

THE MAST

ON DISPLAY
SENIORS PRESENT
THEIR ART
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DECEMBER 1, 2006

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

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Baby, it's cold outside



Derek Tilton, sophomore, plays in the thin blanket of snow that covered the campus on Monday. Many classes were delayed until 10 a.m., while others were completely cancelled all together due to the icy roads and other weather related conditions.

Cold weather causes cancelations; unusual snow covered campus

BRYANNA PLOG
Mast news reporter

PLU students woke up Tuesday morning to a blanket, however thin, of snow and the message that their 8 a.m. classes were canceled. The cancellations came courtesy of a storm that brought over a foot of snow to Bellingham before moving south through Seattle Monday afternoon.

The storm provided a rare glimpse of PLU in a wintry scene of snow and ice. Snow, especially this early in the year when it is still technically fall, is rare.

Temperatures stayed chilly, with a high of 32 degrees on Wednesday, and students bundled up in their warmest winter clothing.

The average temperature during this time of the year is usually closer to 50 degrees, so students found the low of 21 degrees a bit chilly.

Because of the icy conditions, classes did not start until 9:55 Tuesday morning. This was exciting for those with 8 a.m. classes, but disappointing for those who wanted school canceled to sleep in, put off tests and papers, and play in the snow.

The snow was also a problem for those still coming home from Thanksgiving break.

Sophomore Margaret Ellsworth was returning home from Boise Monday night.

"The snowstorm was jamming up traffic around the airport. I left the airport around 11 p.m. and got back to PLU at around 6 a.m.," she said.

The traffic was worsened by the Seahawks game getting out. Ellsworth missed the snowfall here on campus.

"I was sitting on the bus and was thinking of my friends having snowball fights without me," she said.

Students, especially those who are from areas where snow is a novelty, marveled at the look of the buildings and trees sprinkled with the white powder.

Those from places where snow is commonplace also enjoyed it, saying it reminded them of home.

The snow this week provided a special opportunity both for snowball fights and sitting inside with a warm cup of hot chocolate.

Renovations relocate dining services

University Commons receives costly facelift over the spring and summer

ERIC THOMPSON
Mast news reporter

As part of the planned renovation of the University Center, the entire UC building, including the cafeteria, will be shut down after spring break.

The closure will allow for construction, originally scheduled to take place over the summer, to begin early.

Construction manager John Kaniss said it would have been ideal to delay construction until school was out, but PLU is realistic enough to realize a 90-day window is not enough time to renovate a 97,000-square-foot building.

"It's just a matter of there are only so many hours in a day," Kaniss said. "And you can only stick so much sand in a five-

pound bag."







Offices and organizations housed in the UC will be moved to temporary locations throughout campus.

The Columbia Center will function as the main cafeteria. However, it is not large enough to accommodate all the students, so a variety of alternatives are currently being considered to augment the meals that can be provided there.

"We're trying to think of all sorts of creative ways to give people alternate options," said Erin McGinnis, director of Dining Services. "And have people see it as a fun transition instead of 'oh,

Please see Renovation
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The \$10 Million Project

-  Seating in dining area will increase from 290 capacity to 360
-  A conference room will contain cookbooks and nutrition information
-  Dining hall will be a combination of 'all you can eat' and point based system
-  Salad bar will offer hot and cold options
-  UC will deliver food to a certain hall every week
-  Meal vouchers will be provided for restaurants on Garfield Street

Graphic by Chris Hunt

STATE, NATION, WORLD BRIEFINGS

Local to Global news



AP Photo: Gary Kissel

Braiden Torrey, 3, sneaks up on one of his neighbors during a snowball fight in Enumclaw, Wash., Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2006.

Bush nixes suggestions Iraq in Civil War

Under intense pressure to change course, President Bush on Tuesday rejected suggestions that Iraq has fallen into civil war and vowed not to pull U.S. troops out "until the mission is complete." At the opening of a NATO summit, Bush also urged allies to increase their forces in Afghanistan to confront a strengthening Taliban insurgency.

Spokane baseball team works with Indian tribe

The Spokane Indians on Wednesday unveiled a new logo developed in conjunction with the minor league baseball team's namesake Spokane tribe of Indians.

In a rare instance of a sports team working with a local Indian tribe on the sensitive issues of racial stereotypes in nicknames, mascots or logos, the tribe gave its blessings to the design.

The logo, a red "S" over a baseball inside a circle containing two eagle feathers, replaces the existing logo that contains the words "Indians" and "Spokane" over a baseball.

U.S.-Iraq summit abruptly canceled

President Bush's high-profile meeting with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki on Wednesday was canceled in a stunning turn of events after disclosure of U.S. doubts about the Iraqi leader's capabilities and a political boycott in Baghdad protesting his attendance. Instead of two days of talks, Bush and al-Maliki will have breakfast and a single meeting followed by a news conference on Thursday morning, the White House said.

Panel reaches deal on U.S. Iraq policy

A bipartisan commission, under pressure to offer a U.S. exit strategy for the increasingly unpopular war in Iraq, has reached a consensus and will announce its recommendations next week, the group's co-chairman said Wednesday. Former Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., declined to disclose any specifics about the Iraq Study Group's decisions. The report, much anticipated by the Bush administration and members of Congress, is coming out next Wednesday amid the spiraling violence in Iraq that has raised questions about the viability of the Iraqi government.

Frist abandons 2008 presidential bid

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist renounced a bid for the White House in 2008 on Wednesday, an early dropout from the most wide-open presidential race in decades.

"In the Bible, God tells us for everything there is a season, and for me, for now, this season of being an elected official has come to a close," the Tennessee Republican said.

Sharpton's stature rises amid shooting

The morning 23-year-old Sean Bell was shot to death by police, his grieving relatives did something that has become almost routine in such cases: They called the Rev. Al Sharpton. Within hours, the longtime civil rights activist had consoled relatives, held two news conferences, and begun organizing a community rally for the next day.

Sharpton has long been a fixture on New York's left-wing scene, and has been especially vocal in his crusade against police brutality since the 1990s. But the Saturday shooting, which left Bell dead on his wedding day and wounded two other black men, is proving again how far Sharpton has come since the days he was routinely derided as a race-baiting, publicity-hungry opportunist.

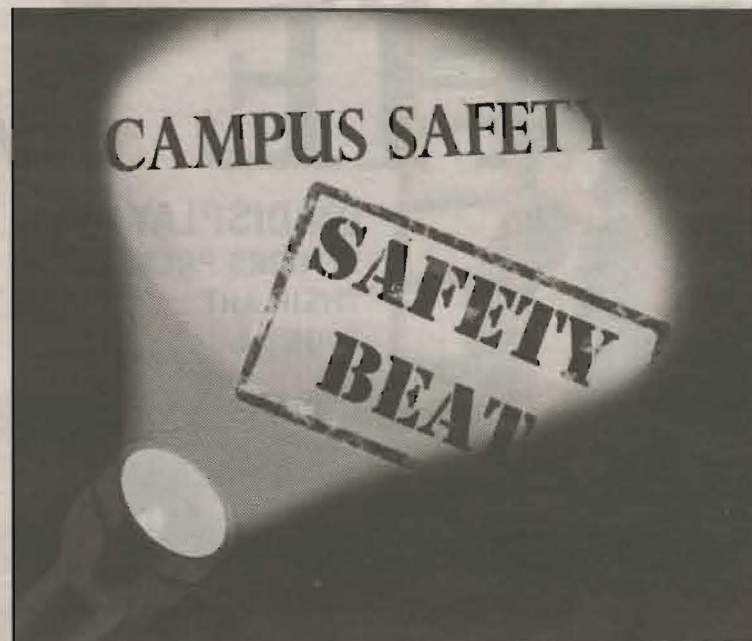
Seattle schools debate on different treatments based on students' race

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments Monday in a race-related school case from Seattle.

At issue is the race-based "tiebreaker" that the Seattle School District has used to assign some students to high schools. The district contends there is educational value in diversity. But critics argue there is no compelling government interest in treating children differently based on their race.

The Seattle case, along with one from Kentucky, may determine whether public schools can use race in deciding school assignments.

Briefs gleaned from the Associated Press Wire Service.



Graphic by Caitlin Stoskopf-O'Bryan

November 20

CSIN was contacted for medical assistance for a guest who was experiencing shortness of breath. CPFR responded and transport was not needed.

A guest reported the theft of his vehicle from the golf course fence line. Video footage was obtained and PCSD was contacted for a formal report.

A staff member reported that she had backed into a vehicle belonging to a student.

November 21

CSIN was contacted for medical assistance for a student who had passed out during class. CPFR was

contacted, and the student was transported to the hospital for further assessment.

November 25

CSIN was contacted for medical assistance for a student who was complaining of nausea and vomiting. CPFR assistance was declined.

November 26

During the course of routine patrol, CSIN discovered a student vehicle with the back window broken out. Contact with the owner was attempted, but unsuccessful.

An RA reported that someone had written on the walls in a residence hall and had glued a door shut.

Safety Tips of The Week:

- 1) Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave your room. The lights could short out and start a fire.
- 2) When you are on the Internet, don't post your full name, Social Security number, address or bank and credit card account numbers.

KPLU Christmas Jam
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www.kplu.org/jazz/christmas-jam06.html

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Campaigning to stop violence

Men and women wear ribbons for sexual assault awareness

AHMED BENKHALTI
Mast news reporter

This week students have been handing out white ribbons and taking pictures in the UC in honor of the White Ribbon Campaign, an international effort by men to end violence against women.

Sponsored by PLU Men Against Violence, this campaign encourages students to make pledges to condemn violence against women. Photos are of the students are taken and then placed on a board next to the WRC table in the UC along with their pledges for everyone to view.

One of the students tabling, senior Julie Kerrigan, explained that this was part of the effort to motivate people to speak out confidently and realize that they are not alone.

"By putting pictures up, it provides a visual of campus-wide support against violence," she said.

"The support is worldwide as well. A list is on display of all the countries currently involved in the White Ribbon Campaign.

In addition, students are asked to take white ribbons from a basket, a symbol representing protest against violence toward women.

The white ribbon symbol started over 15 years ago. Dec. 6, 1989, in Montreal, a male killed 14 of his female co-workers. A movement was born in Canada and wearing a white ribbon began to signify opposition to violence against women.

The White Ribbon Campaign appeared in rela-



Photo by Chris Hunt

Julie Kerrigan shows her support for the White Ribbon Campaign by helping fellow student pledge to avoid violence against women. The White Ribbon Campaign is put on by Men Against Violence. It has been a tradition throughout the world for over 15 years.

tion to this movement. It was launched by Toronto politicians like Jack Layton, the current leader of Canada's New Democratic Party. It has now spread to over 35 countries around the world. Here at PLU, the main sponsor of the WRC is Jonathan Grove, the coordinator of Men Against Violence.

"It makes me feel good to know that people take the time to express awareness rather than remain silent," Kerrigan said.

Find out more about the WRC by visiting their website, <http://www.whiteribbon.com>. Or contact PLU Men Against Violence at 253-535-6304.

Women's Center provides discussion on abortion; watch controversial documentary



Photo by Ashlee Parnell

Coordinator for the Taboo Topics program, senior Kate Herron, helps facilitate a discussion on abortion and offers information about local abortion providers. The documentary, "The Abortion Diaries" was shown.

Students gather to share ideas and opinions on different Taboo Topics

EMILY HOPPLER TREICHLER
Mast news reporter

Students discussed the difficult issue of abortion in the Women's Center on Wednesday at the second event of the Taboo Topics program.

This topic is considerably more taboo than the first, which discussed the meaning of healthy relationships.

Kate Herron, the current coordinator of Taboo Topics, remarked that the overall goal of the program "is to get people talking about things they don't usually discuss with others. People don't

generally feel comfortable about bringing these topics up, but holding such discussions creates a greater understanding of what others are thinking about."

For the discussion of abortion, a video of 12 women talking about their experiences concerning abortion, called "The Abortion Diaries" was shown.

The video, a 30-minute documentary, showed the women sitting around a dinner table, casually discussing abortion, one of the most controversial issues in the United States today.

After the video, a director of a local abortion clinic talked about options for

women who might be considering abortion and other methods of birth control.

Herron said that the Women's Center wanted to bring the director to facilitate discussion and help people be open about their feelings.

"We want to discuss abortion in a respectful manner, not a hostile way," Herron said.

The Women's Center does not have an official standpoint on abortion or any other method of birth control, but the center does wish to inform students how common abortion has become in the United States.

"One out of every three women in the United States has had an abortion,"

Herron said. "The fact alone shocked me and should get everyone else to open up."

The center's employees do give out condoms to students and counselor Jen-

nifer Warwick is also available to talk to students about pregnancy and abortion.

The center can also refer students to abortion clinics and health clinics, where pregnancy tests and counselors are available for further consultation.

The Health Center also provides information on sexual health, and offers condoms, birth control and emergency contraception (morning-after) pills.

Taboo Topics will not hold another session this semester, but will try to coordinate more discussions after Christmas break.

"We want to discuss abortion in a respectful manner, not a hostile way."

Kate Herron,
Taboo Topic coordinator

African culture showcased

Night of Africa provides new outlook on culture

JILL RUSSELL
Mast news reporter

Several PLU students traveled to Africa on Nov. 17 without ever leaving campus.

They did so through Night of Africa, an evening event sponsored by ASPLU and the Diversity Center that featured celebrations of numerous African cultures.

"When people think of Africa, negative things like poverty, wars and death usually come to mind," said Candace Hughes, Diversity Center advocate and chief planner of the event. "The point of the program was to take time away from the negative and celebrate the positive culture

that Africa has to offer."

