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Spring Break 2011 Issue
Inside: Author Luis Urrea
Prof. Shiwei Chen
Handball Champions
Bridging the Devil’s Highway – a lecture by Luis Alberto Urrea

Photo courtesy of luisurrea.com

Luis Alberto Urrea came to campus to discuss his harrowing journey.

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Last Thursday, Lake Forest College hosted speaker and acclaimed novelist Luis Alberto Urrea. Urrea gave the annual Latin American Studies Lecture after a dinner with students from the Border Studies Program. Students read one of his novels, The Devil’s Highway, which was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2005. They filed in to dinner, book in hand, hungry for burritos and autographs.

“It’s a book about a group of Mexicans determined to get to the United States, getting lost in the desert – about their background, what happens to them,” said Eileen Newcomer, ’13.

Urrea has navigated a career from poetry to fiction and across the border to non-fiction over the course of two decades of publication. He is the best-selling author of 13 books. The Devil’s Highway is a non-fiction account of a group of Mexicans lost in the desert which won the Lannan Literary Award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the Pacific Rim Kiriyama Prize. The Hummingbird’s Daughter, an historical novel, won the Kiriyama Prize in fiction and is in process of becoming a film starring Anthony Banderas. Urrea’s first mystery story won him an Edgar’s Award in 2009, and he has won numerous other honors and awards.

“People mistake me for a political writer but I’m really a theological writer. I’m interested in the human soul. Borders exist all over the world, between people, it doesn’t matter – black, white, Mexican, gay, straight, Christian, Muslim, Jewish… I’m in the business of building bridges instead,” said Urrea. In the lecture, he related his own biography to his writing, bridging and blending, showing that personal experience flavors Urrea’s writing.

Urrea was born in Tijuana to an American mother and a Mexican father. “I write about the border because the border ran through our apartment. There’s a barbed fence inside me,” Urrea said, indicating his chest. Urrea’s mother of age, the US citizen born abroad grew gravely ill. Poverty diseases pervaded Tijuana and, to stay alive, young Luis was taken to the United States. This, Urrea said pointedly, is typically the case with immigration: “People don’t just wake up one day and decide to go north to steal welfare benefits,” he remarked.

These sorts of personal anecdotes peppered the lecture. The audience responded with unexpected laughter which dissolved into real mirth when, in faux-accented Spanish, Urrea would imitate relief workers or Border Patrol. Urrea connected to the audience on a deeper level than the shared fragments of Spanish by connecting on a level of common experience, long-suffering laughter, and a cultural heritage of beauty and horror bridged by good-humored endurance and a whole lot of pluck.

“My secret weapon was my poor old mom, the displaced Victorian,” Urrea said with one of his fleeting smiles. Growing up in the ambience of this brown/black/white ghetto, where every imaginable way of warfare between races took place and a kid like Urrea, Mexican blood,

emphasizes the dialect, “Dickens… the language was so beautiful I remember falling asleep to the words in my mind… Kid like me, it was safer to stay inside reading – the roots, I think, of writing. Mark Twain followed Dickens, and then Kipling, and the universe became open to the young reader.

“One day dad went down to Tijuana and searched the whole place for the money to bury him. It’s a perfect paradigm of the border.”

After college, Urrea worked a series of exceedingly odd jobs including: film extra, cartooner for clothing optional magazines, nightshift toilet scrubber, and a clerk at 7-Eleven. He went back to Tijuana to do relief work down the street from his grandmother’s house, and eventually could not take the violence and escaped to a teaching job at Harvard.

“So I get this opportunity and I feel I must tell the stories for people who can’t tell their own. It’s difficult not to overdramatize, to portray the border patrol as human, too.”

Urrea writes in both Spanish and English. He has just finished the sequel to The Hummingbird’s Daughter, called Queen of America, out this December. A prolific writer, he is currently undertaking several projects including research about the doughnut dillies of World War II (of which his mother was one), further forays into mystery fiction, and his beloved poetry, all while teaching at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

The Border Studies class is taught by Associate Dean of the Faculty and Director of the Center for Chicago Programs W. Rand Smith and Assistant Professor of Philosophy Steve Tammello. They are assisted by Betty Jane Schultz Hollender Professor of Economics Carolyn Tuttle, who accompanied the students on their first trip south last year. The students went to Tucson, Arizona for a two-day orientation and proceeded to cross the border and take a four day travel seminar, before spending two weeks in Nogales, Mexico, in the Borderlinks community house. The students will be taking this trip again in May.

The Latin American Studies program, Latinos Unidos, Mojekwu Fund, and several other programs and organizations sponsored this event.

“One day dad went down to Tijuana and searched the whole place for a book in Spanish… found this big Spanish translation of Homer, brought it back to me and presented it like a grand gesture. He said, ‘Luis, study this in the original Spanish!’- Luis Alberto Urrea

"It's a book about a group of Mexicans determined to get to the United States, getting lost in the desert – about their background, what happens to them, - Eileen Newcomer, '13."
News with Attitude: My foray into the land of the professionals

This past Thursday evening, I, along with the Student Center, found myself transformed. The Student Center had ditched its typical look—students lounging on the couches and chairs, reading, eating, or playing pool—for something a bit more sophisticated. At first, I was a bit intimidated by the 20 or so rows of tables and chairs that filled the hall.

