



■ Twelve actors perform 70 roles in theater department's 'Spoon River' Page 8 and 9

the Mast



■ Lutherans in Latin America: A familiar church a world away Special Section

March 12, 1993

Serving the PLU community in the year 1992-93

Volume LXX No. 17

Prayers, 'Quilt of Love' cover PLU

By Mike Lee
Mast news editor

Young people and old people, white collar workers and blue collar workers, men and women gathered in Red Square the evening of March 9 — not for politics or protest but in prayer.

"I had in mind for this time three things," said Susan Briehl, campus pastor, explaining the candle-light prayer vigil regarding the AIDS epidemic.

After forming the group into a circle, bordered by candles in paper bags, Briehl's first goal was to "pray for all the community that . . . is about the work of healing."

As she prayed an invocation, students, faculty and community members continued to join the prayer circle until it included nearly 50 people.

In the stillness, broken only by an occasional Air Force plane, person after person lifted up in prayer health workers, churches and even President Bill Clinton.

"Now blessed Holy Spirit, we (bring) before you all we know that suffer . . . that are even now living their last days," continued Briehl, turning the group's attention to another facet of the AIDS epidemic.

Prayers for "Jeff," "Daniel" and "my son Gary, who's a Parkland boy" led off the round before Briehl turned the focus to those with AIDS who had already died.

In the same quiet fashion that the people had followed one another into the square a few minutes ear-



Photo by Liz Turwell

Participants at AIDS prayer vigil March 9 hold hands in Red Square before following the candles to Olson Auditorium. Campus Pastor Susan Briehl led the participants in prayer.

lier, they followed Briehl in naming friend after friend who had died with AIDS.

"Before you, O God, we commit our lives," Briehl said when the stream of voices was vacillated up by silence. "Amen."

With that, the group split up, breaking into smaller, less formal circles of friends and relatives.

Some of the people drifted off,

but most of the company followed Briehl and the candle-bordered "path of light" to Olson Auditorium for the Quilt of Love concert performed by PLU's symphony orchestra and conductor Jerry Kracht.

Before the 8 p.m. concert, however, most of the vigil group joined a handful of others in Olson to view two 12-foot square quilt patches dedicated to individuals who lost

their lives to AIDS.

The two patches, which were each comprised of eight personal quilts, are part of a 40-acre "Quilt of Love" housed in Washington, D.C.

Like people visiting the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., the viewers talked quietly among themselves, some in awe, some in sadness, some in curiosity.

See QUILT page 16

Former assistant education dean dies

By Mike Lee
Mast news editor

Long-time PLU assistant dean of education Nan Nokleberg, died Wednesday afternoon, after an extended battle with a hereditary pulmonary disease.

"Thousands of PLU education alumni, both locally and across the nation, remember her as the person whose diligence and caring helped them secure their first teaching positions," wrote President Loren Anderson in a March 11 letter to the PLU community.



Nan Nokleberg

Memorial services will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 121st St. and Park Avenue, on March 15 at 2 p.m. Nokleberg's family has established a scholarship fund for the PLU School of Education, to which memorials may be donated.

She was survived by her husband Jim and children John and Jane.

See NOKLEBERG page 16

Caught in the act: Mulder and Hansen down 'One Two Many'

By Kelly Davis
Mast intern

In separate incidents last week, Pierce County Sheriff's deputies arrested two Pacific Lutheran University students for driving under the influence.

After being convicted of driving with blood-alcohol levels over the legal limit, one student was sentenced to 24 hours in jail, and the other, five days. Despite the seriousness of the crimes, they will not become part of the students' permanent records, nor will the sentences be carried out.

The reason for the exemptions is that the crimes were never truly committed, at least not in real life.

They actually took place in the make-believe, yet highly realistic cinematic creation of two Hindertie Hall resident assistants, senior Mark Mulder and junior Zach Hansen. The two wrote and acted in the video, where their arrests and convictions are dramatized to warn would-be drunk drivers of the consequences.