The program, held in the Cave, offered the audience rare glimpses into African heritage with events like poetry readings, a fashion show and a live African drum band.

The fashion show, which displayed regional clothing of the African continent, was just one of the highlights of the night. Models sashayed across the stage wearing traditional clothing from such places as Kenya and South Africa.

"A lot of students don't know about the African countries at PLU," Hughes said. "The clothing helped to represent some of the countries represented here by students and faculty on campus."

An African drum band, which played songs on handmade instruments, helped to liven up the audience by bringing a sense of authenticity to the night. People got out of their seats to dance and clap to the music.

Between dances, junior Kevin Fortune read African-themed poetry.

The audience also joined in singing a Bob Marley classic, "Redemption Song," which was led by master of ceremonies, Keegan Maharaj.

During the song, students swarmed the dance floor while the band continued to play traditional African drumbeats.

More than a dozen students from Tacoma-area high schools also attended the event. The students were invited to attend by PLU students who volunteer at Peace Community Center, a Tacoma facility that provides after-school education and recreation programs for teens.

Maharaj echoed the sentiments of many others who said the event was informative and stimulating.

"It was extremely unifying," Maharaj said. "I think the Night of Africa was a night of success, filled with sterling performances. Overall, I left feeling satisfied."

It's black and gold party time — again

Second dance will feature prizes and just as much fun as the last one

BREANNE COATS
Mast editor-in-chief

The success of the Sept. 29 Lute spirit dance sparked the creation of a second Black and Gold dance, which will be held tonight in the Cave from 9 p.m. — 1 a.m.

"We are looking for this to be just as much fun," sophomore and Student Involvement and Leadership Intern Andre St. Hilaire said, comparing the two popular dances.

"We really hope people enjoy themselves."

The first dance brought out over 500 students and the two SIL interns in charge of planning these two events, St. Hilaire and sophomore Kristen Gelbach, say they expect the attendance to be just as good tonight.

"Our reason for wanting to do a second one was it was a really big part of getting spirit at the beginning and we want that at the end of the semester," St. Hilaire said.

The first dance was designed to help kick off the school year with a lot of spirit, while the second dance is being used to celebrate PLU sporting events. To go along with this aim, the dance will be held following the home basketball games.

Also, because Friday is World AIDS Day, students will be able to donate funds at the dance to the World AIDS Foundation.

"This time we would really like to get people involved with that," St. Hilaire said of the foundation. "We really think it's a great cause to shed some light onto."

There were also some minor changes made because of comments made by students, including having more fans to make the room less stuffy.

The interns will be giving out spirit t-shirts at the game and the dance.

"We have over a 100 shirts to pass out," Gelbach said. "They won't be for sale.

You can only get them from the intern programs."

The interns have professional DJ and sophomore Brian Pedey returning to provide the

musical entertainment. They will also have another hall competition at this dance. The hall with the most residents in attendance will win a pizza party.

"Last time Hinderlie won a pizza party," St. Hilaire said. "We're kind of excited to see how that pans out as well."

Even though sophomore Taylor Bayliss says the dance space was not ideal, he still plans on attending tonight's event.

"It was crowded, but really fun and very high energy," Bayliss said. "I am definitely excited about [this] one."

"We really hope people enjoy themselves."

Andre St. Hilaire, SIL intern

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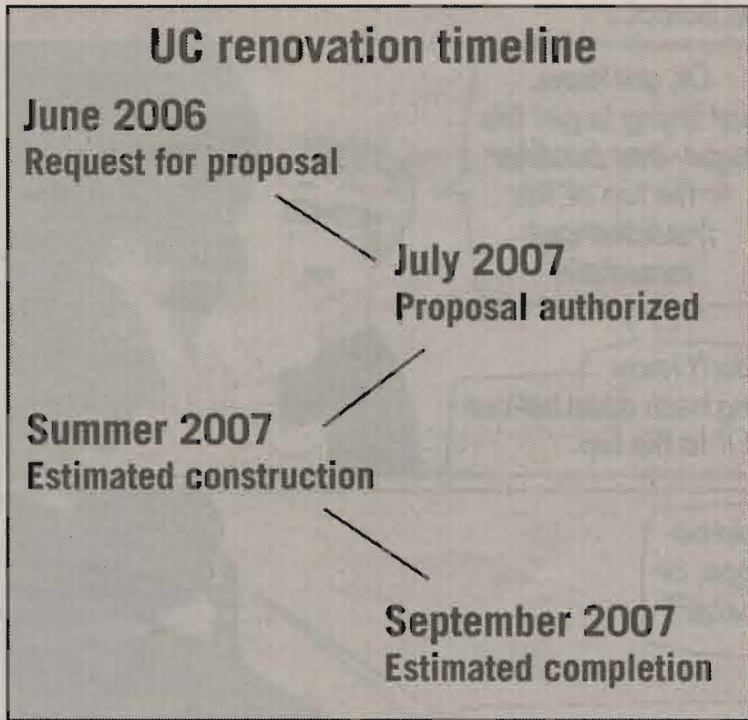
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Renovation

continued from page 1

this is horrible.”

None of the plans are final, but catering Sunday night dinners and delivering food to one particular residence hall each week is one possibility.

“We would bring a meal to them, and that takes a couple hundred people out of the line in the Columbia Center,” McGinnis said.

When the weather permits, McGinnis would also like to provide as many outdoor picnic meals as students would accept.

Another possibility is that meal vouchers to Garfield Street restaurants will be provided. Some vendors have tentatively expressed interest in working with PLU, but no plans have been created yet. This plan would allow students to occasionally trade in a meal swipe at the Campus Concierge desk for a voucher on a first come, first serve basis.

Sheri Tonn, vice president of finance and operation, said that the planning committee is working to

minimize the inconvenience of the transition.

“At the time, I know very well it will seem painful,” Tonn said. “But the net result is going to make it really worthwhile.”

Ellen Brotherston, senior and executive director of human resources for ASPLU, is one of two student representatives on the UC Renovation Planning Committee. Brotherston said she is excited about the changes that are taking place and is not concerned about the transitional period.

“Everyone is going to have to be more patient but also more creative about using the spaces we have left,” she said.

This transitional period will provide extra time to ensure that all construction is completed on schedule. The adjusted timeline estimates that the University Center will reopen in late August.

“Win, lose or draw, we have to have the building up and running and reoccupied before school starts,” Kaniss said.

“Win, lose or draw, we have to have the building up and running and reoccupied before school starts.”

John Kaniss, construction manager

Red Square lets it all shine

PLU community comes together for annual tradition

AMBER SCHLENKER
Mast news reporter

PLU president Loren Anderson, students and faculty sang Christmas carols while lighting up Red Square on Wednesday, Nov. 29 in the ninth annual “Light up Red Square” event.

“Because of the long standing tradition, there wasn’t a lot of planning needed, but a lot of people to cooperate together,” campus pastor Dennis Sepper said.

Campus Ministry, stage services and alumni and parent relations worked together to put up the tree and lights. Director of stage services Art Giddings and his crew prepared for the event. Sepper said about 60 to 70 students attended the event. Three seniors, Paige Sthen, Katy Nelson-Penland and Jay Johnson, were the Campus Ministry student coordinators.

In preparation for this tradition, stars were available in the UC hallway for students to write on in memory of loved ones. The stars were then hung on the tree in Red Square. The tree, donated by alumni Dave and Linda Pyle, came from the Windy Hill Farms tree farm.

The stars were free of cost, but donations were accepted. Every year the money is donated to a different facility in need. This year’s donations will be sent to Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey’s Border Immersion Program in El Paso, TX.

“The money is given to their educational program about life on the border,” said Elisabeth Himmelman, programs specialist for Campus Ministry.

To coincide with this year’s donation, campus ministry will take their “alternate spring break missions trip to Cristo, Rey Himmelmansaid .

Last year’s trip was to New Orleans for hurricane relief. Each year the trip is decided upon according to student interest and where the need is the highest. The ninth year of this tradition ended successfully and left Red Square shining.

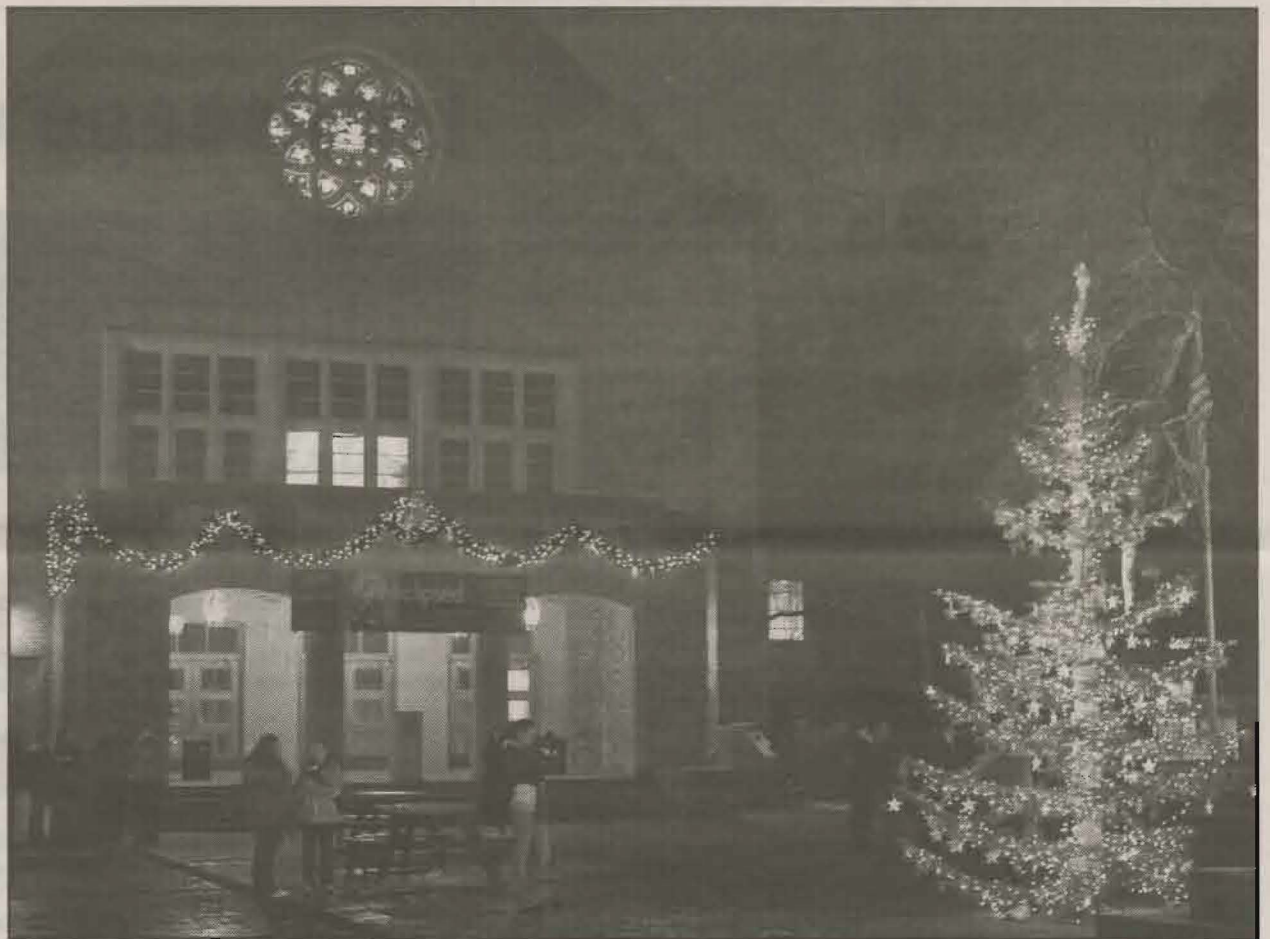


Photo by Chris Hunt

PLU students, staff and faculty gather to sing carols and light up Red Square. “Lighting Red Square” is a nine year tradition and students were able to buy stars in the UC in support of loved ones to hang on the tree. The tree was donated by alumni Dave and Linda Pyle.

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From the editor

Forget about mall purchases, on-campus events offer better gifts

The Aids in Africa events and White Ribbon Campaign gave students the opportunity to be educated and give back to others in a season of often traditional, under-the-Christmas-tree gift-giving.

Aids in Africa:

Experiencing AIDS in Africa through the eyes of a young woman, Olivia, was insightful. World Vision's re-creation of an African hut in the CK helped transport audience members, but the most powerful component of this experience was the actual story.

While "Olivia's Story" might have been difficult for some people to watch because of the sexual content, those who attended were able to grasp a realistic image of what the AIDS situation is in Africa.

Globalization can be a scary component of our developing world, but when one hears about men in Africa having sex—whether it is consensual or not—with virgins to cure AIDS, I happen to think some positive globalization is needed.

We are privileged enough to be in a country that, for the most part, allows us to be educated on health issues such as AIDS. We need to help those in Africa who are trying to improve education about AIDS.

Thankfully, World Vision offered us not only the gift of education through the 15-minute movie experience, but also gave us the opportunity to give to others.

Students were able to put together kits for \$20 that would be sent to those in Africa combating or experiencing the AIDS epidemic. Students could also sponsor a young African child. For those who might not be able to give a financial gift, everyone who attended was asked to pray for those in Africa. The best thing about having these options was that a person could become involved as much or as little as he or she was willing to.

Whether or not attendees took advantage of the gift of giving back, they could not leave that hut without a little more knowledge about what's going on with AIDS in Africa.

White Ribbon Campaign:

While the act of sexual assault can only be blamed on those actually committing the crime, everyone needs to take some kind of responsibility in stopping sexual violence.