But, then I remembered my professional dress and folder full of resumes, printed on special, high-quality resume paper, of course. That’s right, I too had been transformed from a 20-something who rolls out of bed before class into a sophisticated, classy, 20-something who is going places. I mean, before the Speed Networking Training Session I had no idea there was even special resume paper. Also be in attendance. A friend (The Stentor’s own Katie McLain, in the flesh) and I spotted a few tables with food and headed over to check the situation out. I was going through a very sophisticated vegetarian phase the week of Speed Networking, and I felt nothing but pure happiness as I noshed on the delicious (mini) cheese pizza bagels. I didn’t try any of the other snacks, but I heard those were also quite tasty.

I’m getting quite close to filling up the Stentor space that needs a fillin’, so here I wish to make an abrupt yet somehow smooth transition to the actual “speed networking” part of the event. I was very impressed with the diversity of professionals that attended Speed Networking. Upon first looking at the list of those attending, I was worried the room would be filled with finance and business-y people, or members of other fields at which I’d never think to look. However, as soon as I received my schedule, I was very content to see that I’d be talking with a screenwriter and editor-in-chief of a literary arts journal, as well as other people that fellow Humanities majors might find appealing. Even when speaking to those professionals with whom I would probably never work, I was given a variety of great advice. One of the best pieces of advice I received was the tip to take some sort of basic business class, for those of us who are not so inclined. I was advised that everyone will have to sign contracts or understand technical lingo at some point, and it’s a good idea to go into such a situation with a basic understanding of what’s going on. Makes sense to me.

This was my first year participating in Speed Networking, and I can honestly say that I regret not doing so in the past. I felt adequately prepared from the training session, and I learned a lot about the internship/professional world that I probably would have had to learn the hard way had I not participated in the event. I’d like to recommend the event to all readers of The Stentor, but then that’d just be more competition for me.

Students talk with professionals at last years event. This year, 120 students participated in the event.
The Stentor Asks: What are you doing for Spring Break?

Going on the Spring Break Service trip with The Gates Center and Habitat for Humanity! 
Kaya Cuper ’14

Doing some Spring shopping and visiting my siblings’ school 
Jessica Billelo ’14

Hanging around campus and going into Chicago 
NikkiVachter ’13

Going home to Texas 
Diana Rosales ’14

Going to England to surprise my boyfriend 
Kelsey Parks ’11

Campus Watch

Date & Time 2/25/2011 3:36:05 PM  
Location MID CAMPUS PARKING  
Offense ACCIDENT - MOTOR VEHICLE  
Incident PARKED VEHICLE STRUCK BY ANOTHER CAR  
Disposition CLEARED W/NO FURTHER ACTION

Date & Time 2/26/2011 12:26:05 AM  
Location MCCCLURE HALL  
Offense DAMAGE TO PROPERTY - CRIMINAL/VANDALISM  
Incident VENDING GLASS SHATTERED & ITEMS TAKEN  
Disposition CLOSED PENDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Date & Time 2/26/2011 4:55:23 PM  
Location STUDENT CNTR/COMMONS  
Offense THEFT OFFENSE  
Incident STUDENT REPORTED UNATTENDED ITEMS TAKEN  
Disposition CLOSED PENDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Date & Time 2/27/2011 2:08:23 AM  
Location STUDENT CNTR/COMMONS  
Offense INJ/SICK PERSON - EMERG MED TRANSPORT  
Incident INTOXICATED SUBJECT  
Disposition CLEARED W/NOTIFICATION

Date & Time 3/1/2011 7:40:00 AM  
Location DEERPATH HALL  
Offense CONDUCT / RULE VIOLATION  
Incident FIRE ALARM EVACUATION VIOLATION  
Disposition CLEARED W/NOTIFICATION
Ask Isaac and Eileen, with Isaac Acosta and Eileen Newcomer*

I’m about to head to Naples, Florida for my spring break. I’ll be hanging out with my parents for most of the time, and, for those who aren’t well acquainted with the Naples area, it’s a popular destination for older-aged retirees. So, the big question -- do I or do I not need to shave my legs for the vacation?

-- Elderland Bound

Eileen: It’s always good to start a vacation right. It can set the mood of the entire trip. This often includes keeping up with your own personal hygiene. That said I do encourage you to shave your legs even if it is out of pure optimism.

Isaac: The weather should be beautiful. I lived in Miami for 11 years and during spring break, its the best time to go out and get a tan. Enjoy, go out, and have fun. That means, yes shave your legs.

I have, as of late, found myself entertaining a bizarre and unfounded obsession with cats. I do not have any pets cats, but I love looking at pictures of cats online. I especially love looking at photos of cats with misspelled captions (hah!) placed on the photo. They are “LOL Cats.” I believe. Is this weird? Is this normal? Just a phase? Totally socially acceptable? Please advise.

-- Crazy Young LOL Cat Lady

Eileen: As of late there has been a fad to look at cats online. I know this to be true. I guess the question that needs to be asked is how much is this affecting your life? Do you find yourself looking at them during all your spare time? Do you find yourself late at night scrolling through pictures of them on tumblr? Then you may have a problem. The problem most likely started way back when you began to seek out these pictures of cats. I feel like this is a problem and not socially acceptable. However there are those who will tell you that it is.

Eileen: Being the type of person who is totally helpless at attempting to mimic accents, this does get annoying. It can be very entertaining for a bit but for it to go on and on is a bit much. Also remember to keep it in good taste. I hope you are not making fun of people with your accents.

Isaac: Who cares, do what you love. Speaking other languages is pretty cool, especially if you get better at it. I have other languages by speaking in funny accents is insulting, so just watch what you say to certain people, you never know which person you’re going to offend.

