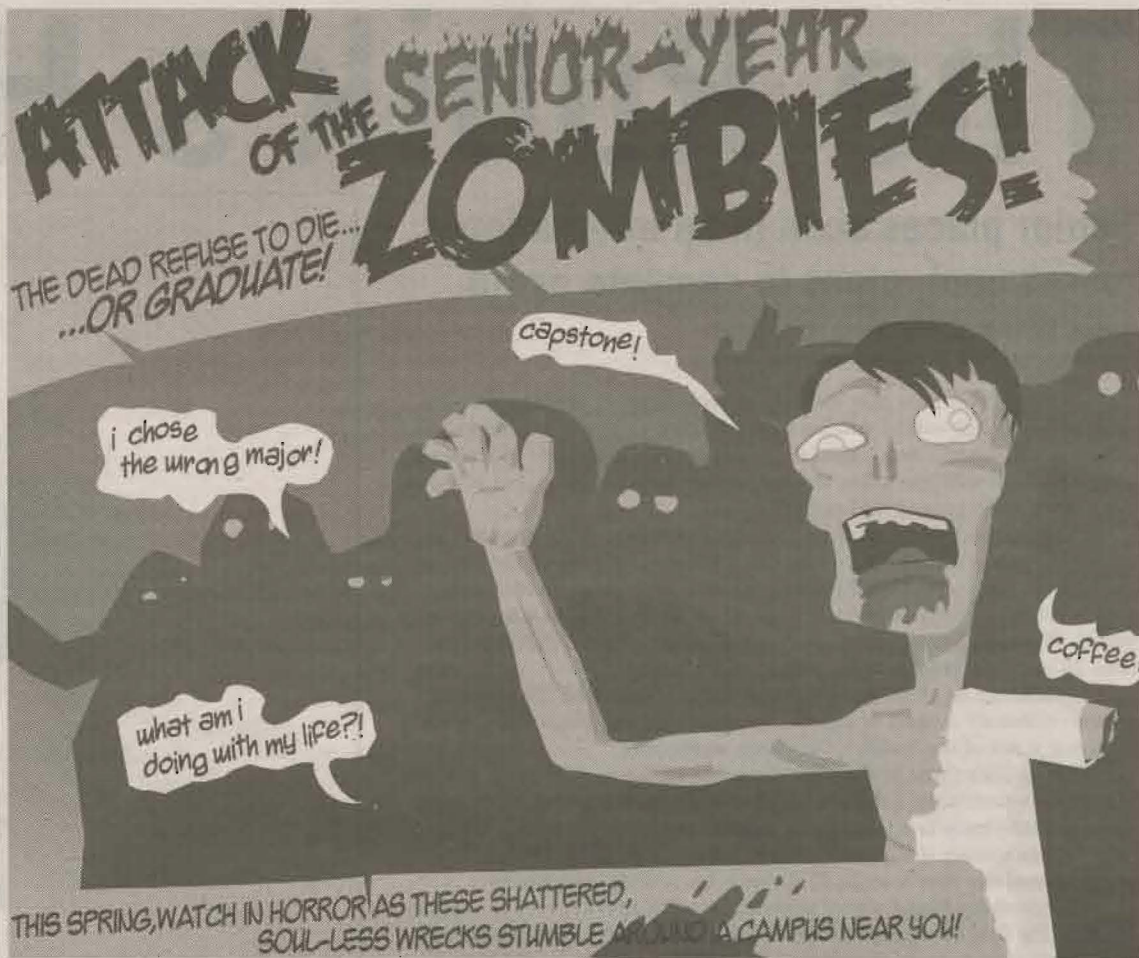
Clubs will try and entice women to show their breasts or bare butts in competitions to win a free trip back to Mexico or Vegas, but please don't put a price on your dignity. You can bet before you land back at Sea-Tac Airport, pictures of your competitive side (whichever one you chose to show) will be on the Internet.

Do not buy into the excuse that you are young and you only live once because when you are no longer "young" those pictures will still be available on-line.

Even if spring breakers do not plan on doing anything to put their health or reputation on the line, they need to be careful about the situations they put themselves in.

A sign in the health center reads some rapists use loaded weapons; some use loaded victims. This slogan does not change when you cross the border into a different state or country. Students traveling to other locations need to recognize that they are no longer in the Lute Dome and no longer have the safety of knowing their surroundings or the people surrounding them.

Spring break should be fun and relaxing and it is unfortunate many students will find themselves just as busy as usual studying. However, it would be more unfortunate for other Lutes to come back to campus with STDs and damaged reputations.



**Past quotes showcase Mast memories**



**NOT MUCH WITH THE DAMSELING**

Since retiring as a *Mast* editor last year, I don't often make it up to the University Center's mezzanine to visit this year's editors.

But this week was different.

This upcoming week is the last *The Mast's* newsroom will be in the UC.

I had to pay one last visit to the depressing, windowless office where I spent countless nights designing pages, editing copy and playing journalist.

I spent a majority of my time this week looking for items I treasured last year as the assistant news editor. I finally found a cafeteria tray-sized piece of cardboard filled with words with the title "QUOTABLE" across the top.

"Aw, quote board," copy editor Dan Nutt said when he saw me cradling the cardboard. "Good times."

After reading the approximately three-dozen quotes by former and current *Mast* staff on the relatively small quote board, I realized this artifact represents the memories and lessons I've learned during my career at *The Mast*. Though many of the quotes are random and out of context, I can remember what was happening and how it shaped my time at *The Mast* and PLU.

**Lesson one: People deal with stress differently**

Very few people understand the amount of work it takes to produce a 16-page paper every week. It is stressful. Computers break. Reporters turn in stories without quotes. Stories come in two days after deadline. Editors are often in the office until 2 or 3 a.m.

Stress is reflected in people's actions and speech: "I'm rocking my computer so I don't hit it. This is what I'll have to do with my children," reads one quote on the board.

Harm against others or yourself were nightly themes at *The Mast*. In fact, last academic year we

used one of our dry-erase boards to note our "suicide names:" Step-into-traffic Stephanie, Lie-on-the-tracks Laura and Jump-off-a-cliff Juliet.

Last year's news editor and I even went to the extent of purchasing shirts that had the statements, "I hate my life and want to die" and "Every day I polish my revolver and shoot my head. Like a rock star."

We would also threaten our lives in jest with these weird weapons we found in the desks, probably from decades ago. One was a sharp, metal stick with some sort of strange, red substance covering it. We never figured out its original purpose, but it made the copy editors work faster when we held it to our throats.

This coping method helps. I promise.

**Lesson two: Substances aid the journalistic process**

Toward the end of academic years, editors get desperate.

One editor was quoted on the board last year, "I swear to f\*\*\*ing God, my legs are floating," while high on rubber cement and dry-erase markers (both of which are part of the job).

And at the end of my sophomore year, another editor stashed alcohol in the first aid kit that hangs on the wall by the door.

I know we're in college and many of us eventually learn that alcohol or other substances can aid us through a paper or take-home test, but it is at *The Mast* that I truly learned the sporadic necessity of pairing academic activities with substances.

**Lesson three: When you work closely with people, and late into the night, too much is shared**

"It doesn't go up, it goes back at an angle," one quote on the board reads.

Enough said.

**Lesson four: Working at The Mast is fun**

Much of my college experience revolves around memories at *The Mast*. Though it is stressful and there were many suicide threats thrown around the 20-by-60-foot room, I will miss *The Mast* office in which I spent hours upon hours in front of my Mac and joking with my peers.

I got to know people, created a community and learned important life lessons.

Plus, how can you not have fun at a place where there's evidence on the quote board that we sung songs to the beat of "Baby Got Back" with the lyrics: "I like Kyle Duba and I cannot lie, you other editors can't deny."

**The Mast Staff, 2006-2007**

<b>Editor-in-chief</b> Breanne Coats	<b>Advertising manager</b> Troy Benton	<b>Cartoonist</b> Adam Spry	Kat Jenkins J.P. Kemmick Andrew Lucchesi	Son Huynh Kristie Koda Dianna Manjarrez
<b>News co-editors</b> Ashley M. Coats Ashlee M. Parnell	<b>Business manager</b> Retta Meier	<b>Sports columnist</b> Tim Kelly	Sean McIlraith Stephen Odell Bryanna Plog	Nick Miller Abby Mitchell Aaron Olson
<b>Sports co-editors</b> Kristi Bruner Nate Hulings	<b>Photographers</b> Brett Patterson	<b>A&amp;E columnists</b> Matt Click Jon Harthun Katy Nelson-Penland	Jill Russell Tyler Scott Eric Wahlquist Jon Wedell Laura Zaichkin	Melanie Rexroth Derek Sakamoto
<b>A&amp;E editor</b> Morgan Root	<b>Copy editors</b> Dan Nutt Jessica Ritchie	<b>International Columnists</b> Troy Benton	<b>Interns</b> Chase Carnot Andrew Chaplin Amanda Clancy Kristina Corbitt Katie Crawford Brittany Culver Kimberly Henry Kimberly Hepworth Jessica Holden	<b>Guest columnist</b> Derek Tilton
<b>International editor</b> Emily Dooley	<b>Webmaster/ Computer tech</b> Ronan Rooney	<b>Reporters</b> Ahmed Benkhalti Vanessa Bruce Kathy Cao Mike Engh Collin Guildner Emily Hoppler Treichler		<b>Adviser</b> Joanne M. Lisosky
<b>LuteLife editor</b> Amber Schlenker	<b>Op-Ed columnists</b> Kristen McCabe April Reiter Ronan Rooney Laura Zaichkin			<b>Design consultant</b> JP Avila
<b>Photo editor</b> Chris Hunt				<b>Circulation</b> Tyler W. Pederson

**Policies**

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

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

*The Mast* encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be submitted to *The Mast* by 5 p.m. the Wednesday of publication. Letters without a name, phone number, and identification for verification will be discarded. Letters should be no longer than 400 words in length, typed and double-spaced. *The Mast* reserves the right to refuse any letter. Letters may be edited for length, taste and errors. Letters are printed in the order they are received.

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

# Sidewalk Talk:

What is your favorite video game of all time? Why?



**Mario Kart because it is awesome.**

Justin Huertas, sophomore



**None of them. I hate video games.**

Audrey Falk, sophomore



**I like Super Mario Brothers. The fact that a plumber can kick so much butt rocks my world.**

Steven Davis, sophomore



**Mario Kart. It's simple.**

Jennifer Hughes, sophomore

To find out more information on video games and consoles turn to pages 8, 9 and 10.