The new Men Against Violence group sponsored PLU's own White Ribbon Campaign. The event offered participants the opportunity to raise awareness about sexual assault and also made it possible for them to show others that both men and women are striving to fix sexual stereotypes.

The White Ribbon Campaign is different from most sexual violence awareness events because it is designed specifically for men. This is an important factor because it can also be controversial.

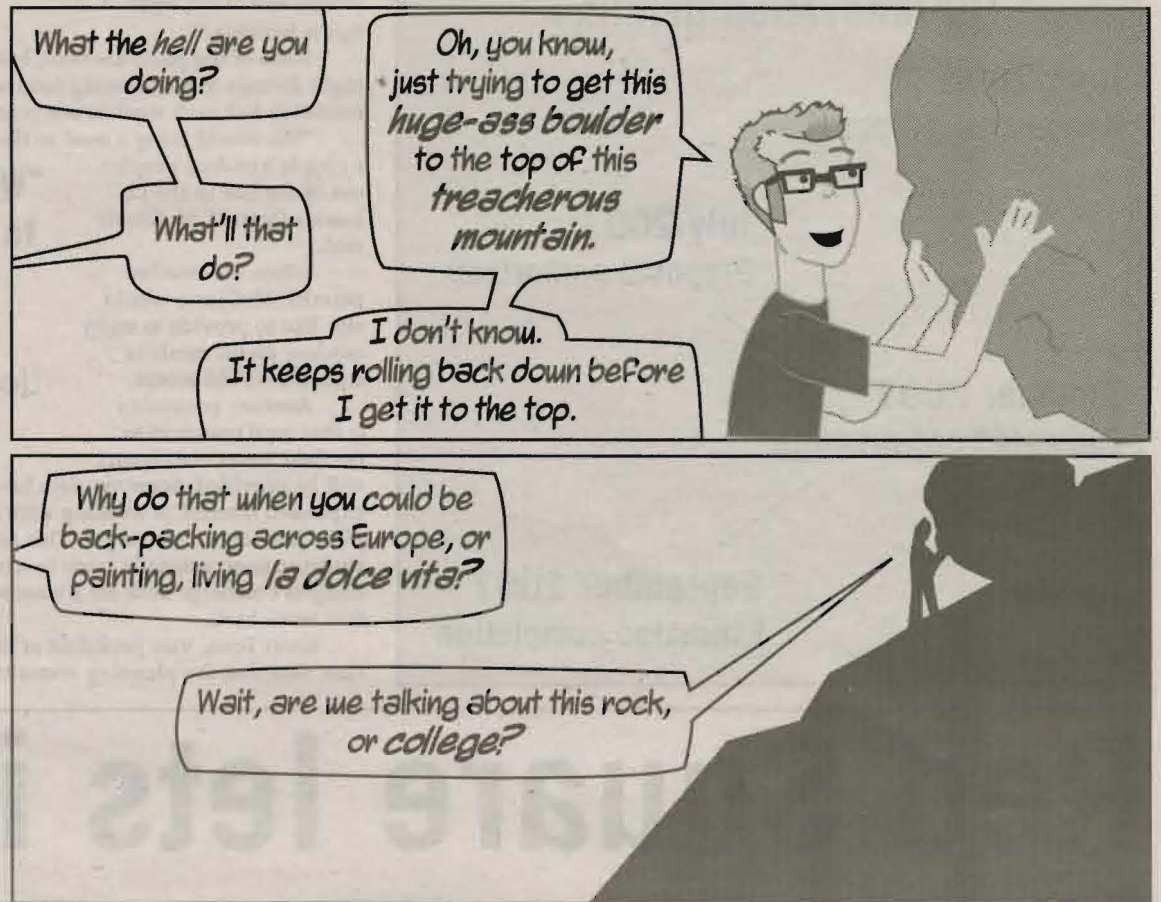
The decision to have a campaign on this topic specifically for men is important because men often don't think of rape and sexual violence as a man's issue. This campaign is aimed at changing this state of mind because sexual violence is an all-inclusive issue.

One reason the Men Against Violence group came to PLU was so men could have an outlet to show their support for victims of sexual violence. But they are also here to educate people.

The people in this group do not believe it should be acceptable for men to commit violent acts and they believe men should be held accountable for their actions. It is a gift that we have people here on campus willing to try and break stereotypes and educate others on controversial issues.

When you look back on this holiday season, do give thanks for the material objects given to you, but also take into account the other gifts you have received. The AIDS in Africa events and the White Ribbon Campaign both offered students gifts that cannot be purchased at the mall, so please take advantage of these opportunities.

Senior Year, Capstone, Grad School...



cartoon by Adam Spry

Landscape covers problems



STABILITY AND DYNAMISM

I return in a little under four weeks and this is my final column. I didn't manage to cover all the topics I wanted to, but than again, who does?

However, as a final send off, I want to write about some of the environmental issues and solutions in Jordan.

Jordan possesses a number of beautiful and varying environmental zones.

The North is lightly forested with agricultural areas, streams, rivers and rolling hills.

The East is predominately land turned into desert. The emptiness of this desert is broken only by the occasional oasis and a major wetland.

The south of Jordan is predominately hills, valleys and desert. Notable features include the fantastic rock city of Petra and the amazingly beautiful Wadi Rum.

Some of the most interesting geological parts of Jordan are the Dead Sea, the Jordan Valley and the narrow valley south of the Dead Sea. All of these are an extension of the Great Rift Valley that stretches up from Africa, so this region is more akin to Africa than Asia.

Thus, while driving on the Dead Sea highway, about a stones throw away from the Israeli border, one could easily imagine oneself in a completely different part of the world.

In Dana Nature Preserve, visitors can hike through three distinct zones in the course of three hours and enjoy the immense variety in flora and fauna, as well as in the geographic makeup.

The Dead Sea is a mystifying salty body of water 400 meters below sea level and surrounded by hills on nearly every side.

People who decide to wade in find that they are unable to sink.

Also many medical benefits come to those who rub themselves in the mud of the shore. For those of you interested, there are numerous therapeutic and medicinal vacations to be had at the five-star resorts in the area.

Although Jordan has many beautiful parts, all is not well.

Population, agriculture and industrial growth have impacted the water usage. Because of this, the amount of water needed is exceeding water resources.

In the last 10 years, many of the oases in the desert have dried up. Additionally, the water level of the Dead Sea itself has dropped by 30 meters in the last 30 years.

Scientists within the international community have predicted that it is possible that the sea won't exist within the next 20 years due to the excessive damming of its tributary rivers.

Although projects are underway to stop the deterioration, many of them offer only short-term solutions.

One such solution is to tap the vast nonrenewable underwater cisterns in the south of Jordan.

However, no one is sure what will happen when water that has taken millions of years to collect disappears.

Another project is a canal from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea. This expensive project is designed to preserve the water level of the Dead Sea as well as produce electricity and exploitable water.

Will Jordan find a solution?

I am optimistic, not just about the environment, but about the myriad of social and economic problems facing Jordan.

I have only been here for about three months now, but it has taught me an incredible amount about Jordan, the Middle East and the world.

At any case, it has been an incredible experience, and something that I doubt I will soon forget.

Have a safe & happy holiday season.

-The Mast staff



The Mast Staff, 2006-2007

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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's your favorite thing to do when it snows?



Catching snowflakes on my tongue.

Sarah Curtis, first-year



To take a walk, just by myself in the snow.

Autumn Leir, first-year



I like to go drifting in a parking lot in my car.

Michael Cross, first-year



I like to make snowmen.

Molly Kirkwood, first-year



Throw it at people.

Joshua Miller, junior



To look at the beautiful campus and throw snowballs.

Casey Carroll, senior

Snakes on PLU's campus

Ronan ROONEY

DON'T WORRY, BABY

So, I thought I'd try my hand at writing some satire. This is a fictional news story—all descriptions of humans and snakes, no matter how similar to real life, are purely coincidental.

Parkland, Wash. (The Mast News Wire) – A firestorm of controversy has erupted at Pacific Lutheran University over the administration's ban of snakes on campus.

At the center of the controversy is an advertisement in the student newspaper, The Mast, for Lucky Joe's Snake Oasis, a local pet store that sells snakes by the pound. Given that PLU does not allow snakes on campus, the university prohibits the student newspaper from running ads for snake sellers or places at which snake lovers can mingle.

"This ban on snakes is a slippery slope," one student argued. "Considering snakes don't live around ice, a slippery slope is a dangerous thing for snakes."

Many Pacific Lutheran University students are concerned that the ban on snakes may lead to future restrictions, such as bans on marsupials and ugly dogs.

To raise awareness of the plight of snakes in Parkland and the greater world, one student organization will spend 24 hours in a wire cage in the middle of Red Square. Said one

of the student organizers, "We're hopeful that pretending to be snakes for a few days will convince everyone that being a snake is a lot harder than it seems."

Other students have invoked the Bill of Rights in arguing against the snake ban.

"The Bill of Rights is sacred," one student said. "What makes the administration think they can infringe upon our second amendment right to bear arms? Snakes can be used for self-defense."

The Associated Students of PLU weighed in on the snake controversy at a recent meeting. After hearing overwhelming student support for abolishing the snake ban, ASPLU voted to maintain the ban. One student senator explained the logic, "Compare snakes to other dangers we already ban at PLU, such as credit card ads and men and women in the same dorm room at night. When you put these items on a level plane, you can see just how dangerous snakes are. Once I saw 'Snakes on a Plane,' I had to vote with the administration."

Nick Ardilla, representing squirrels on lower campus, may have been the only senator who voted in line with his constituency.

"Clearly, snakes are a threat to squirrels. That's why I voted for the ban," he said.

Despite the protests, the administration has shown support for the right of students to protest.

This is their wild hope, said John Smith, director of invoking clichés, adding, "This is a valuable learning experience," adding, "This will generate thoughtful discussion," adding, "Please help me, I can't stop."

The controversy shows no signs of letting up. Said one Mast columnist, "Hey, at least the controversy gives me something to write about!"

Again, for those of you who start at the bottom of the page and work up, this is a piece of fictional satire.

Letters to the editor...

Movie critique crashed

I opened up my copy of The Mast early Friday morning and was taken aback by one of the editorials. I found two things very interesting about what was said about the movies "Crash" and "Babel."

The first thing I found very interesting was the fact that the only parts of the movie that were criticized were the scenes with the people of color in them. The stories of the two white characters of the movie, Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchet, were glorified, while the stories about the actors of color were reduced to "subplots" that "overpower and distract the viewers to the point of annoyance."

The second thing I found equally as interesting was the movie "Crash" being described as "horribly contrived." I can completely see how the characters in that movie, who are all connected by their own sense of racism and who are forced to come to terms with it in the end, can be compared to a movie that is "surprisingly shallow" and one that "simply throws any sense of realism or nuance out the door." I think it's funny to blame director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu for having a "surprisingly shallow" point of view in the making of "Babel," and then compare "Crash" to a movie that is "unrealistic." It makes me wonder who the shallow person really is.

And as for the scene in "Crash" where an affluent white woman falls down the stairs in slow motion, comes to terms with her own internal racism, and then finds out that the only person in her life that truly cared about her was the woman of color that she looked down on—I guess you're right. That can't be Academy Award worthy.

Jill Russell, junior

Keep conversations going

The recent controversy over on-campus advertising has inspired meaningful and important conversation in the PLU community. After the heated Nov. 14 ASPLU meeting, it is more important than ever that the conversations continue.

The resolution on the agenda would have exempted student media from the new policy prohibiting the advertisement of alcohol, bars and credit cards. It failed even after every student who testified spoke in support of it, evidence that the issue has become much larger than the specific policy and this resolution. Our focus needs to shift.

This issue has become one of process, not just policy. The student body has reason to be concerned about the administration's and ASPLU's behavior in this situation—whether or not we individually agree with the resolution or policy.

The resounding message of student testimony was not simply disagreement with the administration's new policy. Rather, students raised concerns about the manner in which the policy was created and how the resolution was later handled by ASPLU. Regardless of individual positions, the administration and ASPLU should be committed to ensuring fair process, especially when students so clearly question its fairness.

Unfortunately, it was not just student constituents who expressed concern over the way things were handled. Several senators echoed students' concerns. One senator said she felt decisions within ASPLU were made behind her back. She was unaware of the research conducted by the senate and was surprised to find lawyers at their pre-meeting session.

When people who are supposed to be part of the process raise questions about its fairness, it appears to me, a

student and constituent of ASPLU, that something is off.

The administration and ASPLU are crucial components of this institution and our student body. They are composed of dedicated and thoughtful people who work hard to foster community and ensure PLU's learning experience extends beyond the classroom. This is why it is beyond frustrating that I, as well as other students, will find it difficult to approach ASPLU trusting my voice will be heard—and listened to—after Tuesday's meeting.

ASPLU and the rest of the staff, faculty and students present in these conversations deserve to be treated respectfully. Those who stormed out of the room as soon as the resolution failed were disrespectful to the process, ASPLU, and the administrators and constituents in the room.

We can all do better than this.

Let's all seek out new and different perspectives.

Let's all focus on process to ensure content is handled fairly.

Let's all listen more.

Let's all be respectful.

Most importantly, let's keep these conversations going.

Jessica Holden, senior

Agree or not, be respectful

I would have to say that I am disappointed and insulted by some of the comments made by some members of the student media at the ASPLU Nov. 14 meeting, as well as by comments posted in The Mast. The flagrant attempt to manipulate the senate vote by claiming that the senators voting against Resolution 3 (that would exempt student media from portions of the code of conduct, which all students and student organizations must follow) were puppets of the administration was not only inappropriate and untrue, but it negated the hard work and effort that was put into researching and investigating both sides of the argument by the senators.