Eileen: Being the type of person who is totally helpless at trying to mimic accents, this does get annoying. It can be very entertaining for a bit but for it to go on and on is a bit much. Also remember to keep it in good taste. I hope you are not making fun of people with your accents.

Spring break is rapidly approaching and while all my friends head off to exotic destinations, I will head off to my home to hang out with my family. How should I entertain myself, other than looking at mobile uploads from my friends’ awesome vacations on Facebook? Any good reads, movies -- anything?!

-- Entertain me, minions

What’s the deal with the London mascots for the 2012 Olympics? I mean, really! Have you seen these one-eyed bar-shaped things that kind of look like outdated cell phones? Are they supposed to be child-friendly? Or is London trying to strike fear into the hearts of Olympian athletes everywhere with these fluffy techno-monsters?

-- Baffled about the Brits

Eileen: Spring break will go faster than you think no matter where you go. I myself will just be heading home, but am wondering when I will have any free time. I have recently been on a stint with the classics. Some may find it comical for me to consider John Wayne movies classics, but I picked up at 25 movie set for $5 and I am really looking forward to having yet another John Wayne movie marathon. You could also pick up a new TV show, I did that last break and was addicted to the show Weeds the entire time. Since you have free time just take the time to look and see what’s out there, I’m sure you’ll be able to find something you like.

Isaac: Go to the beach, relax, get to know yourself better. Spend time with the family, you won’t see them again till the summer perhaps. Work, get paid, workout, get lean. Movies... try Rango and or Battle: Los Angeles. Books? In that case, start working on homework due after break...

Have a pressing question you want to ask Isaac and Eileen? They would love to hear from you! Send them an e-mail at acostic@lakeforest.edu and newcoet@lakeforest.edu.

* Madame Helvetica Hathrooth, Isaac Acosta, and Eileen Newcomer wish to gently remind their readers that her horoscopes and their advisations are written merely for entertainment purposes, and no decisions should be made based upon them.
ANDREW V AN HERIK

AN accidental f-bomb

Oscar Review:

ANDREW: 6:47 – The Hollywood illuminati mince and mingle on the red carpet. My friends and I get in on the fun of judging their elaborate attire. Halle Berry looks stunning as always. Mila Kunis looks alternative. Natalie Portman is looking classy in a vintage style dress that does not emphasize her pregnancy but also does not hide it. I am terrible at this, but, “when in Rome,” I suppose.

ANDREW: 7:15 – As the ABC anchor interviews James Franco, I can’t quite tell if he’s distracted, nervous, dry witted, or a little stoned. He is taking a break from getting his doctorate to do this, so some distraction makes sense. Still, his manner of speaking and how his eyes aren’t focusing makes me think (think, mind you…I, of course, have no such personal experience) that he may have engaged in some early celebration herbal remedies.


KATIE: 7:35 - From the beginning, I can tell that Anne Hathaway is going to be the star host. Her “Dance of the Brown Duck” far outweighs Franco’s pothead presence. (Yes, I too am convinced that Franco had a nice long toke before the show.)

ANDREW: 8:20 – The King’s Speech writer David Steiner beat out Christopher Nolan, which saddens me, but he spoke eloquently about being the oldest recipient and being thankful he wasn’t locked up in the Tower of London. So, I’ll accept this. Must see that film as well.

KATIE: 8:32 – Geoffrey Rush is bald!! Where did all of his pirate hair go??

ANDREW: 8:32 – Christian Bale wins for “Best Supporting Actor” in The Fighter, and pokes fun at himself and at Leo’s f-bomb, saying, “I’ve done enough of that already.” An articulate speech, but I am more distracted by the furry red squirrel that appears to be growing on his face.

Again, my more knowledgeable friends say that Bale was the most deserving nominee for this award, but seeing Jeremy Renner nominated for The Town makes me wish that movie had been given more of an acknowledgment. No “Best Director” for Ben Affleck? And why has The Town been cast aside for “Best Motion Picture” when Winter’s Bone is taking up valuable nominee space? The Town was infinitely more interesting.

KATIE: 9:03 – I’m boggying down to the song “We Belong Together” from Toy Story 3. Not quite as classic as “You’ve Got a Friend in Me,” but still simple and still classically Pixar.

ANDREW: 9:27 – As Oprah comes up to talk about how awesome movies are, yada yada, the camera falls on the Coen brothers. Ethan looks perplexedly down at the floor. Here is how I imagine it:


Ethan: Oh s**t, my socks don’t match at all!

Joel: She can OWN me any day…

KATIE: 9:35 – The clips from 127 Hours make me cringe like none other. I don’t think I can watch this movie.

KATIE: 9:44 – How the hell is Gwyneth Paltrow country music’s next biggest star? She’s flatter than a pancake being run over by a bulldozer. Thank God this is the Oscars and not the Grammys. Oh, wait….

ANDREW: 9:44 – Apparently, Gwyneth Paltrow can’t sing white country music either. Who keeps telling her she has talent? Is it you? If it’s you, please stop.

KATIE: 9:46 – Yay! Randy Newman won for his “Best Original Song” in Toy Story 3!

KATIE: 10:16 – Natalie Portman wins “Best Actress,” which a) makes me want to see Black Swan even more than I already do and b) makes me extremely jealous that I am not as attractive as she is. Some people have all the luck.

ANDREW: 10:25 – Colin Firth wins “Best Actor” and threatens to throw down with the audience: “I have to warn you that I am experiencing stirrings in the upper abdominal area that are threatening to turn into dance moves.”