## Beehive Design Collective

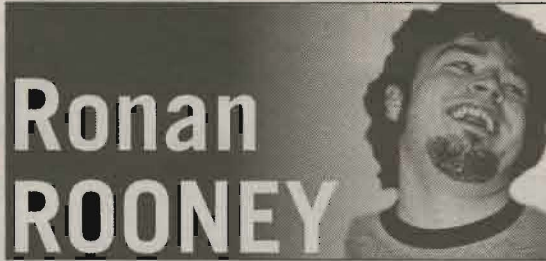
When: Tuesday March 20

Where: Xavier 201

For more information:

<http://www.beehivecollective.org/english/>

# Meet PLU's Meat Club



**RONAN ROONEY**

**DON'T WORRY, BABY**

PLU's Meat Club advocates no position on social justice, equality for the transgendered, the war in Iraq, a cure for AIDS or anything else popular among the PLU activist crowd. They have no conferences, lecturers or petitions. They advocate for meat.

Once a week, they gather in front of Ordal Hall to cook meat on a grill and eat. Meat Club's mission, gleaned from the club's constitution, is to "promote meat awareness and to provide for those who value a traditional, meat-rich diet." I sat around the grill one evening to get stories from some of those who had seen some of the action.

Since the beginning, Meat Club has met in rain, snow and windstorm with many around the fiery grill having come and gone. During a windstorm, Meat Club huddled under a tree only to watch a huge branch fall near where they normally sit. Like our Cro-Magnon ancestors, a meat diet comes with hazards. Avoiding the hazard of the hunt, members typically purchase their own meat at the local Parkland Quality Meats.

Meat, in the title, actually stands for "Meat Eaters Around Tacoma," and PLU's Student Involvement & Leadership has the club's current leadership roster and

constitution on record, thus making it an official club. The university even paid for the club's grill. I considered contacting PLU's Vegetarian Alliance to comment on Meat Club for this column, but SIL tells me that until the alliance submits a current leadership roster, they are classified as "defunct" status.

Meat eaters, 1. Vegetarians, 0. But this is not a battle. This is raising awareness. First, why did this club get founded? Mike Perez tells me, "I got anemic from the UC food my freshman year." Meat contains iron, and now Mike, after eating meat, contains iron too.

Next, how do you promote meat awareness? They told me it was a meat myth that a vegetarian diet saves the lives of more animals than a meat diet, and that a study backed this up. Surprised, I searched cyberspace and found this study truly existed. Oregon State University professor Steven Davis published a 2003 article in the "Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics" arguing that vegetarian diets require farmers to clear land inhabited by wild creatures, killing more animals than if the land were to be used to raise livestock. To be fair, this claim has not gone without challenge. Still, both sides concede farm operations result in the death of wild animals.

Finally, I asked, where are the girls? "They're all abroad."

The life of Meat Club and I crossed paths for one evening. Is it funny they are an organization rallied behind the meat cause, or is it a serious commentary on how meat-eaters defend themselves against ever-growing charges of bad dieting and animal cruelty?

Maybe there is a moral to be read into this story, or maybe it's just people eating meat.

Editor's Note: Meat Club meets Thursday evenings in front of Ordal Hall. BYOM (bring your own meat).

## Letter to the editor...

**Mast ignores valid events, sent negative message out**

We are writing to you very concerned about last week's issue of *The Mast* (March 2). The week in which this issue was released was National Eating Disorder Awareness Week. Despite the Women's Center's and Health Center's best efforts to promote the important week with events such as a candlelight vigil and declaring independence from dieting, it went completely unnoticed in *The Mast*.

Interestingly enough, however, *The Mast* devoted an entire page to beauty pageants. Yes, one of the very events that provoke life-threatening eating disorders in young women was given an entire page of glorification. Although we greatly appreciated the argument against beauty pageants printed at the bottom of the page, we were incredibly disgusted by the amount of time, ink and paper that *The Mast* wasted

on the topic.

An eating disorder is a very real disease that affects millions of women and assuredly hundreds, if not more, at this university. The fact that an event meant to combat the disease was ignored and an alternative event was celebrated in its absence makes us incredibly uncomfortable about the message that *The Mast* is sending to women at PLU.

Krystal Anderson & Bethany McNutt  
seniors

## Harry Potter Party

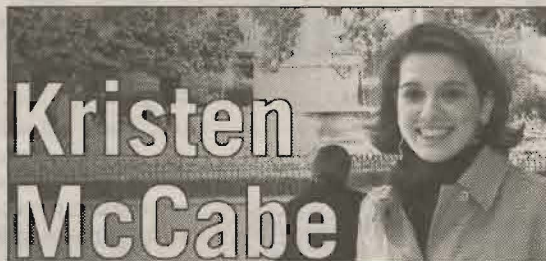
When: tonight, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Where: Xavier

How: FREE tickets in front of UC during lunch

Don't miss out on the magic

## Forging through frowns, foreign phrases



**KRISTEN MCCABE**

One of the biggest mistakes American students make, one of my British professors said during orientation, is that they assume that just because America and England use the same language, that England is just like America. He then added emphatically, "it's not!" I'm finding his statement to be true. The more I realize and have fun with how different it is here in England than what I'm used to life being like at home, the more I am able to appreciate the culture I've grown up in.

First of all, there is the slight language difference. "Band-Aids" are "plasters," "French fries" are "chips," "chips" are "crisps," and "flashlights" are "electric torches." America's polite little euphemisms no longer work: I find myself inquiring where the "toilet" is because if I ask for the "restroom" or the "bathroom" I'm met with blank stares.

Also meeting with complete failure is my referencing Ziploc bags, Gatorade, Buffalo wings and graham crackers, none of which apparently exist on the British Isles. I find myself wondering how one holds sporting events without the aforesaid wings, and, more importantly, how one quells mutinous kindergarteners without graham crackers. Upon further inquiry, it seems one pacifies British youngsters with "angel delight," a.k.a. Jell-O instant pudding, which, my 9-year-old host sister tells me, is not "good" but rather is "ever so nice."

Discovering these little variances has been at times funny and slightly awkward, but it's nothing to learning the fine art of not being friendly. I've always been taught to meet a stranger's eye with a friendly

smile, to greet store clerks with a cordial "hello," and to wave a "thank you" if a car stops to let me cross the street. To not do these things to me seems cold and rude, but that's been all turned around here. I noticed immediately that people walking down the street or riding on the Tube do not want to be smiled at, and my professor informed us during orientation that if girls insist on smiling at people it may well be interpreted the wrong way altogether. Wanting to avoid giving off that sort of impression, I've had to work on what I think of as looking like stone: a straightforward, blank gaze and not a twitch of a smile.

Sometimes I know I'm doing well and am blending in, like when I'm stopped and asked for directions and people are surprised when I start speaking in an American accent. However, I've also noticed times when people walking down the street are giving me odd looks and then I realize that I'm unconsciously smiling again. Similar looks of puzzlement greet me when I warmly greet grocery store workers with a friendly "hi!" instead of a dry "good afternoon," and I have to keep reminding myself not to wave at drivers if they're letting me cross the street. It's a lot harder than it seems. I realize that these little things have been a part of who I am since before I can remember.

I also have to remember that it's not that Londoners are cold or unfriendly, but rather that they express their kindness in different ways. They are quite willing to help if asked, but usually remain reserved. They, in fact, feel very uncomfortable when visiting the U.S. particularly, I'm told, the Northwest. It seems that our enthusiastic hellos and instant desire to welcome people makes them feel almost attacked by these crazies who can't just let them quietly go about their business.

I suppose that is what studying abroad is all about: learning about another culture and also getting to understand one's own culture better. It's all part of the experience and I'm enjoying every minute of it, but I do miss home too. So, for my sake, smile at someone you don't know as you walk across campus today, and be grateful for the fact that they won't think you've "gone completely crackers."

# Let the games b

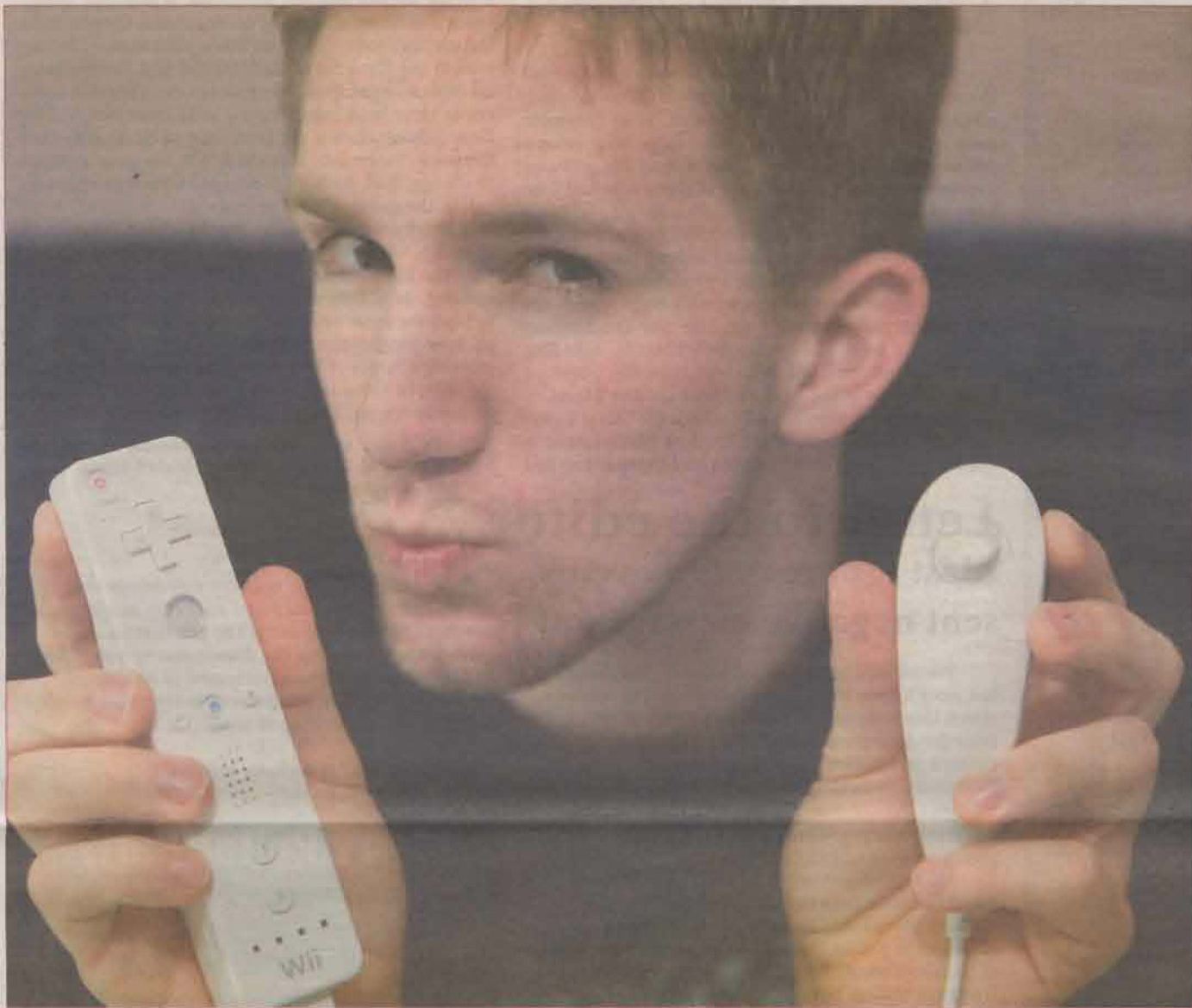


photo by Chris Hunt

## Video games take students from social to solo

AMBER SCHLENKER  
Lute life editor

Video gaming on campus brings students together in community and separates them from friends and classes.