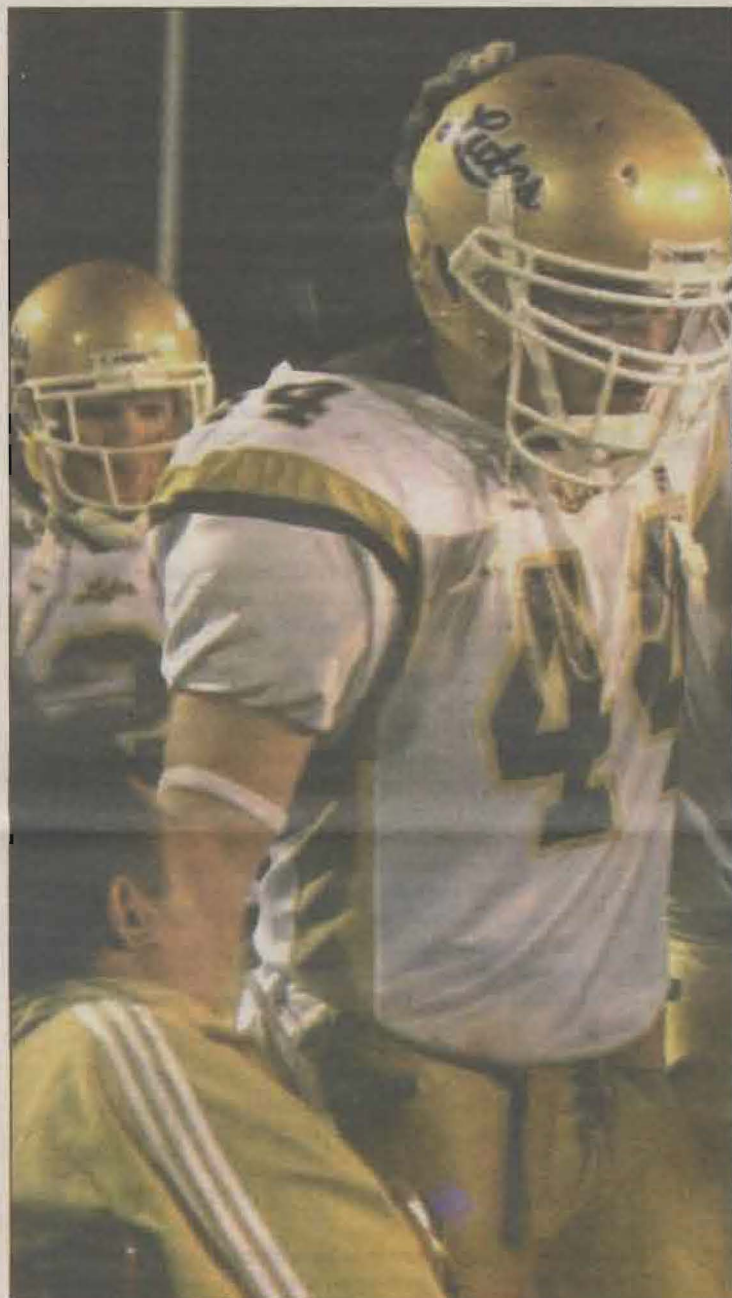
My decision to vote against the resolution was based on close to 20 hours of research, which included conversations with members of my constituency and the student media, as well as the administration and other relevant sources. I did my best to understand the arguments presented by both sides, and if my vote seemed to coincide with the administration, that was purely coincidental. I do not mind being criticized as long as it is done so accurately. The comments targeted toward my integrity as a senator were baseless and hurtful.

I am an independent critical thinker who is a trustee of the student voice. As a trustee of the student voice, I hold my constituency's voice in high regard and carefully consider it when making decisions on its behalf. However, I am not simply a puppet for my constituency. This is an important distinction to make because when I was speaking with my constituency in regards to the policy changes and resolutions up for vote, many were ill-informed. I spent most of the conversation educating them on the matter.

I take my role as off campus transfer senator very seriously. To have it openly suggested that I do not take the voice of my constituency just as seriously, because my vote was not for the side that some would have liked, was groundless and spiteful. I understand that emotions run high in regards to the recent policy changes. However, when making pleas to the senate, or to me personally as your senator, it would be appreciated if flagrant manipulation, baseless and hurtful comments were replaced with respect and professionalism. Believe it or not, I am fighting for you.

Riley S. Relfe, off-campus transfer senator

Life



Photos courtesy of Brent Frank
Nellie gives advice during a PLU football game. Nellie has been involved with the PLU football program since 1989. Currently he serves as an administrative assistant coach.

BRENT FRANK

Mast intern

A TOUGH START

It's another drizzly fall day on the quiet campus. The pattering of the rain dulls the audible world and students trudge with heads tucked beneath their hoods to classes. Among the beating of the shower, there is a distant hum, unnoticeable to the untrained ear. But as the sound grows nearer, the distinct purr of the electric motor and rubber wheels on the wet pavement brings a smile to all who recognize it.

"Nellie!" a group of young men exclaim almost in harmony as he approaches the football locker room. The eyes of the players fill with adoration as they begin joking with Nellie about his color-coordinated outfit and perfectly sculpted hairdo.

John "Nellie" Nelson spent the first eight years of his young life living in an institution for the critically ill in Singapore, China. His parents placed him in the institution shortly after birth when he was diagnosed with Arthrogryposis.

Although Arthrogryposis is not a familiar term to most people, Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita affects about three out of 1,000 people, or about 750,000 people in the United States alone. The term comes from the Greek prefix "arthro-" (meaning "joint") and "gryposis" (meaning "abnormal curvature").

Children with AMC have joint contractures present at birth. The tissues surrounding the involved joints are abnormally short, making the joints difficult to move, and muscles are often replaced by fat or fibrous tissue.

Arthrogryposis is not a single disease, but a condition that can result from more than 150 different medical syndromes. Each of these has its own cause and its own long-term outlook, but all cause multiple joint contractures. Many of these syndromes are neurological or muscular diseases, or sometimes both.

Maybe you've seen him on the sidelines. Maybe you've wondered how he got there. Assistant coach John "Nellie" Nelson is teaching more than just football.

Before research furthered medical knowledge about the disability, doctors occasionally proclaimed some newborns diagnosed with AMC critically ill, especially in Third World countries. Such was the case with Nellie.

Shortly after he entered the world, doctors made the prediction that he would shortly depart it. Nellie was diagnosed with one of the most severe cases of AMC a person could have. All of his joints from the neck down were either locked into a straightened state or permanently bent to 45-degree angles. He could not bend his elbows, wrists, knees, ankles, toes or fingers. The only movement Nellie could manage was in his neck and shoulders.

Due to the severity of his disability, his parents felt they could not properly care for him. He was thus dismissed to finish out his short and presumably miserable life in a facility full of people that more closely resembled ghosts than humans.

Nellie faintly remembers the elderly lady who managed the institution and her two dogs that would come over to the couch and lick his face relentlessly while she spoon-fed oatmeal to the other tenants.

"I don't recall ever sitting up for more than five minutes at a time," Nellie says. "She took me to the bathroom about once a week and bathed him once every two weeks.

Even at such a young age, Nellie had never known hope. He had been taught since he was old enough to understand life and death that his path was to be a short one. There were never any alternative routes proposed on his journey to death and he never thought twice about living to his next birthday each year.

HOPE ARRIVES

Jeff and Marian Breen came to China in hopes that their efforts could help to ease the suffering of the millions of impoverished people in a country struggling to stay out of a Third World slump.

In one of their visits to an institution they met an 8-year-old boy who charmed them with his smile and laugh, regardless of his inability to do the simple task of sitting upright. They saw something special hidden within that boy's inert body and visited him regularly to bring snacks and to watch TV.

The Breens fell in love with Nellie. When they found out that his life depended on undergoing a severe surgical procedure that could only be done in the United States, they decided to find sponsors in California to fly him to a hospital run by the international program, Shriner's Hospitals for Children.

Shriner's Hospitals for Children is a network of 22 pediatric hospitals in the United States, Canada and Mexico that provide specialized care for orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate.

Since Shriner's operates on donations, the care would be free for Nellie once he was submitted to the hospital in Oakland that could carry out the procedure. The Breens found families in the United States to sponsor his flight and soon 9-year-old Nellie landed at Oakland International

Airport.

Everything around him was white and pale. He had never been in a room that was so bright. The lights overhead were blinding as they shined down on him, illuminating his misshapen body. The doctors in the room spoke among themselves quietly. He couldn't make out what they were saying, but he could hear the seriousness of their words and knew they were talking about him. A distinctive beep continually chimed through his ears and a smell that reminded him of the spray can in his old bathroom tickled his nose. John was 9 years old and had been in the United States for a mere two days before being laid upon the table for a surgery that would determine if he would continue to be a part of this world. He closed his eyes and imagined himself in heaven.

"I remember thinking to myself that I was going to die that day," Nellie said as he sipped Pepsi through a green straw.

"I wanted to close my eyes and make it all go away."

He recalls waking up the day after the surgery in which a team of four surgeons inserted a metal rod in his back and broke his left arm in order to bend it across his chest.

"I had to have that rod in my back or I wouldn't be here right now," he said. "And they broke my left arm in hopes that if it was bent, I could maybe someday write and feed myself."

Nellie still cannot feed himself or write, but the rod in his back did save his life and continues to support him now. But the pain he endured throughout the procedure will last a lifetime, as he spent a full year in the hospital to be closely monitored and rehabbed.

The Breen family visited Nellie often and their relationship continued to grow. For the first time in his life Nellie knew what it was like to sit upright, to be bathed regularly and to eat three meals a day. He also learned what it was like to have weights hung from his feet and shoulders for three months to keep his back straight.

Once Nellie was released from the hospital, the Breens attempted to contact his parents in China to inform them about the surgery and to tell them Nellie was ready to come home. Much to their dismay, the Breens found that Nellie's parents did not want him to come back to Singapore. They were worried they could not afford to care for him.

The Breens were left with the task of telling Nellie that his parents could not care for him anymore, and that they themselves could not as they were too busy with their jobs.

"At this point in my life I was not sure what was going to happen to me," Nellie said. "I felt abandoned and didn't want to be adopted by people I did not know anything about. My biggest fear was to end up in another place like the institution in Singapore."

LEARNING TO LIVE

Nellie was adopted by a family in the Puyallup valley when he was 10. The family had two other children and was expecting another soon. Nellie's first few years with the family went smoothly as they cared for him as one of their own, bathed him daily and let him play with the other children.

At this time Nellie was given his first motorized wheel chair in which he was able to move himself around. He could steer the chair using what little

movement he had in his shoulders to manipulate a joystick placed at the end of his arm.



Football player Justin Wojciechowski and Nellie take some time out to sit and reflect. In his adult life Nellie has been able to find purpose and meaning.

Coach

"I was so excited to move myself around on my own, I felt so free," he said.

He also began going to school at an elementary in a neighboring town because it had ramps he could drive on.

While at the elementary school, the counselor gave him a plastic stick that he could wield with his mouth to press the keys on a keyboard.

"I love my stick, it's my hand, and with it I can do more than most can with theirs," he said, as he leaned back in his chair, gazing upwards to the sky and stretching the few joints he has control of.

For a man that cannot perform many of the normal functions most people take for granted, Nellie finds a way to make his body work for him.

One of the most impressive abilities that he has developed is his typing skill. Nellie can type a 1000-word

e-mail faster than most college students could hope to write their latest essay. Using his plastic stick to individually punch each key, Nellie whips his head around the keyboard to compose emails to players, prospective players, coaches, friends in the dorms and anyone else.

In learning to type, Nellie was given the ability to express himself without the spoken word for the first time. Before if he wanted someone to know how he felt, he had to tell the person. But now he can record his thoughts by typing them, allowing him to touch even more people and to feel a sense of ownership in his writing.

"I learned to type when I was in middle school," he recalls. "I hated it at first because it made my neck so sore, but now I don't mind... my neck is buff now."

Together we laugh at the idea of one's neck being buff, we laugh at his disability and we laugh because Nellie is comfortable enough with himself to laugh at a problem many would cry over.

Nellie did cry a lot, though. He cried after the first years of living with his adopted family because they began to forget about him. Until he was 18, he lived in a home where no one cared about him. He would spend hours soaking in a bathtub while his adopted mom cooked dinner and dealt with the other children.

He would go to school, come home and sit in the same corner, day after day. His parents no longer cared for him as they had been struck by financial struggles. Days would pass and he would not be taken to the bathroom. Nellie suffered until finally the feelings of his inability to physically help his parents, their lack of support of him and his own self pity drove him to suicidal thoughts.

"I tried to end my life. I felt guilty and pitiful...there was no worth to my life," he said.

Fortunately the attempt failed, and the next day at school Nellie spilled his story to the counselor who had given him his stick. He told her about the neglect at home, about his feelings of worthlessness and about his mission to end his life. The counselor set up a meeting with Nellie's family and a social worker. They agreed that the best thing for both of them would be for the state to take custody of Nellie and that he move to a new area.

FINDING HIS HOME

That new area for Nellie was Pacific Lutheran University. After graduating from high school and moving out of his adopted parent's home, 18-year-old Nellie was living on his own with support from the state to attend Tacoma Community College. While at TCC a PLU admission counselor met Nellie and

encouraged him to attend PLU. He had never before imagined the possibility of attending a private school, let alone a four-year university. But in the fall of 1989 Nellie was admitted to PLU and moved into Tinglestad dormitory.