KATIE: 10:36 – My psychic premonitions were right! The King’s Speech wins “Best Picture.” Andrew thought that The Social Network was going to/should have won the award. I, of course, cannot say, as I have not seen The Social Network either, but from what little I know of the two movies, my personal preferences are leaning towards Colin Firth and Co.

ANDREW: 10:36 – The King’s Speech takes it. I’d have preferred The Social Network. I will see Firth’s film though, in hopes that it rises about the genre of historical drama, which is so well represented in the annals of filmmaking.

KATIE: 10:41 – Adorable and talented children sing “Somewhere Over the Rainbow;” our hearts melt. This group also has a stellar rendition of “Viva la Vida” on YouTube.

KATIE: 10:41 – But not even the endearing sound of Staten Island’s PS22 elementary school choir can distract me from the disaster that is Anne Hathaway’s dress. Too tight, too glittery, too much turleneck.

ANDREW: 10:42 – We out!

KATIE: 10:42 – What are the odds that we’ll see The King’s Speech 2: Electric Boogaloo at the Oscars next year? *All times CST.
Professorial Profile:
A conversation with Shiwei Chen

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Where were you born?
In North China, specifically Shandong. The area is famous for being the hometown of Confucius.

Where did you receive your education?
1982- BA in History, at Yunnan University
1985- MA in Modern Chinese History at History at Harvard University
1998-PhD in East Asian Languages at Harvard University

What brought you to Harvard?
I visited Harvard as a research fellow. Then spent about a year in Princeton and conducted research there. I returned to Harvard in 1992 to engage in a PhD program. The program took a total of seven years and I earned my PhD in East Asian Languages.

When did you come to Lake Forest College?
I started teaching at Lake Forest in 1998.

What were you hired to do?
Well, when I was hired, there was a vulnerable Asian studies program. There were only a few students majoring in it and there was no language offered. I was strategically hired to regenerate the Asian Studies department, but also to be a history professor. I was immediately appointed to co-chair the Asian Studies department.

What happened next?
This was a very long journey because it is not easy to start a program with such few resources. There were two available professors for Asian Studies, one for History and one for Philosophy. I began to promote Asian Studies by offering courses in Asian History. After the program was becoming more popular, I applied for a grant outside of Lake Forest College.

Did you receive these grants?
Yes. In 2001 I received the first grant from Asia Network. This grant enabled me to take five students to conduct research for three weeks in China.

Did the trip go as planned?
Yes, it was wonderful. In the following year, the students who went on the trip made a presentation on the discoveries they brought back from China. Then the following year something big happened. I applied for an $825,000 grant from the same foundation as before.

Did you receive the grant?
Yes, and it increased interest in the Asian Studies program. We were able to do things like hiring a director and fund an Asian Center. The grant also enabled me to organize a two-week faculty trip to China. I brought 14 faculty members, mostly department chairs, and the Dean of Faculty came as well.

How has the Asian Studies program grown these past years?
We now have seven faculty members. The college needs to resume their search for a full time Chinese language teacher.

What are the search for another faculty member?
Yes, the grant enabled me to take students to China annually for four years. Meanwhile, I began to take the initiative to set up a study abroad program to Peking University.

How did the students feel about the trip?
They stopped the search due to the financial crisis. However, now that the school is more back on track, they need to resume the search for another Chinese language teacher.

How has the AS program grown these past years?
We have established ourselves as a national college, but it is time to go beyond that. We need to think big.

Number Four ranks number one with fans

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A new year always brings in new movies and new adaptations. This year is no different. Such a movie is I Am Number Four, an adaptation of a proposed six-novel series written by Pittacus Lore.

I Am Number Four tells the story of a group of nine teenagers from the planet Lorien who are stranded and scattered on Earth. This is due to the Mogadoriens who are chasing them down one-by-one. What makes these teenagers so unique is the fact that they have Legacies, or powers, that don’t awake until a certain point in their lives. This sounds like an absurd premise turns out to be a satisfying movie in the midst of a movie drought, due to the blockbusters being saved for summer.

The movie starts off with the death of Number 3, a young boy in a jungle far away from Number 4. From the onset of the movie, there is a sense of menace in the form of the Mogadoriens and the movie takes off from there. Number 4 takes on the name John Smith (Alex Pettyfer) and provides a good look into the angst that can be associated to when one has to move constantly due to the threat of being discovered.

With his Guardian, Henri (Timothy Olyphant), he has to juggle the discovery of his powers and balance his newfound love, Sara, who is played by Dianna Agron of Glee.

The movie starts off a bit slow but picks up very quickly after the threat really starts to hit home. This is where it becomes evident that this is a Michael Bay production. The nice effects and sense of grandeur is evident once the action picks up.

Overall, the film does a great job of mixing character development with enough action scenes peppered throughout to keep the audience interested. With the second book in the series, The Power of Six, set to release this August, the momentum is definitely starting to pick up.

Depending on how the current movie fares at the box office, the movies will either continue or stop. I Am Number Four is a great movie that gives the audience that blockbuster feeling along with the sense that this is also a movie that stops to breathe at times. Moviegoers will not be disappointed.

Rating: 8/10

Photo courtesy of daemons-movies.com
Thoughts after the spring 2011 Board of
Trustees Student Affairs Committee meeting

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This past weekend, the LFC Board of Trustees had their semi-annual full meeting and the committee meetings required with it. While the meeting minutes aren’t public, they’re either where major decisions are made that can affect our lives immediately, or the give the feeling that the
ing, and enlightening, had nothing to do with current student affairs.