Recent news includes tales of parents allegedly neglecting their children because they were too busy with the popular online game, "World of Warcraft." Game-addiction in China has reached such heights that the Chinese government has banned the construction of new Internet cafes.

Students agree that gaming, though fun, is distracting to a college career. "It's fun to hang out with a group of people who have a common interest, but it's a big distraction in getting things done in a timely manner," first-year Jesse Hull said. "I have two friends who are definitely addicted to video games."

Senior Scott Fiske said he occasionally binge-games, "but on average I only play about four hours a week."

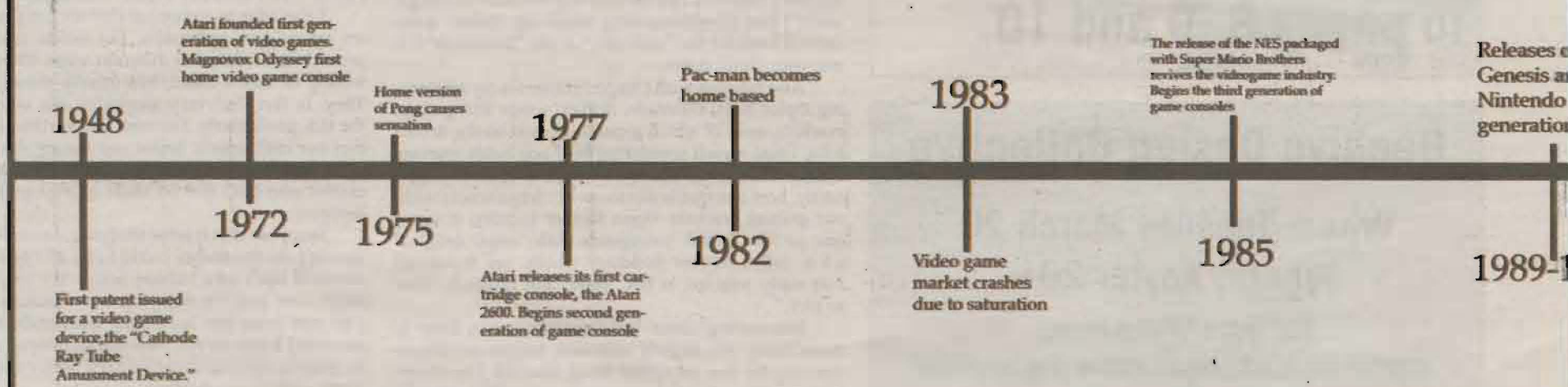
There are many concerns around campus of the effects gaming has on student lives. "I think games that connect to the Internet are a big risk," resident assistant Sean Roach said. "It allows students to create a virtual identity and a virtual community allowing them to forget about reality."

There are different reasons why students play video games on campus. "You always hear about a 'Halo' party," Fiske said. "It's a big way to socialize." Students play video games on campus for social events and when there is nothing else to do. "I play about one hour a day, usually to pass time when there are no social events going on," first-year Dan Hockaday said.

Some tips to stay away from the destructive effects of gaming are to maintain a healthy balance between your college career, other social events and playing video games.

"I think gaming is good in moderation," Roach said. "I like to play one to two hours a week as a destressor, similar to those who read or listen to music."

### History of video game consoles





e s i n

graphic illustration by Dan Nutt

# Video games and consoles have evolved throughout the last couple of decades. The most recent developments have broken into dorm rooms and students' lives. This section is devoted to VIDEO GAMERS.

## Video game guru wants more happy games

BY RACHEL KONRAD  
AP Technology Writer

Video game developers should resist the temptation to produce only sequels of established hits and games based on horror and revenge, Nintendo Co.'s top designer said Thursday.

Video game guru Shigeru Miyamoto said his industry's reputation has suffered in the past decade. Designers have failed to deliver titles that bring joy to the widest possible spectrum of players, focusing too often on hard-core gamers and their lust for gore and realism, he said.

"I always want that first reaction to be emotion, to be positive - to give a sense of satisfaction, glee," Miyamoto told thousands of developers attending the annual Game Developer Conference in San Francisco. "Certain obstacles may temporarily raise feelings of suspense, competition,

even frustration. But we always want that final result, that final emotion, to be a positive one."

Miyamoto's emphasis on plucky, fantastic, upbeat games contrasts with the slew of violent but popular games today titles such as "Grand Theft Auto," "Mortal Kombat" and "Resident Evil." A growing number of politicians, educators and psychiatric experts cite studies linking violent games and aggressive behavior.

Designers take Miyamoto's lectures seriously. Time Magazine called him "the Stephen Spielberg of video games."

Miyamoto created titles such as "Mario Brothers," "Donkey Kong" and "The Legend of Zelda." Together, those titles have sold about 288 million copies.

Miyamoto - an ambidextrous doodler who plays guitar and banjo - joined Nintendo in 1980 to work on coin-operated arcade games. He's worked on every game console Nintendo has released over nearly three decades, including the popular Wii, which debuted last year.



photo by Chris Hunt

# Wii strikes earn scholarships

EMILY DOOLEY  
International Editor

The Wii video game console of Nintendo Co. is no stranger to college campuses, and PLU is no exception. PLU is hosting an event that combines students interest with support for the university.

Graduation Gift 2007 and ASPLU are sponsoring a Wii bowling tournament. The tournament is being held March 16 and 17 from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Admission tickets to view the tournament are \$5 and participation/enrollment costs are \$10.

The \$5 cover cost includes free food and drinks for people not participating in the tournament.

All the proceeds are going to benefit Q Club scholarships. Q Club supports all aspects of a PLU education through scholarships, academic programs, clubs and organizations and more. Approximately 1,000 students receive Q Club scholarships each year through the support of alumni.

The tournament will start off the Grad Gift 2007 campaign, and encourage soon-to-be-alumni to give back to their alma mater.

Senior Blake Busey came up with the original concept for

this tournament.

"I was the one who suggested the Wii tournament as a way to get participation from students who were otherwise unlikely to give to the Grad Gift Campaign," Busey said. "They thought that since I had come up with the idea, I should be the one who got it set up. I suppose you could call me the host or concept associate. I hope that this tournament will get people out to have a good time while contributing to a good cause."

Ultimately, the Grad Gift Campaign seeks to get donations for the Q Club scholarships, but it also helps with alumni participation percentages. A lot of outside organizations like to see a high number of alumni supporting the school and will decide to invest accordingly.

Thus this event is to get charitable participation through a new and exciting gaming system. Bowling was chosen because anyone can learn easily and it is a classic fun game. We are supported by ASPLU and have strengthened the internal structure of PLU through cooperation.

Senior Maggie Morgan agrees with this idea of students giving back. "All proceeds benefit Q Club scholarships, and

this is a really great way for students to give back to PLU the way alumni gave to support their education. It's a fun way to give back to the university and future students," Morgan said.

Pronounced "we," this video game is the fifth console to be released by Nintendo. A distinguishing feature is its wireless controller, the Wii remote, which can detect motion and rotation in three dimensions. It was originally conceived in 2001, but the concept and models were not completed for distribution until Nov. 19, 2006.

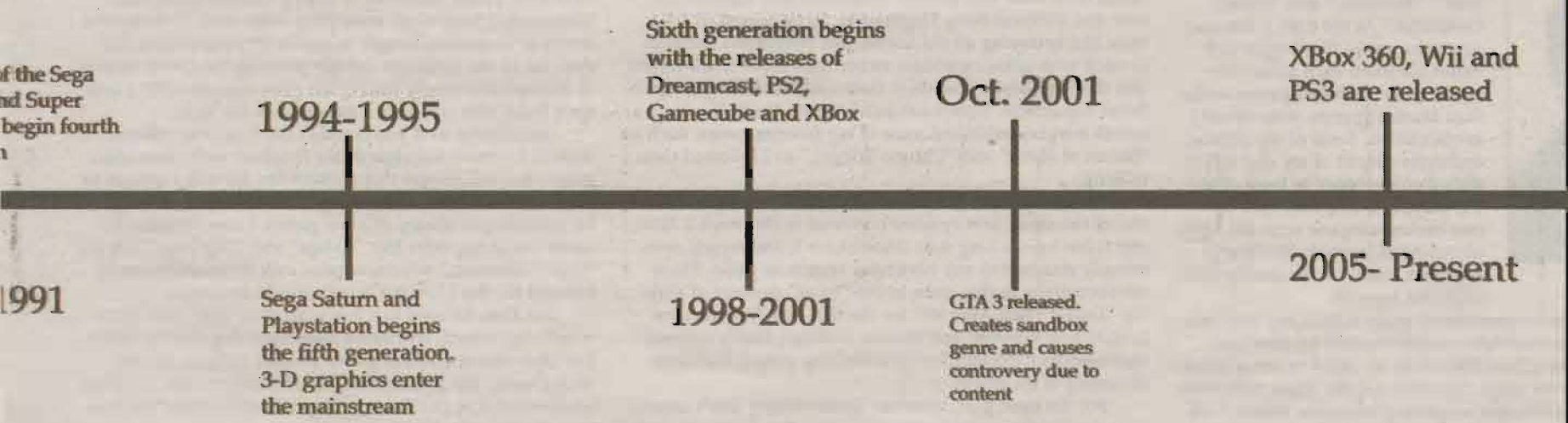
It is also the first home console that Nintendo has marketed outside of Japan without the company name featured in its trademark. The console was known by the codename of "Revolution" until April 27, 2006.

Nintendo has stated that "Wii" with two lower-case "i" characters is meant to resemble two people, representing multiple gamers and that the console is for everyone.

For more information on the Wii tournament visit [www.plu.edu/qclub](http://www.plu.edu/qclub) and click on Wii Tournament on the left or check it out on facebook.com.