In the beginning, Nellie was unsure if he would fit in. There were no other disabled people attending PLU at the time, and he felt out of place. He spent most of his free time in

his dorm room watching TV or studying until one day he met someone who would change his life.

During homecoming week at PLU, Nellie met Paul Finley. Finley was a PLU football player who lived off-campus, but he happened to visit the dorms one day and walked by Nellie's room. Paul saw Nellie sitting alone in his room and invited himself in. The two talked for a while about PLU and how Nellie had ended up there. Paul asked if he had any friends. Embarrassed,

Nellie responded, "No."

Paul invited Nellie to come to the next home football game and then to the post-game commencement known as an afterglow. Nellie agreed and attended the game that Saturday.

At the game, Nellie saw PLU lose a close battle to its rival and he expected to see a bunch of very disappointed and upset people at the afterglow. To his surprise when he arrived at the Olsen Auditorium Field House, he found players laughing, smiling, telling stories about the game and eating with their families. Nellie was shocked. How could this team that just lost on the scoreboard be so upbeat? He did not understand how even though life had given them a bad hand, they still chose to make the most of it. Shocked, Nellie went to head coach Frosty Westering and asked if he could speak in front of the group.

"I just want you people to know how much you have affected me today," Nellie said to the group of players. "You lost a game on the field, but you didn't let that adversity determine how you felt. Thank you for inspiring me."

After speaking at the afterglow, Frosty invited Nellie to come out to practice the next day, and he has been attending practices for the last 18 years.

BECOMING PART OF THE TEAM

"The first few years I was just a fan, then in the mid-90s I started helping the team with the freshmen," Nellie said with broad smile. "I loved every second I spent with the team. They were my new family and they embraced me for who I was."

Little did he know, he was inspiring them as well. In 2000, Nellie was made an official coaching staff member by the university after serving as an honorary one for 12 years.

"My role is so unique because I spend most of my time with players. I feel like my role is to support the freshmen and help them get through the first year of college. As I spend time with them, our relationship builds and by the time they are seniors, I am pretty close friends with the majority of the guys," Nellie said.

Nellie has found his life's purpose and lives it out every day. He has become an assistant football coach at one of the most successful division III programs in the country. But more importantly, he has chosen to make a difference in the world.

He has chosen to serve, care and love the young men of the PLU football team. Nellie is living proof that one who can do so little can still affect the lives of so many. Nellie coaches the most important position in the PLU football program: life.

FRIENDS, FOOTBALL, AND PURPOSE

It's Sunday morning and today Nellie and I are going to the Seahawks game. We've been planning this event for quite sometime. He has been excited because today they are playing their rival, the Rams. We park in the disabled spot in a lot near the stadium and I set up the ramps to lower his chair from the rear of the truck. He tells me to hurry up because he doesn't want to be late. I open the front door and he is bouncing his head against the seat saying, "Hurry, hurry, hurry!" I unbuckle his seatbelt and together we count "1, 2, 3..." I feel my back scream in agony as I lift his 150-pound frame from the front seat of the truck and set him gently into his chair.

"Okay, scoot me forward a little bit," he said. I give his side a slight nudge.

"Perfect, okay now, will you fix my sleeve, it's crooked." I straighten his sleeve so that the seam runs parallel with his arm, just the way he likes it. "All right, now will you put on my hat and get my phone?"

I hold his hat on his head while he moves it in a circular motion until he feels the hat right where he wants it to be. I put his wireless headset in his ear and strap his cell phone to his chair with rubber bands after I wrap it with a plastic sandwich bag. He's ready.

"OK, let's go!" he says with a smile as he jets past me in fifth gear.

"Come on, you're going to have to keep up if we're going to be there on time."

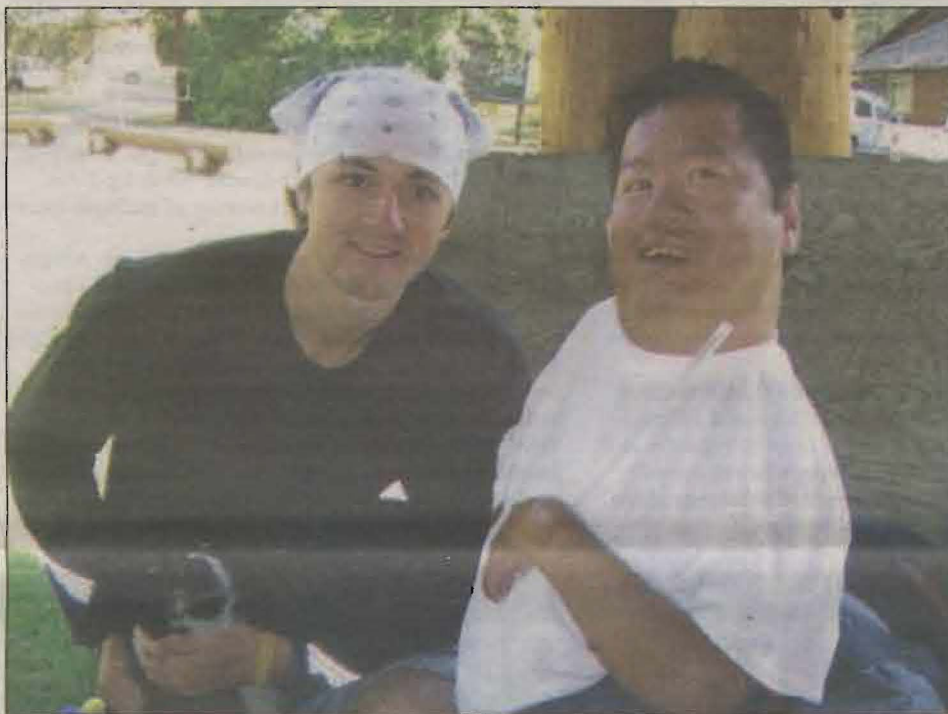
I tell him that we've still got two hours before kickoff and that I'm already exhausted. He just tells me to quit whining and continues on at the same pace. Being timely is one of the few things that Nellie can control in his life, so being late is never an option.

We forge on, weaving our way through the masses of people, grown men with their faces painted, women and children screaming "Go Hawks!" at the top of their lungs. Some of them don't even notice him, some glance once and not a second time so as not to be rude, and some stare long and hard, but it does not faze him. He continues to maneuver through the pedestrian traffic with precision that would make Dale Earnhardt Jr. proud.

Finally, we reach the entrance to Qwest Stadium and I notice the man scanning the tickets in our line frowning and saying move along in a stern, gruff voice. I lean over to hold up Nellie's ticket for the man to check.

"Should be a great one today, John, but I hope you brought your rain coat," he says as he scans Nellie's ticket with a smile.

We both say thank you and enter the stadium. I ask Nel-



Senior Brent Frank has become close friends with Nellie through their mutual involvement with the PLU football team. Frank finds Nellie's story inspirational that he originally wrote this profile about Nellie for one of his classes.



Jon Hergert and Jacob Washburn join Nellie at a Seahawks game. Nellie's love of football goes beyond the Lutedome.

lie if he knows the man working the gate. He says no, but he is the same man who tore his ticket three weeks ago. Apparently Nellie had stopped and talked to him for a while about the game and his love for football.

It was a small thing, a short exchange between two people, but it was obvious that what little interaction took place between them had affected the ticket taker enough to bring a smile to his face when 60,000 other people could not.

Getting the most out of mediocrity

A struggle to find album of the year

Jon
HARTHUN



As the year wraps up, we are left with fewer and fewer days for a set of music worth calling Album of the Year to reveal itself. In metaphorical terms, this year in music closely resembles a shoddy relationship on the brink of a breakup. There were a few surprises as well as a couple twists and turns, but mostly our expectations were never met and we were faced with let down after let down.

How could so many bands screw up, create mediocre work and expect us not to catch on? The question is, do we hope things get better in the remaining days, or do we give up, hoping next year will have better things to offer? Should we mention our infidelities with Justin Timberlake, Nelly Furtado and Pharrell Williams? Is honesty best here, even though it's safe to say our dials were best set on pop stations if we wanted something solid?

Let's take the Red Hot Chili Peppers for starters. They succeeded in putting out not one, but two discs worth of music we've already heard. I liked the album better when it was called "Californication." Don't even get me started with The Killers. Their apparent talent and past success should have been enough to help produce something better. "Sam's Town" was nothing more than a blatant, poorly executed tribute to Bruce Springsteen. "When You Were Young" may be one of the year's best songs, but it set standards for the rest of the album that were never met.

Besides a handful of painful let downs, we were given a year's worth of mediocre albums from not so mediocre bands. Ryan Adams, Ray Lamontagne, the Decemberists, Beck and the Strokes, all of whom have cooked up amazing work in the past, managed to serve up bowls of lukewarm gruel this year.

I could go on about each and every disappointment in detail, but no one would truly benefit (besides a few bitter individuals such as myself). Instead, I will retrace this year's best offerings and hopefully somebody, somewhere, will get something out of it.

In the case of catchy, guilty pleasure rock albums, "With Love and Squalor" from We Are Scientists takes the cake. The album somehow dodged most airwaves

while still gripping to their infectious hooks and choruses. The band stayed more "Hot Fuss" than The Killers did. Also in the "guilty pleasures" category, comes Under the Influence of Giants' self-titled debut, full of disco beats and falsettos. Also worthy of the list are the emo juggernauts My Chemical Romance with, "The Black Parade," which channels Queen in their prime.

In the year of pop music, two Timbaland-produced albums dominated the charts, parties, mix CDs and stereos. Both Justin Timberlake's "Futuresex/Lovesounds" and Nelly Furtado's "Loose" were streamlined pop monuments that never left the dance floor, pop stations or our heads. TI's "King" and Chamillionaire's "The Sound of Revenge" weren't too far off either.

Alt-country saw a few gems this year thanks to the Starbuck's favorite Neko Case and her album "Fox Confessor Brings the Flood," as well as Jenny Lewis and the Watson Twin's debut album, "Rabbit Fur Coat." Folk got another taste of Bob Dylan with his flawless "Modern Times," which has proven to be a top contender for Album of the Year.

Somewhere in between Dylan and Case is nuzzled Cat Power's "The Greatest," a career high and culmination of Hank Williams, Sam Cooke, Aretha Franklin and Willie Nelson influences. The album is Norah Jones' "Feels Like Home" with undertones of substance abuse, depression, betrayal and suicidal tendencies.

Next up are two New York indie giants, Sonic Youth and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs. "Rather Ripped" proves Sonic Youth still has it after 20-odd years. "Show Your Bones" is a mellower, literally sober note in the YYY's catalog, but it aims to please, and it succeeds.

This year also provided us with a handful of amazing solo albums, the most prominent being Radiohead-front man Thom Yorke's "The Eraser" and Metric's own Emily Haines with "Knives Don't Have Your Back."

A few more honorable mentions include local favorites Band of Horses and their album "Everything All the Time," the Black Angels' Velvet Underground-worshipping "Passover," and the dance/rap album "YoYoYoYo" by Spank Rock. Sunset Rubdown's "Shut Up I Am Dreaming" is a valiant effort worthy of multiple listens as well.

A personal favorite, which I would deem Album of the Year, is none other than the Raconteurs' "Broken Boy Soldier." Led by Jack White and Brendan Benson, the Raconteurs are more Zeppelin than Robert Plant's solo albums and just as Sabbath as Ozzy's last few releases. Let's not ignore the influences from Steve Miller, Stones, Kinks, Beatles and, most obviously, White Stripes either. This album is solid from start to finish and blends the last 40 years of rock music into 10 tracks.

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Senior Art Exhibit



Above: Paintings, photographs and sculptures line the floor of the Ingram Art Gallery as Anna Finley along with other students involved in the exhibit begin preparations for the show.

PLU's senior art exhibit is displaying a variety of artwork from Nov. 20 to Dec. 8 with gallery hours Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. in the Ingram Hall Art Gallery.

A public reception is being held on Friday, Dec. 1 from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

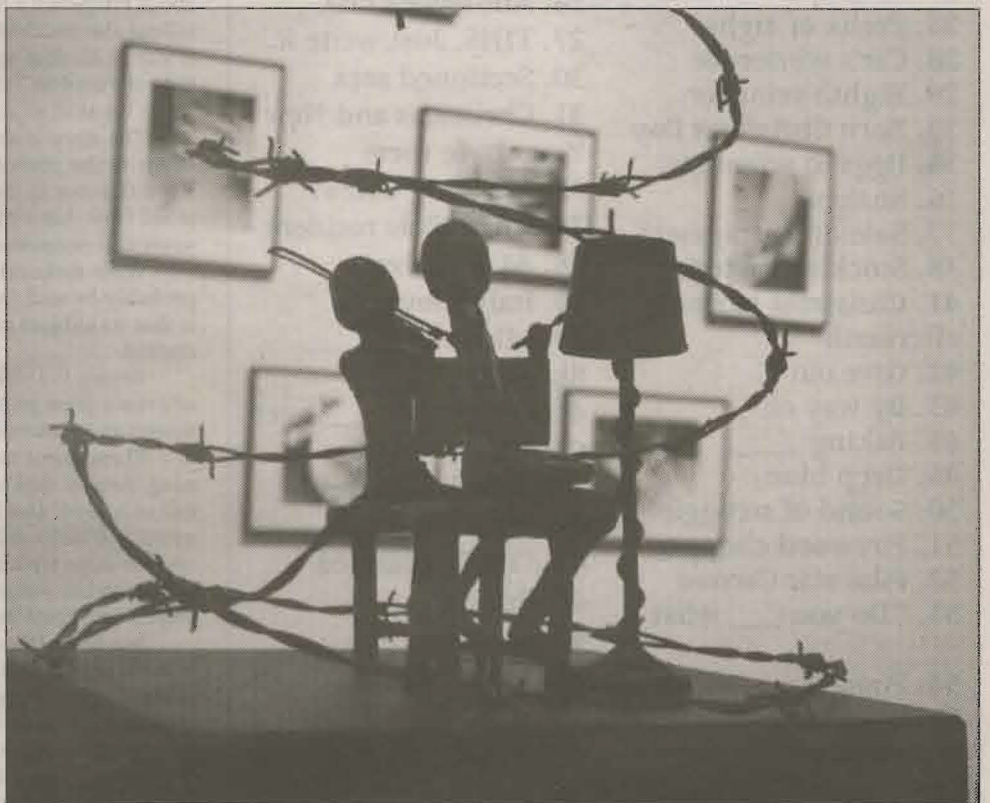
Photos by Rob Ripley



Above: Hard at work, Anna Finley, Erica Penn, Richard Buchanan, and John Kyle-Wall work to make everything perfect for the art show and reception, which is taking place on Friday, Dec 1.