David gave a great presentation and is clearly a very smart guy, but I’m fairly sure that his presentation would have been much more pertinent at the general meeting or at an enrollment committee meeting. His presentation did, however, open up an office that has seemed quite opaque to me in my time here. The Office of Admissions does have some transparency to it, and I hope to report on that in The Stentor soon after Spring Break.

Another question I often ask myself was made obvious again at this meeting, and that is why we don’t use our own faculty more to their strengths. For example, putting people like Professors Guglielmi and Kelley to work on the student satisfaction survey administered and analyzed by the Office of Student Affairs could make the survey more useful, and useful more quickly.

I have nothing against the OSA, who are doing their best with the time and resources they have, but if they can analyze data with the best in the game. The point is, they are professionals at these very things. I don’t know if this idea has been proposed before and is completely unrealistic, or if it has never been proposed and is totally radical. Maybe someone will tell me if I post and publish this article.

In any case, I hope when Dr. Verena Bonitz joins our psychology faculty next year, her expertise on student evaluation processes of professors will be utilized in order to improve our system that currently uses ratings of “1” as best and “5” as worst.

Essentially, the current student satisfaction survey is attempting to figure out why people who stay or leave here do so, and operationalize the definition for the student who has the strongest potential to succeed at LFC.

With the conversation going in this direction, I was slapped in the face with what I see as another prominent issue for us: communication. I did a semester-long project last fall in a Community Psychology class based on our flow of information around campus and discovered some pretty remarkable things about it that I plan to discuss at a presentation at this year’s Student Symposium.

The basic issue of people who come here and don’t feel like they (to quote the survey) “fit and flourish” is a lack of communication. So many of our places for improvement as a student body come back to our own bad perceptions of ourselves that are created and maintained through bad communication.

After these two discussions in the BoT meeting, we naturally drifted to booze. It seems to me that this meeting always goes to the question of the drinking culture on campus. Maybe that’s because it (the culture) has changed so much since I’ve been here, but it felt repetitive this time.

Then, we were asked the typical end-of-the-meeting question: “So, for the students here, what are the three big topics on campus right now?” I wonder if we could boil it down to only three big topics even if we surveyed everyone on campus. Everyone’s concerns are so different, I somehow doubt it.

Board members just want to be kept abreast (with as positive a skew as possible) of what the hell’s actually going on here.

For the last three years, I’ve been privileged enough to attend the Student Affairs Committee meeting. I’ve been energized and disappointed by the meetings in the past, depending on the content of that year’s agenda.

Last semester, we talked about upcoming changes in ResLife with Pete Rivera-Gonzalez and I felt invigorated and excited for the future of the college. This semester, we heard a report from David Bennett in Admissions that while important, interest-

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As a second semester junior, I often reminisce about my first two years at Lake Forest College and dream about the legacy that I will leave behind when I graduate. As my time winds down, a new group of leaders will follow behind me as each freshmen class gets bigger and bigger with the college’s enrollment growth.

For this new group of incoming dreamers I have some sound advice. Going to Lake Forest College has step back. Know that at a liberal arts college, you are being trained every day to look at the world through, not just one lens, but a variety of different lenses. Take a deep breath and apply new methods to your goals until you finally find the right one. There are resources at Lake Forest College that can--and will--help you. Those resources often take the form of the Gates Center for Student Development, Student Government, the Business Office, or even the City of Lake Forest.

If there’s a will, there’s a way. And as a Junior, I can say that anything you want to

Dream big! As freshmen, your ambitions are achievable here at Lake Forest!

"I was slapped in the face with what I see as another prominent issue for us: communication... So many of our places for improvement as a student body come back to our own bad perceptions of ourselves that are created and maintained through bad communication."
Wisconsin’s protests highlight the dichotomy existing between public and private workers


colleges, and state troopers.

On February 11th, Scott WNYC, and Businessweek).

Wisconsin’s budget get lost in the shuffle.

important is happening; the public unions the ability to bargain as a collective bargaining right was established nationally in 1935, in the National Labor Relations Act. Collective bargaining is also, essentially, a human right. According to the U.N. charter on human rights, section 23, each country must establish worker unions, giving them rights such as collective bargaining.

The debate, as it tends to, has become misdirected.

The debate, as it tends to, has become misdirected. A false dichotomy has arisen between the public worker and the private worker, between teachers and entrepreneurs, between groups that are traditionally democratic, and groups that are traditionally republican.

The true battle here is Marxist in kind—the corporate, business-oriented affluent minority, against the working, person-oriented middle and lower class majority—the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Curb-union rights, just like affording corporations personhood, and the ability to contribute to political campaigns in the Citizens United case, is a massive win for the rich and powerful. The hope is that if unions are limited in Wisconsin, a general fervor will limit them federally, allowing workers’ rights to return to their industrial low and employer profits to reach record highs.

It is dispicable that Wall Street and big businesses have so easily turned working Americans against each other, when the real enemy is so clear and so harmful. The debt in Wisconsin and the national debt did not arise because public unions made too much money or too many demands. They arose because politicians, Wall Street, and big businesses were unchallenged in their pillaging of the American economy for their own gains under President George W. Bush.

This is not a slippery slope argument. Limitation of collective bargaining will not improve any lives, but those who want to abuse the worker. Like President Barack Obama said, it is an “attack” on unions. The buck of responsibility has been placed erroneously on social services and unions for our financial woes. This is a miscaried false claim.