**"It's a fun way to give back to the university and future students."**

Maggie Morgan  
Senior



# Consoles critiqued

## Wii takes family and friends to the past, present and future

DEREK TILTON  
Guest Columnist

What weighs less than three pounds, costs \$250 and can keep you away from homework for hours on end? Why the Wii, of course! This little gem with the funny name, is one of the three seventh-generation consoles available to help ease the drudgery of everyday "real" life. Released by the Nintendo Company, the Wii is sort of an alternative to the high-end, expensive consoles like the Xbox 360 and the Playstation 3. Nintendo took a big risk, trying to compete with such massive consoles by going a different route: instead of emphasizing graphics and technology, the Wii emphasizes gameplay and innovation.

When I first got my Wii, I began playing "Wii Sports," which is included with the console. For the next few hours, my entire family, the neighbor kid and I were



Derek Tilton

all absorbed in the Wii.

Each of us took turns playing our favorite sports and competing against one another in boxing, golf, bowling, tennis and baseball. Surprisingly, boxing was definitely one of the more popular amongst my sister and my mother. The odd controller, or rather remote and nunchuk, were not at all difficult to use or to handle.

I figured that perhaps the response time would be off or the sensor would not read well, but in fact, the controller was very easy to work with and use. Everyone in the house could easily pick up the remote and nunchuk and begin playing, just like that. Very little instruction was necessary to begin and it seemed that Nintendo had done what it had originally planned to do. Nintendo had found the "non-gamers," and succeeded in getting people of all ages and experience levels to gather around and play video games.

The Wii, though quirky, offers a lot of innovations that make up for its almost complete lack of updated graphics. First of all, the "Mii creation" stage of the Wii menu is both amusing and engaging. You can customize your "Mii" in many ways to get an identical version of yourself, or something else altogether. However, the Mii is almost

exclusively used for "Wii Sports," which greatly diminishes its use.

Nintendo has claimed to be creating games that will further utilize the Mii's but so far, few options have arisen. As controlling your games go, the Wii remote can be used as both a marker on the screen or a motion detector.

So when playing, one can aim a reticle at the screen using the remote or, depending on the game, shake, twist and spin the remote (and/or nunchuk) to manipulate the game world. This opens up largely undeveloped areas for game design and development.

For instance, in Nintendo's main launch title, "Zelda: Twilight Princess," one uses the sensor abilities of the remote to aim such items as the slingshot and bow. In "Super Monkey Ball: Banana Blitz," one uses the motion sensor abilities to tilt the game world and roll your monkey around the levels in a sort of pinball-style game. Moreover, in "Rayman Raving Rabbids," both the remote and nunchuk are used in tandem by swinging, jabbing and rotating to run, fly and shoot your way through the game's levels. Anticipated games not yet released such as "Super Smash Bros. Brawl" and "Super Mario Galaxy" promise even more hours of

entertaining and exceptional gaming

On top of the Wii's innovative design in controllers, the Wii also offers other incentives to lure would-be gamers. The Wii has backward compatibility with all of the GameCube games and you can plug in your GameCube controller to ports on top of the system in order to play them.

All in all, the Wii offers a lot of creative and original ideas in lieu of its dated graphics (which are on par with the GameCube in quality). The odd, yet easily-used controller scheme, the unique gameplay features and of course, Nintendo's tradition of incredible games makes the Wii a definite buy for anyone who has any interest in gaming or cannot afford some the other consoles.

### Fun facts about video games

• "Super Mario Bros. 3" is the top selling console game of all time.

• "E.T., the Extra Terrestrial" for the Atari 2600 is commonly known as "the worst game of all time" and its commercial failure led to Atari's bankruptcy in 1983.

## Xbox 360 delivers next gen thrills, retro satisfaction

NATE HULINGS  
Sports co-editor

Being the first of the "next-gen" consoles to launch, the Xbox 360 has raised the stakes in the gaming industry. Despite a frustrating launch with the amount of consoles low and the number of bugs high, the Xbox 360 made a name for Microsoft in the video-game industry that will not soon go away.

Perhaps Microsoft's crowning achievement is its use of online gaming. The fluid integration of online gameplay with Xbox Live blurs the line between playing with a friend across the hall or a complete stranger half a world away. As long as your Xbox is on, you'll know when your buddies hop online, even if you are watching a movie and don't have the Xbox dashboard up. With just a few flips through the Xbox dashboard, one can access a breadth of media not capable on a last generation system. Want to download the newest movies and TV shows? Got an urge to play some "Frogger" or "Geometry Wars"? Just hop over to the Xbox Live Marketplace.

Many of the classic games you (and even your parents) grew up on are available for a

small fee and a short download. In the battle of Blu Ray vs. HD-DVD, Microsoft decided to back the latter and for an additional \$200, one can buy the high definition drive and become immersed in the HD world of movies.

Who doesn't enjoy chasing down a friend, sneaking up behind him and chain-sawing him in half? The Xbox 360 made some ground-breaking games over the past year, none more exciting and profitable than "Gears of War." Harnessing the power of the 360, the stunning visuals of "Gears of War" and its revolutionary system of controls will make any fan of video games optimistic about the present and future of the gaming console.

Many PlayStation fan-boys have used the argument that Xbox has poor game quality. To that I can only say: play "Gears of War" or "Crackdown" and call me in the morning. Microsoft has also done a great job working with developers who are intent on producing quality entertainment for all ages.

Perhaps the reason why many people are in the market or have bought an Xbox 360 is because of a man who is trying to save Earth. No, I'm not talking about Al Gore; this guy

wears a green suit and is known simply as Master Chief. The arrival of "Halo 3" in fall of this year will mark one of the most anticipated game releases in gaming history.

After the success of the first two games in the "Halo" series, you can bet Microsoft is counting down the days until Master Chief makes his next-generation debut. Using the power of Xbox Live, Microsoft is opening up an online beta-testing download for the anticipated first-person shooter through the purchase of the "Grand Theft Auto"-style shooter, "Crackdown," a severely addicting game that will keep you in your dorm room for hours, regardless of how warm the weather is.

I highly recommend the Xbox 360 for anyone who wants not only a gaming system but a complete multi-media experience. With developers jumping on board to use every ounce of power the Xbox 360 has to offer, expect a continuation of great gaming, ground-breaking features and the arrival of "Guitar Hero II" in April.



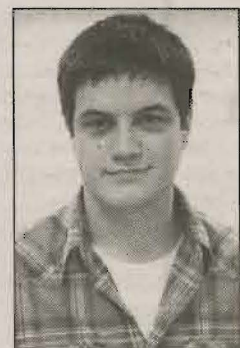
Nate Hulings

## Growing up in 8-bit: life lived with video games

DAN NUTT  
Mast copy editor

The year is 2007, and with the release of the PlayStation 3 last November, every game system in the seventh generation of consoles has hit the market. Born in 1983, just before the dawn of the mainstream-gaming breakthrough, I find it easy to relate my life to the video games and consoles that have been present throughout it.

My first console was a hand-me-down, the Atari 2600. This system was home to classic greats like the home ports of "Pac-Man," "Defender" and "Missile Command." At the time, I was too young to realize that bigger and better consoles, such as the Nintendo Entertainment System or the Sega Master System, were already in circulation. Some of my earliest memories consist of my dad and I sitting cross-legged in front of the TV, playing a simplistic two-on-two basketball game with the ubiquitous Atari joystick. You know, the black one with the analog stick single red button?



Dan Nutt

In my formative years, from grade school and well into high school, two Nintendo consoles earned my love and they will be forever remembered in my mind as the greatest home consoles ever made. The NES and the Super NES were the consoles that brought us gaming icons like Mario, Link

and Samus. Sure, Sony has given us Crash Bandicoot and Master Chief practically sold us the Xbox, but I doubt they can be considered classic gaming icons in the same sense of the word.

The hours of time spent losing myself in now-classic games like "The Legend of Zelda" or "Final Fantasy III" helped me make it through my awkward, ugly duckling years, when interactions with the opposite sex were sparse and always ended badly. Who needed a girlfriend when you had the vast expanse of Hyrule to explore and evil empires to thwart?

When the next generation of consoles hit, I had to break with what had become a tradition and support the new and different Sony PlayStation. To be honest, it felt a little like betraying an old friend, but Nintendo's decision to stick with game cartridges rather than move to CD format like the PlayStation cost them their contract with game publisher Squaresoft. Squaresoft (now Square Enix, thanks to a recent merger) published some of my favorite games, such as "Secret of Mana" and "Chrono Trigger," so I followed them to Sony.

I'm still an avid gamer, though I have yet to purchase one of the shiny new systems reviewed in this week's *Mast*, and it has been a long time since I have found myself emotionally attached to any particular system or game. There are exceptions to this, such as the "wow" moment of playing "Grand Theft Auto III" for the first time (not because I could beat hookers, but because someone finally realized that near-limitless freedom is something gamers had been dreaming of for years).

For the most part, however, games simply don't seem to have the emotional resonance they once did. Nintendo and

Microsoft seem to be clued in to this and their new systems now have online services you can use to download and purchase retro games.

This is appealing for many reasons. For one, many of us gamer kids have lost, misplaced or otherwise mismanaged our old systems and games and have been unable to play old favorites without resorting to illegal emulation on our PCs. Not only is the practice illegal, but playing some old school "Ninja Gaiden" or "Battletoads" without an acceptable controller just feels wrong.

For another, even if you can find your old systems, they are probably not in the best of shape. Even when they were new, I have memories of sitting in front of my NES, frustrated, trying to get something other than flashing blue screen or scrambled images to appear (trying to blow the dust out of the cartridge, rapidly pushing the power button in and out and simply hitting the game console with a firm, open hand were practices I mastered in the '80s).

And finally, as if you couldn't tell from this column, there is a certain nostalgia factor involved with these older games that will ensure that suckers like me will continue to purchase them over and over again. Just looking through my current-gen library of Xbox games, I own "Namco Museum" featuring titles like "Galaga" and "Dig Dug," and the "Atari Collection," which contains over 75 titles originally released for the 2600 and Atari's arcade machines.

But flash forward to a few years from now, and here's what I see: myself, frustrated from searching through shoebox after shoebox full of games and not coming up with what I want. My probable solution? Heading onto the Xbox Live service and purchasing "Ghosts and Goblins" for less than the cost of a Starbucks coffee.

## A final celebration before the UC closes

Students rally for a final hurrah before March the 23 closing of the UC

KATHY CAO  
Mast reporter

Close to 300 students celebrated the Black and Gold Bash in the Lute Lounge last Friday. Starting at 9 p.m., students trickled into the Lute Lounge and danced their week's troubles away to the fun music well into the night. The Black and Gold Bash was the first Black and Gold event that was not solely organized by the SIL Interns.

Unlike the Black and Gold Dances, this event was unprecedented because it was put on by the collaboration of PLU's SIL, RHA and ASPLU Departments.

"Our goal was to make the Black and Gold Dance a PLU tradition and collaborating with ASP-LU and RHA has made it even better," said one of the original creators of the Black and Gold Dance, SIL Intern sophomore Kristin Gelbach.