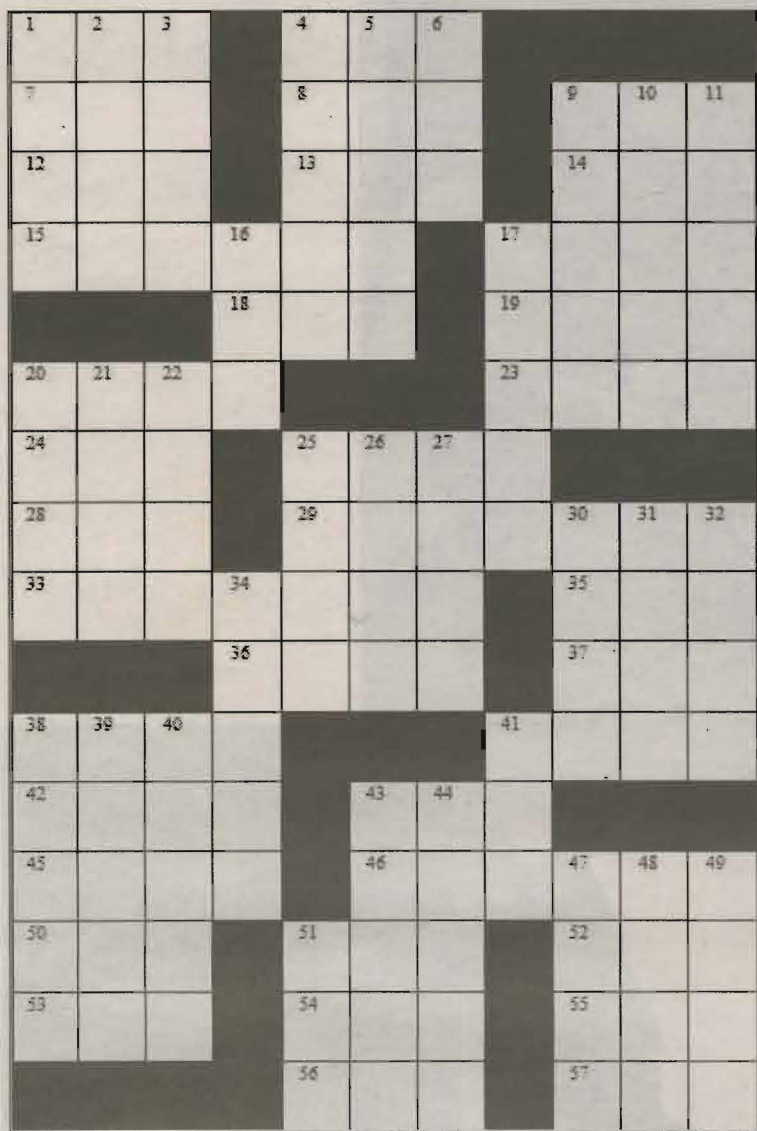
Above: Richard Buchanan and Jamie Forslund set up for the PLU senior art exhibit which is held in the Ingram Hall gallery



Above: A sculpture on display in the gallery. The exhibit features a variety of art including painting, photography and sculpture.

Winter break

KARLY SIROKY



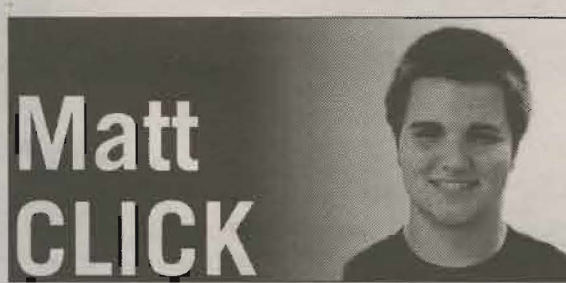
ACROSS

- 1. ___ or snowboard?
- 4. Icy road's victim
- 7. Started the fire
- 8. Tribute
- 9. School of Computer Science
- 12. Manning of the Giants
- 13. 'Santa' imposter
- 14. "The greatest reindeer of ___"
- 15. Seventh reindeer
- 17. Cheese choice
- 18. Dined
- 19. German boy's name
- 20. What PLU got Nov. 27!!
- 23. ___-O-Sketch
- 24. Triumph
- 25. Prefix of eight
- 28. Car's winter foe
- 29. Eighth reindeer
- 33. Born Christmas Day
- 35. Eggs to scientists
- 36. Snakes
- 37. Salmon entrapment
- 38. Stocking material
- 41. Christmas morning aftermath
- 42. Give out
- 43. By way of
- 45. Baking ___
- 46. Deep blue
- 50. Sound of struggle?
- 51. Firewood chopper
- 52. Film star Carrere
- 53. "Do you ___ what I ___?"
- 54. Pounds ___ inch²
- 55. If and only if
- 56. Tolkien's talking tree
- 57. Ave.'s

DOWN

- 1. Snow glider
- 2. Metric pound equivalent
- 3. Trip sched.
- 4. Sixth reindeer
- 5. Admire
- 6. Dream symptom
- 9. Lars' salad
- 10. Deaf person's idol
- 11. Winter road median
- 16. Nope
- 17. Manger sound
- 20. Stay afloat
- 21. Kind
- 22. Small bills
- 25. Kimono sashes
- 26. Audience's task
- 27. TIHS. Just write it.
- 30. Sectioned area
- 31. Christmas and New Years have them
- 32. Mr. King Cole's?
- 34. North Pole resident
- 38. Affirmatives
- 39. Italy's love
- 40. Mission _____
- Ski Area
- 41. "Don't get ____, get Glad!©"
- 43. Fourth reindeer
- 44. Unmoving
- 47. "It's" expanded
- 48. Present
- 49. Klutzes
- 51. Homo Sapien cousin

"The Fountain" provides fantastical escapism for bored filmgoers



It is a time of great suffering. Blockbusters, their egos swelling with multi-million dollar budgets, trample through the box offices, leaving the helpless independent and art-house films battered and beaten in their wake. We feed these monsters with our money until they leave the theater and then again when they return four months later on DVD. I love an action blockbuster as much as the next American male ("Casino Royale," anyone?). But where are our Kubricks? Where did all the Kurosawas, the Fellinis and the Bergmans go? When did cinema cease being an art and when did movies become cheap two-hour thrills that we throw money at, watch and forget?

These questions are all rhetorical, of course, and some would argue that they are simply a result of my subdued, film-elitist tendencies. But I digress. "The Fountain" is the remarkable new film from director Darren Aronofsky. Like the recent "Stranger than Fiction," which I also loved, it is a breath of fresh air during this period of absolute blockbuster domination. It's a Kubrick-esque foray into love, loss, mortality and the fragility of human life. "The Fountain" is a richly multi-layered love story, spanning over 1,000 years and following three separate couples (each portrayed fantastically by Hugh Jackman and Rachel Weisz), who may or may not be incarnations of the same people. Each couple is haunted by mortality and the idea of death, and they seek out the secret to eternal life in their own ways. The plot is intricately woven and, at times, exceedingly confusing. The story hops around quite a bit through the film's entirety. One moment, we're following the quest of a sixteenth-century Spanish conquistador to find the Tree of Life. Three minutes later, we're in the year 2500 and a bald astronaut is

speeding across the galaxy inside a bubble. The film moves fast and it doesn't wait for the audience to catch up.

"The Fountain" is also one of the most visually breathtaking films in years. The images are striking and surreal, but the beautiful shots aren't there just to look pretty. Aronofsky uses cinematography as a storytelling tool, and he masterfully connects the three plotlines through visuals. This, blended with the rich story, superb performances, and abundance of symbolism and meaning, makes for a fully engrossing, deftly constructed piece of cinema.

But I must be honest. Walking out of "The Fountain" as the credits rolled, I wasn't entirely sure if I had enjoyed it or not. I was confused and mentally exhausted. In fact, it wasn't until the next morning that I finally decided that I had liked the film. Once I reached that point, I was itching to experience "The Fountain" again.

It's not a film for the casual filmgoer, and that's the simple truth of it. It's a divisive movie, one that will generate reactions at the extreme ends of the loved it/hated it scale. For me, "The Fountain" was an enjoyable little gem. If you're bored with the typical mainstream movies and are looking for a complex, well-crafted film, you owe it to yourself to see "The Fountain."

"The Fountain" is showing at the following locations:

- Regal Lakewood Cinema 15
2410 84th St. S, Lakewood, WA 98499
 - AMC Loews Lakewood Town Center 12
5721 Main St. SW, Lakewood, WA 98499
 - Regal Longston Place 14
13317 Meridian St. E., Puyallup, WA 98373
- For showtimes and ticket prices visit fandango.com

A classic that fits

"This Side of Paradise" By F. Scott Fitzgerald

MEGAN CHARLES
Mast columnist

"People read him now for clues and guidelines, as if by understanding him and his beautiful and damned period, they could see more clearly what's wrong."

These are the words F. Scott Fitzgerald's daughter uses to describe him and for the most part, I think they are very true. Reading classic works like "The Great Gatsby" brought me closer to a lot of truths about Fitzgerald's flapper era, but his brilliant storytelling also touched me on a personal level. However, it was in his first semi-autobiographical novel, "This Side of Paradise," that Fitzgerald really began to develop his skill as a writer.

The story is about Amory Blaine, a boy coming of age in the years following the World War I. Despite the difference in eras, much of what is to be understood from Amory's experiences in his growing up years still resonates in today's world.

What makes this book stand out, and this can probably be said for the majority of Fitzgerald's work, is that its subject matter is timeless and superbly crafted.

Amory is a character who isn't much of a hero or even a great protagonist. But he is real, hopelessly flawed and misunderstood.

Throughout the novel, particularly at its beginning, Amory strikes the reader as someone who is too full of himself and his place in society. He's unmotivated and lacks skills when it comes to forming real relationships with anyone, particularly romantic affairs with the women who flock to him because of his wealth and good looks.

But when life deals him a few foul hands, costing him his wealth and his social status, Amory becomes more of your average joe. He is forced to come to terms with who he is and what he really wants.

It is through Amory that readers are able to identify just how hard it is to know oneself, especially when certain luxuries provide the ability to be lazy and unaware.

This book makes readers question themselves:

Who am I as a person, how do I treat others, and how is this all connected?

Amory realizes that there are certain injustices in life and that happiness, in his particular case with the girl of his dreams, isn't always enough to assure a lifelong commitment. It's unfortunate that it is only through loss and desperation that Amory finally realizes and, more importantly, accepts who he is.

"This Side of Paradise" is more than an account of an egotistical young man drifting aimlessly through the 1920s. It's a story about surviving hopelessness and gaining something from experiences that are both good and bad.



"This Side of Paradise"

288 pages
ISBN: 0451526104
Price: \$5.95

Information from amazon.com

Winter sports melt icy competition



Tim KELLY

Women's basketball look poised for NWC Championship repeat

"Impressive" seems to be the best word to describe the PLU winter sports scene.

The men and women's basketball teams tipped off two weeks ago, while the swimming team has been going strong for just over a month now.

The women's basketball team brings with it the excitement of success after winning last season's Northwest Conference championship and marching to the Sweet Sixteen.

Every collegiate program loses casts of characters regularly because of the four years of eligibility rule.

The Lutes lose two All-Conference players, but fortunately the team returns 13 competitors.

These 13 veterans were not overlooked when the fellow Northwest Conference coaches voted the Lutes as the pre-season favorite. The team received seven of a possible nine first-place votes.

The biggest reason for this love is the return of Conference Player of the Year, Nikki Johnson.

Last season, Johnson, a transfer from Centralia College, scored 14 points and grabbed almost 10 rebounds a game playing as a wing.

Another key returnee is senior post Kezia Long. Long, a Federal Way native, is already in the school's career top 10 list for rebounds and blocked shots.

With another strong year, she should be there in points as well. Last season, Long nabbed almost 10 rebounds a game and chipped in 13 points per contest.

The team also returns experienced play from junior wing Trish Buckingham, sophomore post Melissa Richardson, sophomore guard Trinity Gibbons and junior guard Kyle Haag. Post Emily Voorhies returns after missing last season due to an injury.

Coaching has been a huge factor in the Lutes' success, and the team has a great coach in Gil Rigell. In his nine years at the helm, the team has won 183 games and five shared or outright conference championships.

The roundballers have reached postseason play six times. Last season, Coach Rigell led the team to a record in single season victories and winning percentages.

Switching gears to the men's side of basketball, this team is expecting big things from a new coach. As we have seen in the women's team, coaching plays a huge part in the success of a team.

For the past four seasons the men's program has been struggling. It was only able to muster 26 wins in the past four seasons.