Think of this bill as one that looked to reinstate segregation. Imagine that the votes would absolutely pass the bill. Suddenly, senators refusing to vote to stop the bill seems rational and justified. Workers’ rights look to equalize the playing field of business, to make working as much about the people doing the job, as the profit being made. They are as much civil rights as they are federal or state ones.

In this case, I believe the Wisconsin Fourteen may be justified in their refusal to vote. The right to collective bargaining is perhaps vital enough that stopping the vote is a just motion by the Democrats. In the face of heinous change, going outside the system makes sense.

Walker is not Muammar Qaddafi. Protesters are not being bombed. We are not in a state of revolution. But, this situation is important and the debate has been high-jacked. I desperately hope there will be consensus here, that Walker and co. will acknowledge that limiting this right is not only negative for unions, it is an ineffectual economic measure. We shall see.

As the protests in Wisconsin enter their third week, I’m not sure most of us students, let alone most Americans, really know what the hell is going on. As often happens, something important is happening; the media reports on how important it is; and details like the history of collective bargaining and whether doing this would actually balance Wisconsin’s budget get lost in the shuffle.

The facts are these (Thank you Wikipedia, WNYC, and Businessweek). On February 11th, Scott Walker, current governor of Wisconsin, introduced a budget repair bill to the State Senate. Controversial measures within the bill include requiring public employees to pay 5.8 percent of their salaries to cover the cost of pensions and 12.6 percent to cover healthcare, payments that no public employee had to make before this bill.

The bill also creates a limitation on collective bargaining which would deny public unions the ability to negotiate anything with their employers, besides wages. Wages from collective bargaining would also be limited to not exceed the Consumer Price Index, which, while not minimum wage, effectively eliminates the entire purpose of bargaining—coming to a free consensus of the worth of work or service. It limits union power at the negotiating table.

Those proposals led to the protests that began on the 14th and continue through today. Exempt from the changes are public safety employees like firemen, policemen, and state troopers. The largest hit are teachers, who not only lose union bargaining rights, but also face major budget cuts. Hence, thousands of public school teachers walked out of their schools and began a protest. The school system shut down for four days. Since Walker and other Republican legislators were calling for teachers to be fired for skipping work, doctors arrived on the scene to help, giving out free signed doctors notes diagnosing protesters with “supreme stress.”

Not wanting the unions to overpower the city, Tea Party organizers bussed conservative protesters into Madison. As days wore on, protesters laid out deals to concede to pay for pensions and healthcare as long as collective bargaining was left unchanged. Walker remained stalwart, as he still does today.

Meanwhile, protests continue because the fourteen democratic senators from Wisconsin necessary to have enough people to vote on the bill, have fled the state. Like an interstate filibuster, senators who know they will lose a vote have chosen to stop that vote altogether in hopes that public opinion can change the bill. The justification of this act relies on two things: whether what is lost with this bill is vital, and whether this action sets a poor precedent.

Collective bargaining is not an oblique, complicat ed economic concept. It is merely the right of a union to bargain as a collective unit with their employer, creating a united front that gives employees the same clout as their bosses. The

President’s Corner

The positive impact student growth can have at LFC

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As we approach Spring Break (we’re ALMOST there!), I have been thinking about the impact of growth on our campus. Actually, it’s something that I think about quite a bit. From what I can tell, it seems as though there are some valid concerns about the growth process and the ways in which it is impacting our campus.

The enrollment growth process will impact each and every student on campus. Instead of focusing on the negative impacts (which are being addressed), I thought that I should highlight some of the benefits of growth. First, having more students at the College allows us to do more. With more students on campus, the amount of funding for programming increases.

What does that mean? Well, it could mean a larger, better known artist for the annual Spring Concert. Or, it could mean a greater variety of programming on campus. The reality is that enrollment growth will allow student organizations to grow and flourish. Secondly, and much harder to grasp, the value of your education will increase significantly if the College is thriving. This is important to remember as you think about graduate school, the job market, and life after college in general.

Believe me, I understand that there are negative implications to change and growth. We feel strapped for space across campus, and our resources seem to be dwindling. However, rest assured that positive changes are being made, and we are not always going to seem so cramped. Every student has the right to raise concerns about the process, and to ask questions. However, when thinking about the growth of the College, I challenge you to think about all of the positive impacts—and not just focus on the negative.

Following the break, President Schutt, Dean Plot, and Pete Rivera-Gonzalez, Director of Residence Life, will be coming together to hold a forum based on the rumors circulating around campus about enrollment growth. You will have the opportunity to ask them any questions that are on your mind, and they have promised to provide honest answers and feedback. This will be a great opportunity to express your concerns directly to the administration, and to ask any and all questions that you have about the enrollment growth process and impact.

Our last Student Senate meeting before the break is this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in Meyer Auditorium. This is a great place to express your concerns! I will also be having office hours on Friday afternoon from 2:00 until 4:00 in the Student Government Office. Stop by and chat!

As for today, I am just looking forward to taking a BREAK. Have a wonderful Spring Break, wherever you may be going!
Aries (March 21 - April 19): I know for a fact that you chose to view the Honey Badger video last week, Aries, and I know that you’re happy you did. Ride that merry, honey badger-fueled cheer all the way to your spring break destination, wherever that may be. I predict minimal travel interruptions and a new favorite food, to be discovered by Wednesday.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20): How did that carriage ride go last week, Taurus? I hope it went better than mine. That’s right, Madame Hatbroth was asked out on a romantic excursion of her own. It did not go so well, however, as I fell into a giant mound of dirty snow upon my exiting the carriage. But, I go on about myself far too much. You’ll have a fine spring break, yadda yadda yadda.