Originally slated for the Cave, the bash was planned to be the final event held in the Cave before

UC Renovations started in full swing. But due to scheduling conflicts and some miscommunication, the dance was moved to the Lute Lounge. Also,

instead of just one deejay, there were two. Sophomore Brian Pedey and junior Ben Johnson spun their unique blend of tunes for the dance floor.

"We want this to be the biggest party the UC has ever had," Pedey said before the dance.

Although the event was not held in the Cave, students still had lots of fun.

"I have had so much fun preparing for this event," sophomore Allison Parks said.

The Black and Gold Bash was well received.

"We got some good feedback,"

Gelbach said.

Held the same night as the debut of the movie "300", the interns knew going in that there was some competition for students' attention. Tagged on Facebook as "Our first Spring Semester dance... a final celebration before the UC closes!" The expected outcome was about 200 students, considering the short notice and last-minute advertising. In the end, about 260 students showed up.

**"Our goal was to make the Black and Gold Dance a PLU tradition and collaborating with ASP-LU and RHA has made it even better."**

SIL Intern sophomore  
Kristin Gelbach.

## Freedom from the mainstream Kweli Returns to Form

CHASE CARNOT  
Mast intern

On New Years Eve, Talib Kweli released "Liberation" through his Myspace page for free download. (Get it? Liberty, freedom - yeah, you get it.) The album is a return to form for Kweli whose last album, "The Beautiful Struggle," was criticized for commercial production. This outing pairs the Brooklyn emcee with West Coast beat-smith Madlib for nine tracks of pure hip hop. The free album was only available for the first week of then new year, so many missed out - or so it seemed. On March 13, Kweli re-released the album, this time with all the trimmings: liner notes, album artwork and the handy plastic case.

"Funny Money" frequently appeared on mix-tapes throughout the summer and it is clear why: both producer and emcee come with it. The crate-digging Madlib stretches and speeds the obscure sample to almost goofy proportions. At one point the vocal sample even clears its throat through Madlib's beat wizardry. Kweli is equally unstoppable as he discusses poor promotion and even cheaper promoters: "One tried to pay me in marijuana/The crowd was so thin he blamed Osama/and the Twin Tower bomber."

Madlib strays far from his soulful stylings and ventures deep into funk on "Over the Counter." At times this is to his detriment as the track borders on abrasive. Kweli is able to stay comfortable enough to teach though. He uses drug culture as a metaphor for the addictive nature of his intelligent rhymes. His lyrics touch on a number of things including corrupt government officials. While not a political rapper, he lists his qualifications for leadership.

The album falters as it ends due to poor track placement. "Happy Home," "Soul Music" and "What Can I Do" are softer melodies that round out the album. But as their subject matter is also similar, lumping them at the end of the album causes it to fade out. "What Can I Do" brings the hip hop back but it is too late for an album just over 30 minutes long. These are great tracks though and an mp3-player easily shuffles any placement problems out of the mix.

The stand-out track, "Engine Runnin'," features Consequence (of A Tribe Called Quest) and details a bank robbery from the perspective of the accidental getaway driver. Consequence mostly steers clear of similes as he commits his verse to narrative and on-point rhymes. Kweli's wordplay, on the other hand, drives his narrative all the way to the scene of the crime where he is caught in the crossfire.

"Liberation" blends abstract storytelling with soulful production that doesn't shy from funk. This provides an overall cohesion, despite poor track placement. If you are looking for a break from the cliché gangsterisms dominating the airwaves, or even if you aren't, "Liberation" reminds us what fresh is as hip hop nears 40. Oh yeah, parents be advised. Some lyrics are explicit.

Overall  
Rating:

**B**

### Tracklisting

1. The Show
2. Funny Money
3. Time Is Right
4. Engine Runnin' (featuring Consequence)
5. Over the Counter
6. The Function (featuring Strong Arm Steady)
7. Happy Home (featuring Candice Anderson)
8. Soul Music (featuring Res)
9. What Can I Do

## Poem about Hindu festival "Phagwa"

MORIAH ZIMMERMAN

"To Endeavor"  
The sign read as we rode towards the harvest moon.  
"To Endeavor"  
The sign sang as we held on to the roof in the back of the loading truck.  
"To Endeavor"  
The sign danced as I heard the laughs of those on my side.  
"To Endeavor"  
I thought as the image of a rainbow turning to powder blew in my thoughts.  
Powders of bright colors thrown into the air, raining down and landing on my shoulder.  
"To Endeavor"  
The boys smeared powder on my face, smiling, it fell into my teeth. Laughing, it drifted into my throat, my lungs. Laughing again, I laugh out pink and yellow powder.  
"To Endeavor"  
Like a sign from "The Phantom Tollbooth."

Passing the boys, you see the flirtatious gleam in their eyes. You turn around; and then their hands full of powder rub your face and neck. Touch.  
Human touch, Human contact because of color. Human Touch. More, please, more. Children with PVC water launchers. Purple water launches into the sky.

Standing by a man who asked, "If you were to write a book, what would it be about?"  
Itching for adventure  
On top of the world, like I was in love  
With someone or something.

See the bowl with flags? 15 feet high! A game, a competition called Machachode. We enter 10 girls. We enter under the name: Team America.  
Everyone crowds around, like a description from "The Song of Roland."  
All the same color—purple. Not Indian, not Caucasian, not African. Just lovers of color: Team Purple.  
Six on the base; Three on tier two; the girl from Japan climbing towards the flag. We struggle until she grabs the red flag. Jumping. Screaming. Hugging. The first team of girls to ever enter the competition.

The dancing begins. Ankle to ankle, hands in the air  
Two people together, around in a circle. People cheering in rhythm.

The persistent beat and phrase, "Wake the lion. Wake the lion." Jumping together, jumping in a circle, one foot in the middle. They announce the winners. Team Purp goes on stage.

Color running through our blood, we climb into the back of the loading truck.  
Accelerate! On my right, three girls. On my left, alone. In front, the Harvest Moon.  
Closer and closer to the moon. I look again and see a friend on my right. Then we notice the sign simultaneously:

"To Endeavor."

We pass the "Kiss" factory. We pass the spot where someone was run over by a car yesterday. We arrive. In bras we hose down. Purple everywhere. Dripping off my hair, soaking my body. Dancing under the hose water. Boys watching. Girls laughing. We shower and eat dinner. Liming, everyone on the front porch. Everyone, content.

Driving home. Seven people in a five-person car. Faster. The moon high above us now. Laughter. Wind whips my purple hair across my face. Relaxed talking. Colors fly past. The Boys of Unlimited Machinations had pasted the sky black, while the mischievous girl flicked it with her yellow abir. All that was left of what was before was an eye. A harvest eye. One eye peeking out from all the black and yellow color. The car going too fast given the conditions, given the times in which we live. A car going too fast, making the purple fade faster.

"To Endeavour."

I saw the sign in my mind as I lay down and gave in to the doldrums. Passing into an incoherent stream of consciousness... Perhaps in Endeavour, all people are purple forever.

Moriah Zimmerman is a sophomore at Pacific Lutheran University. She is currently studying abroad at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad. To read more about what is happening in Trinidad, please visit Moriah's blog: [www.tribago07.blogspot.com](http://www.tribago07.blogspot.com).

## TACOMA ART MUSEUM



**Frida Kahlo: Images of Icon**

On View February 3- June 10, 2007

Frida in photos, through the eyes of master photographers, her lovers, relatives, and friends.

Also on View:  
8th Northwest Biennial  
February 10 - May 6, 2007  
Paul Strand Southwest  
January 27 - May 23, 2007

Image: Nicholas Murray, Frida Kahlo on Bench, 1938. Color carbon print, 16/30, 11 1/2 x 14 1/2 inches. Courtesy of Trackworl Fine Art, Inc., New York, New York. © Nicholas Murray Photo Archives

1701 Pacific Ave., Tacoma  
253.272.4258  
[www.TacomaArtMuseum.org](http://www.TacomaArtMuseum.org)

Student Admission \$6.50  
Hours: T - Sa: 10-5; Su: 12-5  
Third Thursdays: FREE 10 am - 8 pm

## Tingelstad Vegas Night

Saturday March 17 8 p.m. to Midnight

Casino Games

Wedding Chapel

Rootbeer Pong

Madden Tournament

Bring a white shirt for a highlighter dance 10 p.m. to 12 a.m.

# Miller's Spartans come, see and conquer the big screen



**Matt  
CLICK**

## Graphic novel adaptation "300" is a hit as it opens in theaters

Allow me to be frank with you. I knew full well going into "300" that I was going to love the hell out of it. Yeah, I know, as a film critic I'm expected to watch movies devoid of pre-conceived notions and bias, right? But this is "300," a movie I've been waiting anxiously to see for over six months now, and there's not a man nor woman alive who could walk into this film lacking any predispositions of its superiority over absolutely everything.

"300" is a superbly faithful adaptation of the Frank Miller graphic novel of the same name. For the comic illiterates out there, Miller is kind of a big deal. He is regarded by many as the sole-savior of comics, a man who reinvented characters like Batman and Daredevil at a time when superheroes were struggling to find an audience. He's the author of "Batman: Year One" and "The Dark Knight Returns," (two of the greatest graphic novels in existence) as well as the delightfully violent "Sin City" series. My personal favorite of Miller's work is his distinctive retelling of the Battle of Thermopylae, which now comes to vivid life courtesy of director Zack Snyder.

It's 480 BC, and the mad Persian God-King Xerxes (Rodrigo Santoro) marches across Greece with his millions-strong army. In his path lies the proud city-state of Sparta, ruled over by the fervent King Leonidas (Gerard Butler). Xerxes sends a Persian messenger with an offer for Leonidas: bow down before the might of the Persian empire, or Sparta burns. Leonidas, not being one to surrender, refuses by promptly kicking the messenger into a bottomless pit. The Spartans prepare for war. Gathering 300 buffed, bronzed and battle-ready Greeks, Leonidas makes his idealistic stand at the Hot Gates—a narrow, bottlenecking pass—successfully fending off the massive Persian army for several days with his deadly fighting force of hardened warriors.

I'm gonna go out on a limb here and say that "300" is the most faithful direct comic adaptation. Ever. And I mean that sincerely. Aside from a subplot involving Spartan Queen Gorgo (Lena Headey), which adds a bit of depth to the action-heavy vehicle and pays off nicely in the end (you'll see), the movie is almost shot-for-shot, frame-for-frame, and line-for-line spot-on with the comic. As a huge fan of Miller's work, this was fantastic to see.

"300" is a movie that simply exudes pure awesome throughout its entirety. Its heavily stylized visuals are reminiscent of Miller's previous film adaptation, "Sin City." But whereas "Sin City" was shot in stark black-and-white with the occasional splash of color, "300" is vibrantly beautiful, cast in vivid gold, deep-blue and crimson.