Gone are the days of the hockey-esque five-man line changes. That's been replaced with more stable and consistent substitutions.

Dave Dickerson begins his first season at the helm of the men's team after spending the past three seasons as an assistant to former head coach Dave Harshman.

Dickerson hasn't been a head coach at the collegiate level, but he did spend 19 years as a head coach at a Columbus, Ohio high school.

After finishing with a 5-20 record last season, with a 4-12 record in conference play and a 7th-place finish, the Lutes are picked to finish in 8th place this season.

Over the past few years, there hasn't been a compelling

reason to rank them any higher. With a new head coach, things should be looking up.

The team will be led by sophomore guard Josh Dressler, junior guards Landon Heidenreich and Kurt Oliver and senior wing Josh VanLandingham.

Newcomer Jared Brandeberry has played huge in the first two games, both of which were Lute victories, by chipping in 27 points.

If the first two games are any indication, and without the unorthodox method of substitutions, the Lutes look to have a great chance to make some noise in the conference.

Now, onto another great indoor sport. Both the men and women's swimming teams have seen success in individual meets with both teams jumping out to a 2-1 record in individual conference meets.

The men's team has been led by Andy Stetzler of Kent, who was the Northwest Conference Swimmer of the Week for the week of Nov. 14.

Other key returnees are juniors Pat Carlisle and Adam Fuller, sophomore Thomas Hoghuat and senior Jason Hesla, who took a year off from the team last year.

The women's swim team is led by a pair of talented first-years who have both been deemed to have national competition potential.

Jessie Donovan of Mount Vernon was the Northwest Conference Swimmer of the Week for last week while fellow first-year Mica Bailey of Burien was an honorable mention for the week that Stetzler won the men's award.

Other key returnees for the team are sophomore Katelyn Umetsu, junior Tara Johnson and seniors Emma Coulson and Katie Crawford.

If all three teams can play to their potential, the road to a Northwest Conference championship will definitely have to pass through Parkland. Go Lutes!

Swimmer goes against current

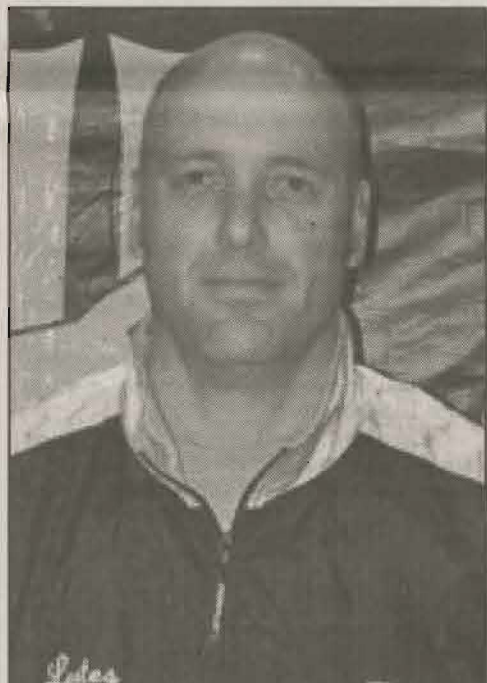


Photo courtesy of PLU athletic Web site

Swimmer Michael Turcott

father of two teenage girls, "Old man Turk," as his teammates call him, realizes life's rare chances.

"When you hit 40, you start to re-evaluate things," Turcott said. "Finishing a degree and participating in college athletics are some things you don't like to miss."

Turcott has been down this road before. He was a student at PLU from 1982-1985.

But because he did not swim during his earlier years here, Turcott was able to begin utilizing his years of athletic eligibility this winter after a return to school last fall.

"Finishing a degree and participating in college athletics are some things you don't like to miss."

Michael Turcott
men's freestyle swimmer

It was head coach Jim Johnson who supported Turcott in his consideration to compete at the collegiate level.

"He's got a true love for swimming," coach Johnson said with a smile.

Turcott also competes in Masters Swimming, a national swimming club that includes beginning and former Olympian swimmers.

"I will swim Masters till I'm about 100," Turcott said.

While this season may not include many victories, Turcott would dispute any notion of it not being rewarding.

He has lost 10 pounds and has reaped benefits most would not understand.

"My goal was to show up, not be a slug and win some points," Turcott said.

Despite the many challenges of swimming alongside teammates much younger than him, Turcott wouldn't want it any other way.

"I like things that take me out of my comfort zone. You only have one chance to do something like this," he said.

Although Turcott is unsure whether he will continue to swim as a Lute beyond this year, he is positive he will continue to swim until he physically can't.

"I will die in the pool," Turcott said.

43-year-old making a splash for men's swim

STEPHEN ODELL
Mast sports intern

Some say the fountain of youth is a mere myth. But those who know Pacific Lutheran swimmer Michael Turcott would disagree.

Turcott shares attributes similar to many of his teammates. He is enrolled in the required 12 credits for PLU athletes, he swam as a child and he has a fervent love for the sport.

However, something sets him apart.

The 43-year-old Lute conveys a Julio Franco impression as opposed to one of a Michael Phelps.

Turcott, a sociology major, would like you to think he is no different. In fact, he prefers that you don't bring up his age at all.

"I do my workouts like any other of my teammates," Turcott said. "I'm sore all the time."

Turcott swims several freestyle events, including the 200, 500, mile and freestyle medley relay.

Even more amazing is Turcott's life once he leaves the swimming pool.

As a full-time Washington State trooper and

Hey Lutes!

Don't forget to support winter sports during J-term. Check www.plu.edu/~athletics for dates and times of events.

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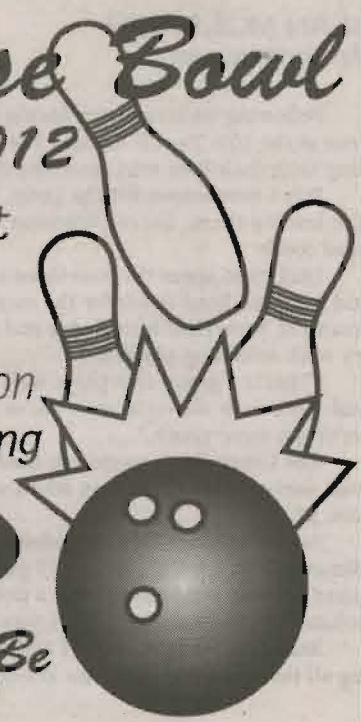
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Senior sets sight on nationals

Nikki's wish: To be friend, then athlete



Photo courtesy of PLU athletic web site
Senior Nikki Johnson

TYLER SCOTT
Mast sports reporter

Senior Nikki Johnson has certainly been recognized for all that she has accomplished on the basketball court in her time at PLU.

"It's nice to be recognized, but awards aren't what win games. I'm here to win and make it to the national championship," Johnson said.

Earning Northwest Conference Player of the Year honors after last season's Sweet Sixteen run and third-team All-American honors, she began the season a preseason second-team All-American and a favorite to repeat as NWC Player of the Year.

And after only a few weeks into the season, she hasn't disappointed.

Averaging 17.8 points, 10.8 rebounds and 2.0 steals per game through the team's first four games, Johnson has already won Northwest Conference Player of the Week and the UPS Tip-off Classic MVP.

But don't expect all of these titles to distract her from her goal this season.

"This is my last year, and all I'm here for is to win the national championship. That's all I'm going for," she said.

This competitive drive has allowed Johnson to achieve all that she has thus far in her illustrious career.

While these awards have raised expectations to incredible heights, they come nowhere near Johnson's own personal expectations.

"My own personal goals and standards are what give me the most pressure. I put far more expectations on myself than anybody else does," she said.

Her role on the team has changed this year, now that she is a senior and leader.

"I'm the type of person who isn't very vocal. To me, leadership is more action than words, so I just try to get it done and be an example to some of my younger teammates," Johnson said.

After beginning the season by beating Cal Lutheran and Oglethorpe to win the UPS Tip-off Classic, the Lutes struggled last weekend at the Western Washington University Lynda Goodrich Invitational in Bellingham.

The team lost to Western Washington and St. Martin's.

At this point, with a 2-2 record going into Friday's home and conference opener against Linfield, the team is working through a period of adjustment.

"Right now we're in an adjusting period that all teams have to go through at this time of year," Johnson said. "We'll be fine once we figure out the changes that need to be made, our strengths and weaknesses."

Johnson, from Tenino, Wash., is majoring in social work and plans to go on to earn her master's degree.

However, she is still unsure of exactly what occupation she wants to pursue.

"I've always wanted to do something in the social field," Johnson said. "I really care about people. I want to help in some way, perhaps as a counselor in a high school."

In whatever career she chooses, Johnson expects basketball to continue to hold an important place in her life.

"I'm sure I'm going to miss it so much

that I'll have to do something. My sister coaches a high school team, and I would love to do that as well," she said.

Right now, though, she is focused on her one goal for this season: a run to the championship.

"Everything I do this season is my last time: my last first game, my last seventh practice. I just want to enjoy every second of it with this team—playing hard, doing what we can do and winning. I wouldn't want to be a part of any other team," Johnson said.

Any player is bound to have some sort of legacy as she grows up with the team and eventually moves on.

Johnson wants to be remembered by teammates as more than just a teammate.

"Basketball has always been a huge part of my life, but I would much rather be remembered for being there for people and caring about others than how many times I had 20 points and 10 rebounds," she said.

When a competitive fire meets a desire to do well, there is no limit to what can be accomplished.

Nikki Johnson strives to live with this mindset, on and off the court.

And the impact it leaves will outlast all the trophies and accolades, however numerous they may become.

Saints march over Lutes

Women's basketball begins season 2-2

JON WEDELL
Mast sports reporter

The Lutes' women's basketball team, a favorite to take the conference title, opened the season at the University of Puget Sound's Tip-Off Classic with a 2-2 record.

PLU first played the Regals of California Lutheran, then faced off against Oglethorpe University from Atlanta, Georgia.

Most recently, the Lutes struggled with Western Washington and St. Martin, both division II schools.

"The tough preseason schedule helps us, and being conference champions we know we have to play every night as people

will play their best against us," Kezia Long said.

PLU comes into the season with several veterans as well as a good core of young talent. Leading the Lutes for the repeat is preseason All-American reigning conference player of the year senior Nikki Johnson and senior post player Kezia Long.

However, the team did lose its backcourt, which led the Lutes to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA tournament last season.

The biggest question for the Lutes is the guard play and who will step up to take the spots.

The Lutes outplayed their first game against California Lutheran. The Regals fought hard with PLU for the afternoon. The Lutes maintained the lead for the entire game, with the exception of one tie.

Johnson and Long led the team in scoring. Junior guard Megan Clarno chipped in 13 points and 7 assists.

Trinity Gibbons also had an impact on the game, contributing 5 assists. However, at 4 ft. 11 in., Tiffany Shim kept the Regals in the contest. The final score was 64-55.

The Lutes battled Oglethorpe to win their second game in a row, 73-70. The game became a nail biter as the Lutes struggled to beat their opponents. The Stormy Petrels faced PLU after a blowout loss to UPS.

Long led the Lutes, finishing with 20 points. Johnson led the team in scoring with 22 points and 12 boards. Clarno chipped in 16 points in the win.

"Our strength is our quickness, and we are athletic, one thing we need to improve is our identity as a team and figuring out our roles," Nikki Johnson said.

Breaking out to a 2-0 start, the Lutes headed up north to face the division II team at Western Washington.

The Lutes started off strong and played aggressively, leading the game 34-28.

But the potent offense of the Vikings stepped up and key defensive stops made the difference as Western Washington scored the final 9 points for a 68-61 victory.

After a tough loss to Western Washington, the Lutes' shooting ran cold. PLU shot a meager 22 percent in the 62-44 loss against the St. Martin Saints.

Besides the team's poor shooting, 21 turnovers prevented the Lutes from any comeback dreams.

"We knew we might have some losses coming into league but that's better than beating a weak opponent," said Head Coach Gil Rigell.

Johnson led the Lutes in scoring, earning a double-double of 16 points to go along with 10 rebounds.

Up next for the Lutes is the conference opener when the Linfield Wildcats and Willamette Bearcats come to Parkland.

Lutes salt Banana Slugs

Men's basketball opens season with new coach and two wins

SEAN MCILRAITH
Mast sports reporter

Following victories over Menlo College and UC Santa Cruz at the UPS Tip-Off Classic, the Lutes are off and running with their best start since the 2001-02 season.

It is a new season for the Lutes, but there is a familiar face leading them. Steve Dickerson was hired as the new head coach.

Dickerson spent the past three seasons as an assistant and associate head coach for the men's team. He brings a wealth of basketball knowledge and an established chemistry with returning players.

"This is a group that plays well together," Dickerson said. "We have the right mix. We've got some veterans and we've got some youth."

The Lutes didn't waste any time showing what the team was capable of, with an 80-74 win against Menlo on Nov. 17.

Junior forward Jared Brandeberry, a transfer from Wenatchee Valley C.C., scored 22 points and junior point guard Landon Heidenreich had a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds in the Lutes' season opener.

Brandeberry made 8 of 11 shots from the field, including all three of his three-point attempts, and also snagged

seven rebounds.

Heidenreich, a third-year starter, made 7 of 10 from the foul line and added four assists. Sophomore guard Josh Dressler also played 39 minutes and scored 16 points for PLU. Senior wing Josh Vanlandingham, the team's leading returning scorer from last season, came off the bench to tally 12 points in 19 minutes for the Lutes.

"The team is confident and we will compete hard and win games this season," Heidenreich said. "He (Dickerson) is letting us play our game and that is an advantage for us."

The following day, the Lutes battled the Banana Slugs of UC Santa Cruz.