Gemini (May 21- June 20): The phrase “yadda, yadda, yadda” has brought the show Seinfeld to mind. I recommend that you go out and watch a few episodes – it’ll give you a, what they call, “new lease on life.” If you don’t like the first episode you watch, watch another. Repeat this process until you want to dedicate the rest of your life to meeting Larry David.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22): Venus has moved out of the house of Uranus, and your burn has subsided, I believe. Dr. Doom wishes me to remind you, however, that 56% of injuries are treated in an ill-fitting manner, which means that yours has a 3rd moon likely hood of returning within the next four months. But push that little tidbit aside, fair Cancer! You’re in for a rousing old time this weekend!

Leo (July 23- August 22): It’s been a rocky week, eh Leos? Fear not, for you’re near the end of the ride. On the upside, you’re going to get a minimum B+ on all of your midterms. On the down side, you’re going to get into another row with one of your best mates. Another upside? I’ve been incorporating some common British vocabulary into my speech, and now you will too! See “Ask Isaac and Eileen” for tips on accent use.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22): Virgo, I feel that I always have great difficulty predicting your future. This doesn’t arise from my lack of creativity –er, foresight—but instead from your cloudy, dense head. Work on opening yourself up a bit – you may even meet a new study companion, who will help bring you As on all your finals!

Libra (September 23 – October 22): Madam Hatbroth hopes you saw her gallivanting about at the Oscars. Alas, I kid. If you did not watch the Oscars, I recommend that you look up all the winners (including the obscure categories). Believe me, this will come in handy. Hint, hint: These bits ‘o’ information may help you win some extra cash money in an impromptu, high-stakes trivia game.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21): The 10th star of Leonardo has made its way into your 3rd moon’s house, meaning that your first attempt at getting to your spring break destination will be filled with some difficulty. This may be a delay, a cancellation, or a ravenous animal that has placed itself in your path. Best of luck.

Pisces (February 19-March 20): Oh my, Pisces. Now that I made over the horoscopes that were written last week, I find myself in quite a melancholy mood. Rest assured, I do not intend to take this mood out on you. Perhaps you should spend this spring break in a pool or ocean, hopefully running into some fish, or other aquatic animals. You should feel right at home!


Aquarius (January 20 – February 18): Carnies, Aquarius. Carnies. For some reason, that’s all I see when I look into the crystal ball for you this week. I suggest you be on your guard, like the German Shepherd of circus life, or something.

Sagittarius (November 22- December 21): Sagittarius, I see that you have not been following my advice. I will keep this similar, short, and to the point: Cut it out, before the lawnmower cuts you.

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Publishing since 1887, Lake Forest College’s The Stentor is an award-winning, weekly newspaper that reaches over 1,400 Lake Foresters, including students, faculty, alumni, friends, and neighbors of the College.

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Thank you!

*Madame Helvetica Hatbroth, Isaac Acosta, and Eileen Newcomer wish to gently remind their readers that her horoscopes and their advisements are written merely for entertainment purposes, and no decisions should be made based upon them.*
**Sports**

**INTRAMURAL SPORTS**

**Ultimate Frisbee encourages team bonding in mini-tournament**

**SAMMIE CLIFFORD**
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The Lake Forest College Ultimate Frisbee team hosted its first mini-tournament of the calendar year this last Saturday. The 2nd Semi-Annual Sir Bartemus Classic was a great success. Ultimate Frisbee sends Men’s and Women’s teams of Lake Forest students to off campus tournaments approximately twice a semester, but in the winter months, as players get stir crazy and hungry for competition, the team stages an indoor mini-tournament. This tournament began at 9:30 Saturday morning with five teams in attendance, ready to participate in a heated round robin tournament on the turf and tartan courts in the Sports Center.

The five teams consisted of: “The Nakeds”, “The Turdburglers”, “The Dirty Birds”, “The Bunsen Burners”, and “Marley and Me.” Team Bunsen Burners proved to be the difference. The goal of the mini-tournaments within the Ultimate Frisbee teams is to enhance camaraderie within the team, mimic the tournament competition style in order to perfect performance, and have a fun bonding experience. Through mini-tournaments such as the Sir Bartemus Classic, team practices, and away tournaments, the Lake Forest College Ultimate Frisbee team is interested in promoting a safe place for individuals to experience athletic and competitive environment and foster team spirit. Unlike varsity sports, there is no coach of the Ultimate Frisbee team, simply captains. Captains George Wines, Noa Harnik and Jonas Cyvas hope to bring passion and intensity as well as a good attitude to a unique sport on campus.

The Chicago Invite Ultimate Frisbee Tournament is up next for the team. Sending both Men’s and Women’s teams for the second time in the team’s history is a giant step forward. The Chicago Invite tournament will be held in Naperville, Illinois. 64 Men’s teams and 32 Women’s teams from all over the United States will be in attendance. The tournament will take place outdoors on March 26 and 27th. Last year the Men’s team went undefeated playing in twenty mile per hour winds, fierce snow and frigid temperatures. The Team will conclude the year at an away tournament at Eastern Illinois University on April 9th and 10th. Once again the team will be sending both Men’s and Women’s teams. The captains are equally concerned with developing and nurturing both facets of the club team.