Moreover, it's a fantastically shot piece of cinema. Battle sequences in films of late have been too hectic and confusing, suffering from a syndrome known as "shaky-cam." This technique does capture

the chaotic essence of war successfully, but it also results in confusion, frustration and, in some serious cases, motion sickness. Thankfully, the shots are wide and steady during the bloody battle scenes in "300," providing the perfect vantage to witness the outstanding fight choreography and the collective dismemberment of the Persian army.

And that's where the main appeal of this great film lies: the action. The combat in "300" is brutal, bloody and, for lack of a better phrase, totally badass. Spartans wade into the sea of enemies, their spears skewering Persian after Persian, their swords removing legs, arms and heads by the dozens. They fight with the deftness of lifetimes spent training for violence and I fully believed that these 300 half-naked dudes really could halt the Persian offensive in its tracks.

So, did "300" meet my expectations? Did it deliver a superb action film, ripe with the gratuitous violence and stylized visuals I crave? Did Gerard Butler scream a sufficient number of times? Yes, ladies and gentleman, "300" met my expectations and then some. It's the most absurdly awesome film this year, and a must-see for anyone currently breathing.

\*\*\*\*\*<sup>1/2</sup> out of \*\*\*\*\*

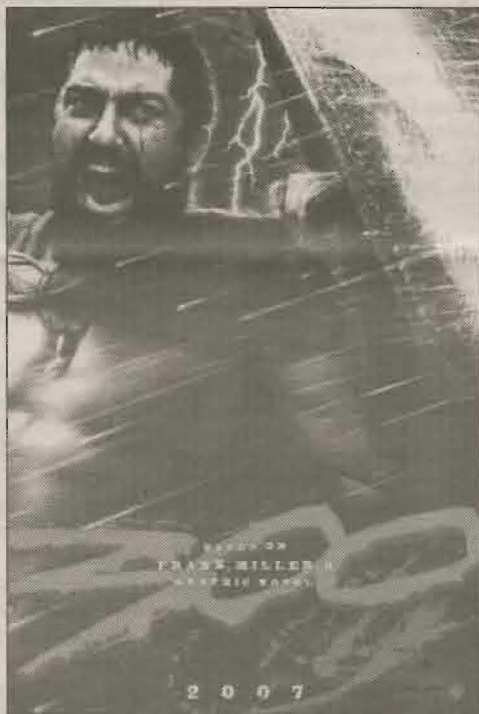


Photo taken from rottentomatoes.com

## Calendar of Events

### March 16

Harry Potter Party: Triwizard Tournament

Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Location: Xavier

Graduation Gift Wii Tournament

Time: 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Location: South Hall Main Lounge

Cost: Tickets \$5, available at Campus Concierge

The Glass Menagerie

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: Eastvold Auditorium

Cost: Tickets \$5, available at Campus Concierge

### March 17

Vegas Night

Time: 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Location: Tingelstad Hall

The Glass Menagerie

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: Eastvold Auditorium

Cost: Tickets \$5, available at Campus Concierge

Graduation Gift Wii Tournament

Time: 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Location: South Hall Main Lounge

Cost: Tickets \$5, available at Campus Concierge

### March 18

The Glass Menagerie

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: Eastvold Auditorium

Cost: Tickets \$5 available at Campus Concierge

### March 19

Iraq War Discussion

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Xavier Nordquist Lecture Hall

### March 21

Retro H.U.M.P. A celebration of PLU's history. There will be a fashion show, a dance,

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: Pflueger Hall Main Lounge

**Gateway Cottage**  
Restaurant and Lounge

124 146th St. So. • Tacoma, WA 98444  
(253) 536-8100

**THE Grand CINEMA**

Tickets are only \$6.00 with your current student ID!

606 S Fawcett Ave | 253.593.4474 | grandcinema.com

---

**The Painted Veil** (PG-13)  
Fri: 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30  
Sat/Sun: 11:35, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30  
Mon-Wed: 4:40, 7:10, 9:30  
Thurs: 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30

---

**The Lives of Others** (R)  
Fri: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:25  
Sat/Sun: 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:25  
Mon-Wed: 4:30, 7:00, 9:25  
Thurs: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:25

---

**The Italian** (NR)  
Fri: 2:30, 4:15, 6:45, 9:00  
Sat/Sun: 12:00, 2:30, 4:15, 6:45, 9:00  
Mon-Wed: 4:15, 6:45, 9:00  
Thurs: 2:30, 4:15, 6:45, 9:00

**SPRING FORMAL**

April 14  
8 p.m. 'til 12 a.m.  
Museum of Glass  
Free Parking

*CASABLANCA*

Tickets on sale March 19 for \$15

Buy your tickets before between March 19 and 23 and be entered to win either 4 tickets to Spring Concert or \$50 gift certificate to Harmon.

# March madness mayhem

## My can't-miss picks for this year's tournament



Let the madness begin — March Madness. This weekend is arguably my favorite time of year.

No other four-day span is as exciting. MLB and NBA playoffs are too drawn out. The Super Bowl, Daytona 500 and Indianapolis 500 are exciting one-day events with lots of hype. The Masters are exciting — on the final day.

The argument can be made for NCAA football, but at the rate they stagger bowl games now, it does not compare to the four thrilling days of the NCAA basketball tournaments' first two rounds.

The bracket makes this event great. There are 64 teams vying for a coveted spot with the stakes being one and done.

The bracket even attracts the casual or non-fan to the dance. Anybody can fill out a bracket or join a pool.

Granted, the basketball is not necessarily the attraction, but the money to be won makes it attractive to those who do not live and breathe basketball.

So now, on to the bracket predictions. By the time many of you read this the first round of games will be over.

Since this is in print, you will all be able to ridicule me in the unlikely case that I am wrong.

Let's begin in the midwest region.

I do not see how anyone can go against the number-one seeded Florida Gators. Many will say that they will not repeat be-

cause they lack the hunger after winning last year.

If you compare the Gators' season last year to this year you will see many similarities.

All the main components are there and just like last season they had their losses at the end of the regular season and stormed through the SEC tournament.

Arizona has the talent to compete with Florida but they have not really been there mentally all season.

I don't expect them to suddenly turn the switch on. With a strong showing in the Pac-10 tournament there is also a belief Oregon will take this region.

They have been on a roll, knocking off three tourney teams in their past six games, but they could struggle if the three ball does not show up.

In the conference tournament they hit 34 three-pointers in three games.

The bracket-buster for this region is Winthrop who lost just four games.

Their losses were to teams with a four-seed or higher in the tournament.

The best chance of competition will be Big-10 runner-up Wisconsin but Florida will prove too deep.

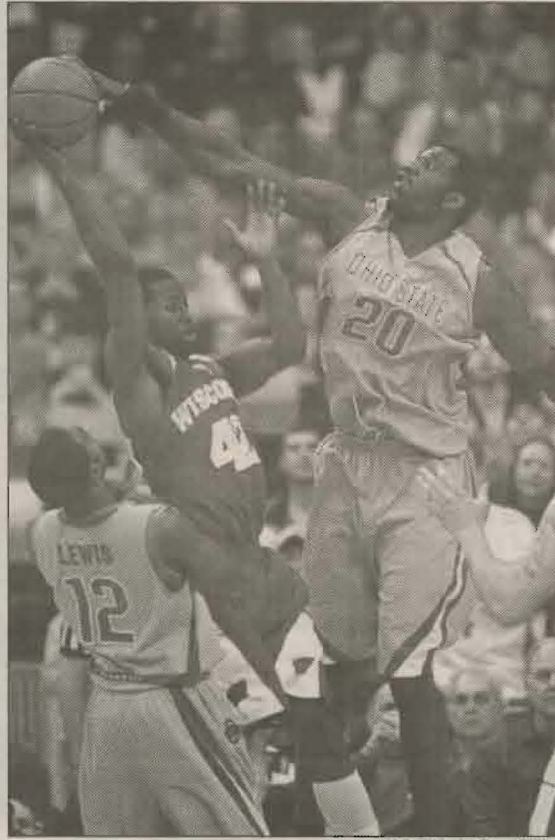
The west features four of college basketball's most historic teams in number-one seed Kansas, number-two UCLA, six Duke and eight Kentucky.

Kansas and UCLA are the only ones who will see the Sweet 16 because Kentucky will have to go through Kansas and Duke will be up against Pittsburgh assuming they defeat VCU.

Kansas has by far the most talent and appears finally ready to make a deep run with this cast of characters.

This is essentially the same group that dropped its first round game last year.

Kansas will believe they are in every



Look for Oden and Ohio State to make a Final Four appearance.

game because twice in the past four games they have come back from large deficits.

Against Texas in the final game of the regular season they were down 12 at the half and in the Big 12 Championship against Texas, they were down by 22 points.

Last year's runner-up, UCLA, played well up until their last two games. They played miserably for stretches in both losses but almost eked out a victory.

Texas cannot afford to do that again. This bracket also features the Mid-major's best shot to make the Final Four in the Southern Illinois Salukis.

They are becoming tournament regulars and are challenging Gonzaga for the title of top Mid-major. Kansas will knock off

UCLA in the Elite Eight.

Their athleticism will be too much for the Bruins to handle.

The East features the top-seeded North Carolina Tar Heels who should make a nice run to the Sweet 16 before they are upset by college basketball's most exciting player, Texas' Kevin Durant.

On the bottom half of that region Vanderbilt will make the Sweet 16 when they beat an Oral Roberts team that will have shocked Washington State two days earlier, setting up a match with Georgetown.

Georgetown will win this, but lose to Texas when Durant goes all Carmelo Anthony and leads his team to the Final Four as a freshman.

The south features the best class of freshman since the famed "Fab 5" of Michigan, with Ohio State's "Thad 5" — named after head coach Thad Matta, the most overrated two-seed (Memphis) and the most experienced three-seed (Texas A&M).

Memphis will not make it to the second weekend thanks to Nevada and Nevada will not get past A&M.

Greg Oden and the Buckeyes will run-through the upper half of the south, setting up youth against experienced Elite Eight, with youth prevailing.

Oden has begun to dominate as of late and this trend should continue.

The Final Four will see the battle of the top NBA prospects when Durant faces Oden but Oden's team will be too strong, sending Ohio State to the title game to face Florida.

Florida is hoping for deja vu all over again in this rematch, but the Buckeyes will prevail this time.

The big man will be unleashed and we will see one of the most dominating performances ever.

Editor's note: for further NCAA tournament information and how to find a bracket that fits your style, turn to page 15.

# PLU reigns BBQ

## Mixed results at weekend tourney

JON WEDELL  
Mast sports editor

Pacific Lutheran hosted the annual PLU Barbeque Tournament in Lakewood where a total of 30 teams came together for some Ultimate Frisbee. The Pacific Lutheran Reign fielded three teams — the men had two teams, "A" and "B," while the women fielded one squad.