The Slugs scored the first basket, but after that the Lutes never trailed again, finishing the game 84-79.

When junior Josh Vanlandingham hit a layup with 12:11 remaining, the Lutes gained their largest lead of the game at 61-34. Santa Cruz made a basket to make the score 77-72 with 2:33 left to play, and the Slugs hit a three-pointer to cut PLU's advantage to 82-79 with four seconds left.

UCSC fouled Dressler and he hit both free throws for the final margin. Dressler led all scorers with 22 points and added seven rebounds and five assists to the Lutes' score. Vanlandingham had 19 points off the bench, and junior reserve post Scott McDaniels had the best game of his collegiate career so far with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

For his performance in the tournament, Dressler was named to the All-Tournament team. He scored 38 points, seven assists, six steals, two blocks and seven rebounds.

Heidenreich also earned honors as he was named Northwest Conference honorable mention player of the week after he averaged 14 points, 8.5 rebounds and 4.5 as-

sists in the opening games for the Lutes.

"We needed these wins," Dickerson said. "One game was close, and in the other one we got way up which we hadn't experienced for a long time. The game was a definite learning experience."

The Lutes open up Northwest Conference play today as they host the Linfield Wildcats in Olson Auditorium. The Wildcats come in with a 2-1 record.

Last season, the Lutes and Wildcats played three games against each other with Linfield taking two out of three. Tomorrow the 1-3 Willamette Bearcats will attempt to invade Olson. Both teams split last season.

"We're more disciplined, more cohesive and play together more as a team," junior post Matt Sinnes said. "We're going to get out and play hard."

The tip-off for both games is at 8 p.m.

Question of the week:

According to PNC Bank, how much would buying all the items in the "12 Days of Christmas" song cost? Also, which item saw the sharpest increase in value since last year?

	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
THIS WEEK IN SPORTS	•Lutes basket-ball women vs. Linfield @ 6 p.m. Men's basketball vs. Linfield @ 8 p.m. in Olson.	• Swimming: NWC Invitational @ 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the PLU pool.	• Hawks hit the road: Seattle Seahawks vs. Denver Broncos @ 5:30 p.m. on NBC.	•Monday Night Football: Philadelphia Eagles vs. Carolina Panthers @ 5:30 p.m. on ESPN.	•NHL action: NY Islanders vs. Ottawa Senators @ 4:30 p.m. Check local listings.	•NBA action: Seattle Sonics vs. Atlanta Hawks. Tune in @ 7 p.m. on FSN or on the radio at 770 AM.	• Lutes hoops: Men's basketball vs. Portland State @ 7 p.m.

Defrosting a classic

Nate HULINGS



Tis the season to use poetry in order to make a point

With winter break just around the corner, I thought it would be fitting to recite one of my favorite Christmas stories to get everyone in the spirit of the season. However, instead of dressing up like Santa and sitting in Red Square narrating "The Night Before Christmas," I decided to revamp the story and modernize it with a sports-relevant twist.

To those familiar with the story, I apologize. It doesn't flow like the original, but take it for what it's worth: a meager outlook on the Sonics' chances of staying in Seattle.

The part of Santa is played by two characters who attempt to both save and move the Sonics.

Kemper Freeman is a real estate baron who has expressed interest in working with the Sonics to move them to Bellevue.

Clayton Bennet is the new owner of the Sonics who has stated that if an arena deal is not reached, he will explore the option of moving the team to Oklahoma City.

Feel free to sit next to a fire and drink a hot beverage of your choice while reading this. The cozy scene will numb you to reality.

'Twas the night before Christmas and oh, such a pity, some Sonics fans chanted, "Go to Oklahoma City!"

The initiative passed, taxing of Seattleites gone. The hearts of the fans the Sonics had none.

The Sonics couldn't win, all snug in last place. Their defense was a disgrace to the whole human race.

Safeco had its roof and Qwest had its noise, those teams were all happy, moneymaking boys.

When out of Bellevue there was a glorious call. Sonics fans put down their Starbucks while shopping at the mall.

Away to the eastside they flew like a hawk, cruised down I-90 making the floating bridge rock.

The glow from the city of Bellevue did show, the prosperity and affluent businesses Seattle used to know.

When what do they see but a man on a mission, a man who, if the Sonics left, would be obviously stricken.

Quicker than fans could say, "Thank you so much," Kemper Freeman gathered support for an arena and such.

He spoke to the city, the people, the players! He petitioned the restaurants, the county, the lawyers!

To the state capital! To the hearts of them all!
Now vote for us, vote for us, vote for us all!

The Sonics' old home would now not suffice, so Kemper drew up something pleasant and nice.

Schematics of arena ideas they drew, but the Sonics stadium would need something new.

And then just as fast as our hopes became stronger, Clayton Bennet—the owner—said, "Stay here no longer!"

The fans were amazed at how fast things had changed. Surely this man wouldn't take our Sonics to the range?

He was dressed in a hat, and boots to fit, and his clothes were all flashy and custom knit.

A big load of cash he pulled from his wallet. This man was no hobo, looking not like a hobbit.

His mind full of dreams, his eyes oh so greedy. His mouth full of "darnits," "confoundits," and the "me mes."

We all heard his words and his previous statements. Now the time had come for the Sonics to hit the pavement.

He laughed and he laughed along with his friends. The team had been taken, could the city mend?

He spoke not a word, but inside he said, "Should the Sonics new colors be orange or red?"

He jumped in his jet, gave the pilot a call, wanting to get out of Seattle once and for all.

But as he flew away he said, as I recall, "You didn't care about the Sonics, not one of ya'll!"

The End.

For those of you who want to keep the Sonics in the area, don't give up the fight. It's not over.

For those of you who are tired of being taxed on stadiums you didn't vote for, the fight isn't over for you either.

However, the deciding factor on whether or not the Sonics will stay in Washington will not be a testament of the area's love for sports.

What is being decided is our willingness and readiness to spend more money on something other than education, poverty and healthcare.

All three of which I would put on my Christmas list before saving the Sonics.

Scorecard

Men's Basketball

Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
Whitworth	0-0	.000	6-0	1.000
PLU	0-0	.000	2-0	1.000
George Fox	0-0	.000	3-1	.750
UPS	0-0	.000	3-1	.750
Linfield	0-0	.000	2-1	.667
L&C	0-0	.000	3-2	.600
Willamette	0-0	.000	1-3	.250
Whitman	0-0	.000	0-1	.000
Pacific	0-0	.000	0-3	.000

(All stats as of 11/27)

- Points:**
1. Josh Dressler - 38
 2. Josh Vanlandingham - 31
 3. Landon Heidenreich - 28
- Assists:**
1. Landon Heidenreich - 9
 2. Josh Dressler - 7
 3. Andrew Mehalechko - 6

- Rebounds:**
1. Landon Heidenreich - 17
 2. Scott McDaniels - 15
 3. Two tied with - 12

- Blocks:**
1. Josh Dressler - 2
 2. Josh Vanlandingham - 1
 3. Scott McDaniels - 1
 4. Jared Brandeberry - 1

Upcoming games:

- 12/1 vs. Linfield - 8 p.m.
- 12/2 vs. Willamette - 8 p.m.
- 12/7 at Portland State - 7 p.m.
- 12/8 at Northwest College - 7:30 p.m.

Last Two Games:

- 11/17 vs. Menlo - Won 80-74
- 11/18 vs. UC Santa Cruz - Won 84-79

Women's Basketball

Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
George Fox	0-0	.000	3-0	1.000
UPS	0-0	.000	3-0	1.000
Whitworth	0-0	.000	3-0	1.000
L&C	0-0	.000	2-1	.667
Whitman	0-0	.000	2-1	.667
Pacific	0-0	.000	3-2	.600
PLU	0-0	.000	2-2	.500
Linfield	0-0	.000	1-1	.500
Willamette	0-0	.000	0-5	.000

(All stats as of 11/27)

- Points:**
1. Nikki Johnson - 71
 2. Megan Clarno - 48
 3. Kezia Long - 43

- Assists:**
1. Megan Clarno - 15
 2. Trinity Gibbons - 10
 3. Two tied with - 6

Rebounds:

1. Nikki Johnson - 43
2. Kezia Long - 43
3. Trish Buckingham - 19

Blocks:

1. Kezia Long - 5
2. Nikki Johnson - 4
3. Abby McHugh - 3

Upcoming Games:

- 12/1 vs. Linfield - 6 p.m.
- 12/2 vs. Willamette - 6 p.m.
- 12/8 vs. Evergreen State - 7 p.m.
- 12/9 vs. Corban - 7 p.m.

Last Four Games:

- 11/17 vs. Cal Lutheran - Won 64-55
- 11/18 vs. Oglethorpe - Won 73-70
- 11/24 vs. Western Wash. - Lost 68-61
- 11/25 vs. St. Martin's - Lost 62-44

Swimming

Men's Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
Whitworth	3-0	1.000	3-1	.750
Linfield	3-0	1.000	3-2	.600
PLU	2-1	.667	2-1	.667
Whitman	2-1	.667	3-1	.750
UPS	1-2	.333	1-2	.333
Willamette	0-2	.000	0-2	.000
Pacific	0-2	.000	0-2	.000
L&C	0-3	.000	1-3	.250

Women's Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
Whitworth	3-0	1.000	3-1	.750
UPS	3-0	1.000	3-0	1.000
L&C	2-1	.667	3-1	.750
PLU	2-1	.667	2-1	.667
Whitman	1-2	.333	2-2	.500
Pacific	0-2	.000	0-2	.000
Willamette	0-2	.000	0-2	.000
Linfield	0-3	.000	0-5	.000

Last Three Meets:

- 11/10 vs. UPS
Men - Won 103-102
Women - Lost 126-79
- 11/17 vs. Linfield
Men - Lost 134-71
Women - Won 105-100
- 11/18 vs. Pacific
Men - Won 121-46
Women - 142-52

Upcoming meets:

- 12/1 Northwest Invit. @ PLU- 6 p.m.
- 12/2 cont. Invit. - 10 a.m./6 p.m.
- 1/12 at L&C - 6 p.m.
- 1/13 at Willamette - 1 p.m.
- 1/19 vs. Whitworth - 6 p.m.
- 1/20 vs. Whitman - 1 p.m.
- 1/27 at Albertson - 1 p.m.

Men 400 Free Relay:

1. Linfield - 3.17.96Y
2. PLU - 3.25.18Y
3. UPS - 3.26.05Y

Men 400 Medley Relay:

1. UPS - 3.49.40Y
2. PLU - 3.49.89Y
3. Linfield - 3.53.51Y

Women 400 Free Relay:

1. Whitworth - 3.41.05Y
2. PLU - 3.50.30Y
3. UPS - 3.51.97Y

Women 400 Medley Relay:

1. UPS - 4.16.21Y
2. L&C - 4.18.46Y
3. Linfield - 4.20.98Y

Answer:
\$18,920. The pear tree's value increased by almost 44 percent this year.

Attaway Lutes!

A look back at the highlights of the 2006 fall sports season



Photo by Brett A. Patterson
Junior midfielder Erik Gracey fights for a header against Whitman.

Overall records:
Football: 4-5
M soccer: 12-6-1
W soccer: 11-7-2
Volleyball: 20-7



Photo by Chris Hunt
Senior receiver Chase Reed breaking a tackle in PLU's opener against Cal Lutheran.



Photo by Brett A. Patterson
First-year defender Jillian Trumbull saves a goal by heading the ball in a game this fall.



Photo by Chris Hunt
Sophomore Ben Hollander runs at the NWC meet.



Photo by Chris Hunt
Junior libero Megan Kosel bumps the ball during a victory against UPS.

Swim hosts, toasts Oregon teams

COLLIN GUILDNER
Mast sports reporter

Northwest Conference opponents Pacific and Linfield both paid a visit to the Pacific Lutheran pool last weekend and found the Lutes to be a formidable foe.

The women's team swept the weekend, winning 105-100 over Linfield and 142-52 over Pacific.

The men lost to a powerhouse Linfield team 134-71 but bounced back the next day to take a 121-46 victory over Pacific.

The women's meet against Linfield went down to the wire, with the Lutes trailing by four points going into the last relay.

But the Lutes were able to pull off a stunning victory, touching the wall before the Wildcats.

The winning team consists of senior Kim Wood, junior Tara Johnson, first-year Shalla Eugley and first-year Mica Bailey.

Double winners for the ladies were Bailey in the 50- and 100-meter freestyles and first-year Jessie Donovan in the 200- and 100-meter backstroke events.

The men's contest against Linfield was much less exciting. The Linfield men's swim team is the cream of the crop in the Northwest Conference and their skill showed in a dominating performance against the Lutes.

Individual winners for the Lutes were sophomore Andy Stetler in the 1000-meter freestyle, sophomore Luke Weinbrecht in the 50-meter freestyle and senior Jason Hesla in the 100-meter breaststroke.

"We just don't have the speed that they do," first-year swimmer Eric Brauser said. "They have a lot of depth and a bunch of fast guys and we could not compete. I would not be surprised if they won the conference."

The hangover from the Linfield meet did not last long as the Pacific University Boxers rolled into town the next day.

As predicted, the Lute men and women defeated the Boxers. The Boxers have a combined nine swimmers on their men and women's swim teams, which makes it very hard to compete with teams that are able to field a full squad.

"The Pacific swimmers were fast but they just don't have the numbers," Brauser said. "It was good to bounce back with a win after the loss to Linfield."

The Lutes will host the Northwest Invitational this weekend in their final meet before winter vacation.

The meet starts Friday at 6 p.m. and continues with sessions at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday.

The meet will feature all teams from the Northwest Conference.

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