If any student is looking for a way to make friends, be active, and have off-campus experiences, they should look into joining the team. Mixed practices are held on Mondays from 7:30-9:00pm on the turf in the Sports Center, and on Wednesdays from 9:00-10:30pm. If any women are interested in playing there is no experience needed, all one needs do is come to practices on Tuesdays from 8:30-9:00pm on the turf in the Sports Center.

**Intramural Hockey Update from coach T.R. Bell**

**T.R. BELL**
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Most Championship clashes don’t live up to all of the pre-game hype, but that was not the case last night at the Alumni Memorial Ice Rink. Two historic franchises; The P. North Stars and The Dirty Birds met for the right to hoist the 2011 IM Hockey Championship Trophy in front of a rabid crowd of over 50.

Early on, it was the stellar play of North Star goalie Ben Lever that proved to be the difference. Lever turned away numerous scoring chances while team captain Nick D’Agostino took care of the offense with a goal and an assist in the first stanza.

The North Stars jumped out to a 3-0 lead before the Dirty Birds finally broke through. The teams traded a pair of goals as the score reached 4-2, Stars leading, when Sean MacLeod broke down the right hand side and netted a short hander to give the Birds a three goal cushion once again.

Many teams would have folded up shop and called it a night but not the Dirty Birds. With just over ten minutes to play the Birds began to click as Captain Ari Lifschutz hooked up with Mike Rubin for his second tally of the night. Trailing by two the Birds pulled their goalie and twice found the back of the North Stars net.

So with 31.7 seconds left it was North Stars 5, Dirty Birds 4. The last half a minute saw not a fan sitting down, and constant pressure by the Birds in the Stars end, but as the horn sounded it was the North Stars who would once again raise the Cup over their heads.

**Photo courtesy of T.R. Bell**

Winners of the Intramural Hockey 2011 Championship, the North Stars, pose exuberantly with the charming trophy.

**INTRAMURAL VOLLEYBALL BRACKET**

**THE CHICAGO INVITE TOURNAMENT**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 3RD**

4:30- TEAM GOLOUCH-KEIE VS. TEAM BRESEMAN
5:15- TEAM UNGVARSKY VS. TEAM FS UNITED
6:00- THE WINNER OF GAME 1 VS. THE WINNER OF GAME 2
6:45- THE WINNER OF GAME 3 VS. TEAM CEPEDA
Handball triumphs in all ways for third year in a row

NICK CANTOR
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It never gets old. The Men’s and Women’s Handball teams set out for Arizona State University last Wednesday and returned to campus Sunday night after a four day long tournament once again as National Champions, trophy and all in hand. The Foresters claimed titles in the men’s, women’s, and combined team standings for the third year in a row.

About a month prior to the USHA Collegiate National Championships, the Foresters returned home from the Indianapolis Tournament in Circle City, Indiana to finish up play. They were able to do so given the fact that all of the finals matches were comprised of Lake Forest team members. That level of dominance was on display once again as National Champions. Lake Forest Handball team, or any one another to become better players and better competitors.

In addition, former player and 2010 graduate Suhn Lee re-emerged on the scene at times to help players work on both the physical and mental aspects of the game. In preparation for their tournament on February 23rd, Lee served as a mentor for players, adding a player’s perspective to the advice Coach Dau was already instilling in his players.

What will come of next year’s Handball team? Only time will tell. Until then they are once again defending National Champions. What made this season particularly memorable and satisfying is the competitiveness of the Handball team is a major reason why they are so successful. They are constantly pushing one another to become better players and better competitors.

It may be easy to look at the Handball team, or any team that has established itself as a dynasty, as having an advantage over everyone else when it comes to winning, for reasons ranging from talent to luck. The fact is, however, that this year’s squad had to work just as hard if not harder than most teams from years past. With several first year players on the team including Fadden on the Men’s side and Douglass on the Men’s side, this year’s team’s range of experience was greater than it has been in years past, providing more work for both the playing and coaching fronts. Coach Mike Dau held team workouts twice a week at 6am, and practices were raised to five times a week when tournaments were around the corner on the weekends in order to make sure players were in peak physical condition for match play.

Acosta sites the rigorousness of practices and workouts as one of the main forces that brought the team together and allowed them to bond with one another in a positive manner. “Despite our training and practices as a team, we all developed a bond with one another,” Acosta said, adding that it was a major reason for their success last weekend. Acosta noted that it was not just practices that were difficult, but matches as well, with Lake Forest serving as the unofficial “team to beat,” in the eyes of other teams throughout the country.

“Let it be known that this National Collegiate Championship was not an easy victory,” Acosta said. “The competition was immensely pressure-filled, coming from all around the nation and world. Some players wanted to beat LFC players individually, others mannered yet obvious trash talking, both as a means of motivating their teammates and trying to get inside the heads of their opponents. While to an outsider the relationship on the court may have seemed hostile, the reality is the competitiveness of the Handball team is a major reason why they are so successful. They are constantly pushing one another to become better players and better competitors.

In addition, former player and 2010 graduate Suhn Lee re-emerged on the scene at times to help players work on both the physical and mental aspects of the game. In preparation for their tournament on February 23rd, Lee served as a mentor for players, adding a player’s perspective to the advice Coach Dau was already instilling in his players.

What will come of next year’s Handball team? Only time will tell. Until then they are once again defending National Champions. What made this season particularly memorable and satisfying for the team was the fact that they got off to a slow start, but were able to fight through it and use it to their advantage when it mattered most. If this year’s Handball team can overcome adversity to win a Title, it is hard to imagine how next year’s or other ones in the future will not be able to do the same.