Teams from around the region took part to see who would reign the weekend.

Leading the charge was Reign "A" team, finishing out pool play with an undefeated record and placing PLU in a good spot in the bracket.

Reign battled Whitman College and defeated the pesky Walla Walla Sweets in a nail-biter 13-12. After the hard-fought game Reign took on the task of Western

Washington University where PLU pulled out a blowout win over their "B" team.

Western Washington's team, Dirt, struggled to pass the disc around the field as Reign controlled the flow of the game. Keeping the perfect record going, PLU defeated South Eugene of Eugene, Ore.

The Loggers of UPS also fell to Reign as PLU finished its pool play undefeated with a 4-0 record.

Unfortunately, the University of Washington defeated Reign in the quarterfinals, demolishing its perfect record.

"Attitude was good and everyone had a good time, but of course we want more fans to watch the teams play here," junior cutter Roy Morris said.

The "B" team didn't fair as well, as the young team was outmatched by its opponents. The over-



Junior handler/cutter Kelsey Lee skys a disc in the Stanford Qualifier Tournament March 3-4. The Lutes heads to WWU this weekend.

all record wasn't what the team had planned but the effort was there as the final record for the tourney was 0-5. Leading the team is junior captain Richard Cline, of Oak Harbor, Wash.

The PLU women's team finished their weekend with a 2-4 record as it swept University of Puget Sound but fell to the Alumni, Churchill High School out of Eugene, Ore., Western Washington and Northwest High School.

Despite the team's youth, coach Jamie Arambula brings energy and experience to the team, which has a lot of young players.

"We did well considering the weather and conditions," junior handler/cutter Kelsey Lee said. "We are growing with the experience and we are improving our team skills."

Reign is busy this weekend traveling north to Western Washington University to participate in the annual Dirty Deeds Tournament.

The "A" team is placed in Pool B, with Western Washington and two high schools. The "B" team will play Whitworth, UPS, Washington and British Columbia's "B" teams. The women's pool has PLU with UPS, Simon Fraser and British Columbia.

Games take place Saturday and Sunday.

March madness fact # 245:  
Number 16 seeds are 0-88 vs.  
Number one seeds.

when it's time for pizza it's

# PIZZA TIME!

PLU Special! All day every day

Large | Topping  
**PIZZA \$4.99** plus tax

MEDIUM | TOPPING  
**\$4.25** plus tax

EX-LARGE 3 TOPPING  
**\$9.99** plus tax

BREADSTICKS, CHEESESTICKS, OR CINNABERRY SWIRL WITH YOUR ORDER!

17316 Pacific Ave S  
Spanaway, WA 98387

Visa/Mastercard & Debit Cards ACCEPTED

PIZZA TIME

# Wildcats pounce on Lutes

## Baseball loses two of three, ready for home games

SEAN MCILRAITH  
Mast sports reporter

Riding a six-game winning streak into the weekend series against Linfield, the Lute baseball club hit a roadblock, dropping two out of three games to the Wildcats.

PLU opened up Northwest Conference in McMinnville, Ore., winning the first game of a double-header 7-1 Saturday and then losing the next two games of the weekend, 3-2 and 5-1.

The PLU baseball team now sits at 10-5 overall, 1-2 in Northwest Conference play.

"We got unbelievable starts from Joe (DiPietro) and (Brett) Brunner," head coach Geoff Loomis said. "We hit well in the first game; it was the lack of two-out hits in the

final two games that hurt us."

In the first game the Lutes scored two runs in the top of the second on an RBI ground out from senior infielder Jared Simon and an RBI single from senior infielder Roger Guzman.

In the top of the third, sophomore first baseman Jordan Post came to the plate and smacked his first home run of the season. Guzman's sacrifice fly in the fourth-inning scored senior catcher Bryce Depew putting PLU on top 4-0.

PLU plated three runs in the top of the seventh on a two-RBI single from senior infielder Logan Andrews and an RBI single to center field from Depew.

PLU had great starting-pitching from senior Joe DiPietro who pitched a complete game. DiPietro gave up 10 hits but only allowed one Wildcat run, while striking out four. With the win, DiPietro improved his record to 4-1.



Photo by Retta Meier  
Sophomore infielder Jordan Post greets his fellow Lutes after smashing a solo HR in the Lutes 7-1 victory.



Photo by Retta Meier  
Sophomore pitcher Hunter Simpson delivers a pitch in the Lutes 5-1 loss to Linfield. Simpson threw four innings, giving up six hits and three earned runs. The Lutes lost two of three to Linfield and hope to bounce back this week vs. Pacific.

Senior outfielder Justin Whitehall had four hits, Andrews added three and sophomore designated hitter Kris Hansen had two hits and knocked in two RBI's.

Saturday's second game was a close 3-2 loss for the Lutes. PLU got another complete game from a starting pitcher.

Brunner allowed six hits and three earned runs in eight innings of work and also struck out six batters.

Linfield scored one run in the fourth and two runs in the fifth off of a two-RBI double from Shannon Chung.

Down 3-0, the Lute baseball squad attempted a comeback in the top of the eighth, but only scored two runs.

With senior Tyler Green on second and sophomore catcher Brandon Sales on third, Post came to the plate and proceeded to hit a single that scored both Green and Sales. That was all that PLU could muster, as they fell 3-2. Post finished 1-4 with two-RBI's and Simon had two hits.

"It's tough to win when the team is not hitting well," Brunner said. "There were times when we should have clubbed them around."

Sunday's game did not fare well either for the Lutes as they fell 5-1.

PLU scored one run in the top of the first on a sacrifice fly from Post to take an early 1-0 lead.

Linfield answered in the bottom half of the first and scored one in the fourth, two in the fifth and one in the eighth to finish the scoring for the afternoon.

This weekend series against the Pacific Boxers is not only a chance to snap a two-game losing-streak but the Lutes will be playing on the PLU baseball diamond, a field they haven't played on since Feb. 3.

The PLU baseball team has been on the road for 43 days and in that time span made trips to Arizona, California, and Oregon, twice. Loomis said he is happy with how his team performed on the extra-long road trip and looks forward to the upcoming weekend series at home.

"We've been on the road for four weeks and felt we were successful going 7-5," Loomis said. "We're excited to be home and hope to play well, focusing on us."

PLU and Pacific square off in a double-header tomorrow at noon on the Lutes diamond and will conclude the series on Sunday with a single game at 12 p.m.

# Lutes meet match

## Women's tennis loses to Linfield 7-2

STEPHEN ODELL  
Mast sports reporter

The George Fox Bruins posed little threat to the Lutes in their 9-0 victory, but it was a different story in the 7-2 defeat to the Linfield Wildcats, champions of the NWC during the last five years.

The PLU women did not drop a set in any of their matches Saturday against the Bruins. However, the momentum did not continue in their Sunday meeting with the first-place Wildcats.

"Four years of playing the same opponent and losing is very frustrating," senior Nicole Petrzelka said. "They are great tennis-players."

PLU failed to get the necessary good start Sunday by losing each one of their doubles matches.

The bad luck persisted in singles, as the Lutes

became victims in two close matches that may have turned the tables.

After losing her first set in a tiebreaker, sophomore Roz Currie managed a second-set victory to extend the match against Linfield's Molly Nelson to a third set, also known as a super-tiebreaker, but could not seal the victory, losing the final set 11-9.

No. 1 singles player Erika Feltus experienced her first loss of the season after similarly losing a close second set 6-4. Feltus is now 7-1 for the year.

"The matches were a lot closer than the whole match score," Petrzelka said.

Nevertheless, PLU remains convinced their next match against Linfield will be a different story.

"It's not who wins first, it's who wins last," Petrzelka said.

With two home conference matches approaching this weekend, Pacific Lutheran is praying the weather abides and allows them to play outdoors on the PLU campus, as opposed to the UPS tennis pavilion.

The Lute women, now 5-3 overall and in the NWC, will play the 0-10 Pacific Boxers Friday and the 3-6 Lewis Clark Pioneers Saturday.

It has not been determined if PLU will have the currently scheduled Alumni match Sunday.



Nicole Petrzelka

## Want to cover sports?

Contact us at [mastsprt@plu.edu](mailto:mastsprt@plu.edu) for more information.

7 Bedroom House-- 2 Bath House  
Very spacious, very nice

Close to campus  
\$1650/ month



Call 425-221-0462  
or 425-614-2989

	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>THIS WEEK IN SPORTS</b>	• Women's Tennis vs. Pacific, 3:30 p.m. • March Madness Begins: Keep it tuned to CBS all week for the madness.	• Baseball vs. Pacific (2-9), Noon. • Women's Tennis vs. Lewis & Clark, Noon.	• Baseball vs. Pacific (1-9), Noon • Women's Tennis - Alumni Match, 11 a.m.	• Men's Golf at Willamette Inv., Salem, Ore. (Creekside GC), TBA	• Spring training: Seattle Mariners vs. Kansas City Royals, 1:05 p.m. on KOMO AM 1000.	NBA Hoops: Seattle Sonics vs. Detroit Pistons, 7:00 p.m. on FSN.	• March Madness: The Sweet Sixteen kicks off in St. Louis, MO.

# So easy a caveman could do it

## Finding your perfect bracket on Facebook



**Nate HULINGS**

Quick. Think of a better time of the year for sports than March. You can't do it, can you?

March Madness is upon us and the perennial question at every water cooler and dorm room alike arises: how does your bracket look?

I myself haven't filled out a bracket yet, but thanks to Facebook, every student in the country can join the madness. For the few of you like myself who haven't penciled (or more appropriately typed) in your favorites, I'd like to direct you to some of the favorite and most entertaining bracket groups I found on Facebook.

For the general crowd, we have a couple of choices. "The Biggest NCAA Pool on Facebook" group, not to be confused with the "BIGGEST GROUP IN ARKANSAS!!!!" group or "A-rod is the BIGGEST Bust of all time" group.

Consisting more than 102,000 people, this tournament pool is a safe bet to join if you want to compete against a healthy chunk of your collegiate counterparts.

This is also a great group to join if you feel like just being part of the crowd and not get too embarrassed when people see that you picked Central Connecticut State to upset Ohio State in the opening round.

Just don't get too excited if your bracket holds through one round unscathed. There are probably 20,000 people on here that know more about college basketball

than you do about your left ear.

The other generic bracket offered up by Facebook fills you with the hope of winning \$25,000 if your selections are correct and is even sponsored by Geico.

I guess they think that filling out a bracket is so easy that even a caveman could do it! However, in a recent interview in "Science Daily," mathematician Mike Green put the odds at randomly guessing every correct game of the 64-team bracket at 18 quintillion-446 quadrillion.

A caveman can barely log onto a website; how is he supposed to even comprehend those numbers?

Let's just say that you probably have a better chance of finding Osama bin Laden pitching in the World Series and finding the cure for cancer while writing a column in a Morken computer lab.

Next up, I found a group for the more casual tournament player.

In fact, it's so casual that the group is named "People who don't know shit about college basketball." I don't have the faintest idea why someone would fill out a bracket if they didn't know "shit" about college basketball, but chances are they are just doing it because it's on Facebook and the cool thing to do.

The funny part is, despite the crazed fans who dissect the hell out of March Madness, someone out of this "don't give a shit" group will probably fill out a more accurate bracket than Jockie McManly, whose life consists of lifting weights and talking about how dope Ohio State is this year.

For all the bitter Husky fans out there that are upset about the Dawgs getting snubbed from the "The rest of the teams that didn't make it to the Big Dance" NIT Tournament, there is also a group just for you called "We'll win it next year."

The admin asks everyone to pick their second favorite team as long as it's not the Washington State Cougars.

You can also find Gonzaga and Wazzu pools if that tickles your fancy.



Xavier fans are pumped they made it to the Big Dance. Just don't tell them the probability of a perfect bracket.

If you want to get Lute Dome localized, any fan of basketball can find their own dorms' pool and send their bracket up against a friend across the hall or that punk who stole your girl last year. Don't worry, it wasn't me.

I also came across some individual floors who created such groups as "5th floor studs" of T-stad and "Foss 3rd North" pools competing against their fellow floor-mates.

Not to be biased, but I got my money (if we could bet on these kind of things, which we're not so forget I am saying this) on my buddies from third-floor Foss.

For the people who are looking to win a prize besides the confidence-boost of doing the nearly impossible, there is also a group that promises to buy a Dairy Queen Blizzard for the winner. This alternative to betting on the madness is not only the legal alternative but also the tastier one.

The truth is, March Madness wouldn't

be the spectacle that it is if the participants weren't crazy, partying college kids.

You don't see us drawing up brackets for the Senior Open in golf do you?

For the next few weeks, we'll all be glued to the television watching some of the greatest sports of the year.

Where will you be when a number-one seed falls to a 12-seed in the second round?

How many times will you check your bracket and cry yourself to sleep after you see your ex-girlfriend has more points than you? Sports make us do crazy things and so does Facebook.

Putting a bracket together may be so easy that a caveman could do it, but when you're at work the next day or walking down the dorm and hear someone screaming "How's your bracket looking?" Just tell them that you did the math and we're all in for a disappointment.

## Scorecard

### Tennis

#### Standings - Men

Team	NWC	%	All	%
Whitman	12-0	1.000	13-2	.867
PLU	5-2	.714	5-4	.556
Linfield	7-3	.700	8-7	.533
UPS	5-6	.455	5-7	.417
Willamette	3-6	.333	3-7	.300
Whitworth	2-4	.333	2-6	.250
George Fox	2-5	.286	2-5	.286
L&C	2-5	.286	2-5	.286
Pacific	0-7	.000	0-7	.000

#### Standings - Women

Team	NWC	%	All	%
Linfield	7-0	.938	7-1	.833
UPS	7-1	.875	8-1	.889
Whitman	6-2	.750	8-3	.727
PLU	5-3	.625	5-3	.625
Whitworth	4-5	.444	4-5	.444
L&C	3-5	.375	3-6	.333
Willamette	3-5	.375	3-7	.300
George Fox	1-7	.167	1-8	.150
Pacific	0-8	.000	0-10	.000

#### Last Two Matches - Men

3/3 at Whitman - Lost 5-4  
3/10 vs George Fox - Won 9-0

#### Next Two Matches - Men

3/17 at Pacific - 10 a.m./2 p.m.  
3/17 at L&C - 10 a.m./2 p.m.

#### Last Two Matches - Women

3/10 at George Fox - Won 9-0  
3/11 at Linfield - Lost 7-2

#### Next Two Matches - Women

3/16 vs Pacific - 3:30 p.m.  
3/17 vs L&C - 12 p.m.

### Baseball

#### Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
George Fox	6-0-0	1.000	12-0-0	1.000
UPS	6-0-0	1.000	7-5-1	.577
L&C	6-2-0	.750	7-6-0	.538
Whitworth	3-3-0	.500	5-10-0	.333
Pacific	2-4-0	.333	5-6-0	.455
Linfield	2-4-0	.333	5-7-0	.417
PLU	1-2-0	.333	10-5-0	.667
Willamette	0-5-0	.000	6-9-0	.400
Whitman	0-6-0	.000	0-12-0	.000

(Stats as of 3/13)

#### Batting AVG:

1. Matt Akridge - .400
2. Jordan Post - .385
3. Chris Bowen - .385

#### Hits:

1. Jordan Post - 20
2. Jared Simon - 19
3. Roger Guzman - 18
4. Ryan Thorne - 18

#### RBIs:

1. Jared Simon - 14
2. Justin Whitehall - 12
3. Tyler Green - 11

#### Last Three Games:

3/10 at Linfield - Won 7-1  
3/10 at Linfield - Lost 3-2  
3/11 at Linfield - Lost 5-1

#### Next Two Games:

3/17 vs Pacific - 12 p.m.  
3/18 vs Pacific - 12 p.m.

### Softball

#### Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
Whitworth	8-0-0	1.000	11-0-0	1.000
Linfield	7-1-0	.875	7-1-0	.875
UPS	4-4-0	.500	7-4-0	.636
PLU	4-4-0	.500	6-4-0	.600
Pacific	2-4-0	.333	2-4-0	.333
Willamette	1-3-0	.250	7-4-0	.636
George Fox	0-4-0	.000	2-10-0	.167
L&C	0-6-0	.000	1-12-0	.077

(Stats as of 3/13)

#### Batting AVG:

1. Vanessa Bryant - .545
2. Cassie Canales - .538
3. Hadley Schmitt - .429

#### Hits:

1. Hadley Schmitt - 9
2. Beth Kenck - 9
3. Alana Schutt - 9
4. Carly Starke - 9

#### RBIs:

1. Alana Schutt - 11
2. Beth Kenck - 7
3. Vanessa Bryant - 4

#### Last Two Games:

3/11 at Whitworth - Lost 9-3  
3/11 at Whitworth - Lost 9-1

#### Next Two Games:

3/23 vs Luther in Tucson, Ariz.-4 p.m.  
3/11 vs Calvin in Tucson, Ariz.-6 p.m.

### Golf

#### Last Two Events - Men

3/4 vs UPS- Won 316-324  
3/8-9 at UPS Invitational - 1st place

#### Next Two Events - Men

3/19 at Willamette Invitational - TBA  
3/24-25 at Pacific Invitational - TBA

#### Last Two Events - Women

3/4 vs UPS - Lost 343-403  
3/8-9 at UPS Invitational -Fourth place

#### Next Two Events - Women

3/17-18 at Willamette Invitational-TBA  
3/24-25 at Pacific Invitational - TBA

### Track & Field

#### 3/3 Linfield Icebreaker - Top performers

100-m: Lynette Millard - 13.40 (4th)  
1500-m: Katie Choate - 4:45.58 (1st)  
100-m: James Burnett - 11.03 (2nd)  
1500-m: Mark Manske - 4:13.13 (11th)  
Javelin: Clint Ludlow - 165-07 (17th)  
Doug Rickabaugh - 160-03 (25th)

#### Upcoming meets:

3/17 PLU Invitational - 10 a.m.  
3/26-27 at Linfield Decathlon/  
Heptathlon - 9 a.m.  
3/30-31 at Western Oregon Open -  
5 p.m./9 a.m.

# Swing and a miss



Photo by Brett A. Patterson

First-year Hadley Schmitt checks her swing during the Lutes' game against George Fox on March 3. Schmitt finished this weekend 3-9 and also threw six innings and gave up two runs in the Lute's 2-1 loss to Whitworth last Saturday.

## Softball goes 0-4 against undefeated Whitworth

TYLER SCOTT  
Mast sports reporter

It was a tough weekend for the Lutes' softball team, that suffered back-to-back doubleheader sweeps against Whitworth in Spokane, Wash. last weekend.

"I wish we could pinpoint a cause in the letdown, but it really comes down to making plays to win games," coach Rick Noren said. "We didn't make the plays when we had the opportunity to and suffered the losses because of it."

Saturday began with a hard-fought 2-1 loss in which the Pirates came from behind to score the winning run in the sixth-inning.

Sophomore infielder Theresa Tauscher gave the Lutes a 1-0 lead in the third-inning with a home run to center field.

First-year pitcher Hadley Schmitt retired the first 10 batters of the game before giving up the tying run in the fifth on a two-out single to Whitworth's Halley Cey.

The second game Saturday also began with the Lutes taking a 1-0 third-inning lead, but it went downhill from there.

The Pirates tied the game in the bottom of the third and scored four runs in the fourth due to a pair of PLU errors.

One more Whitworth run in the sixth-inning rounded out the scoring for a 6-1 final.

For the day, the Lutes had 11 hits and committed four errors compared to the Pirates' 14 hits and one error.

More struggles came the next day with losses 9-3 and 9-1.

In the first game the Lutes took a three-run lead into the fifth-inning, when the Pirates began a rally that led to nine runs in the next two innings.

The Lutes had a chance to rally in the top of the fifth with the bases loaded and one out, but a 1-2-3 double play ended the threat.

For the game, the Lutes had nine hits and the Pirates had a more timely 11 in the contest.

The second game was plagued by costly mistakes by the Lutes.

Six errors, eight walks and three wild pitches allowed Whitworth to score nine runs on only six hits in a game that was cut short in the sixth-inning by the eight-run rule.

The Lutes don't have games this weekend and return to action March 23 against Luther College and Calvin College in back-to-back games as part of the Tucson Invitational in Arizona.

"As for preparing for our next games, we will sit down with the players and see if there is anything different that we need to do to prepare them, but it comes down to making plays when given the opportunity," Noren said.

PLU now has a 6-4 overall record, 4-4 in the Northwest Conference, placing them in a third-place tie with Puget Sound.

The Missionaries of Whitworth remain undefeated and in first-place after the weekend sweep.

### Weekend stats:

#### Hits:

Carly Starke: 4  
Beth Kenck: 3  
Hadley Schmitt: 3

#### RBIs:

Carly Starke: 2  
Vanessa Bryant: 2  
Theresa Tauscher: 1

### Event of the week:

Join the Lute track and field team at the PLU track field for the PLU Invitational. The meet begins 10 a.m. and is the first time PLU has hosted a meet in nearly two years.



Photo by Chris Hunt

Sophomore infielder Theresa Tauscher fields the ball during a game last year against Whitworth. Whitworth leads the Northwest Conference this season at 8-0-0, going 4-0 against the Lutes this weekend.