A test screening March 3 in Hindertie "went over well," Mulder said. He estimated that between 25 and 30 percent of the viewers felt they were better informed of the possible negative effects of drunk driving.

The sophisticated production, entitled "One Two Many," takes the viewer on a tour through our legal system from the point of view of two students who choose to drive after drinking at a friend's birthday party. Shot in the spirit and style of "Cops," a television program that features real police dealing with real offenders, the video forcefully portrays characteristics of drunken behavior and attitudes and documents in fair detail the sequence of events that may result from being arrested for driving drunk.

A major implication of the video is that even one or two beers is enough to bring one's blood-alcohol content up to the legal limit and result in a sentence that is no less daunting than the penalty for driving after relatively heavy drinking.

Mulder wanted to show how "even just a couple of beers" could be tragic, or, at the very least, extremely inconvenient, expensive and humiliating.

See DWI page 16

Backpack attack back in UC

By Brad Chatfield
Mast co-editor

No conclusive answers have surfaced regarding a recent outbreak of thefts in the University Center commons during meal times.

The thefts — at least 16 reported since spring semester began Feb. 3 — have many officials puzzled, including Walt Huston, director of Campus Safety, and Rick Eastman, University Center director.

Backpacks and jackets appear to be the primary booty plundered from students dining in the UC, and are taken primarily during lunch time, Huston said.

Eastman said that because backpacks often contain new, expensive textbooks at the start of each term, they are prime targets for to be stolen and returned to the bookstore for the full value.

Unfortunately, Eastman said, the number of book bags in the UC on any given day makes it difficult to find the culprit or the item.

"Once something goes down on the floor, attempting to monitor who it belongs to is an impossibility," Eastman said.

A series of warning signs were posted in the areas where students leave their belongings to warn them of the thefts, but Eastman doubted that students paid any attention. For commuter students and others in a hurry at lunch time, taking bags home is out of the question.

"Putting signs up isn't going to change the behavior of students, because they don't have many other options," he said. "People just get so

comfortable with their surroundings that they don't believe they will become a victim."

Eastman has considered installing a bank of keyed locks to be rented during meal times, but was hard-pressed to justify the expense for only a few hours of use per day. There are presently lockers near the doors to the dining area, but these are unlocked and only keep items out of sight.

Both Eastman and Huston also mentioned the possibility of a work-

study student being hired to check bags at a table during all three meal times, but hoped things wouldn't come to that.

"Quite frankly, I'm at a loss to do something that is effective," Eastman said.

Huston said that when someone reports something stolen, the only action they can take is to write down a description of the item and search garbage cans, restrooms and classrooms as possible dump sites.



Photo by Liz Turwell

A typical backpack stash during meal time at the UC.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

A Liberal Arts Career Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 22 in the Tacoma Dome.

The fair, sponsored by the Washington Liberal Arts Consortium (WALAC), hopes to "bring students and employers together," said a press release.

Potential employers are from a range of fields, from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the Peace Corps, to Toys R Us and the Lipitor Control Board.

"Businesses and agencies in search of employees who can write and speak clearly, think critically and navigate the fast changes of today's workplace increasingly turn to liberal arts graduates," said the release.

Students interested in attending the conference can pre-register with Beth Ahlstrom of Career Services.

Cost is \$10 for students and \$15 for alumni.

Photos of PLU students on spring break are being called for by Shara Daerwiler, new Residential Life Office program coordinator.

The best photos turned in will be printed in "The Returner," a publication sent out in the summer to students returning to PLU for fall term.

"I thought students would enjoy seeing pictures of their friends," said Daerwiler, explaining his rationale for the contest.

Photos need to be turned in on or before April 9, and each must include the names of all people in the photo as well as a return address.

All pictures will be returned to their owners.

Bumbershoot, the Seattle Arts Festival that annually draws 250,000 fans, is seeking people who are interested in festival-related jobs.

The festival, running Sept. 3-6, has short-term positions open that require availability prior to and during the event.

Production positions for 1993 include project coordinators, craft and food crew, area managers and Bookfair managers.

"The successful applicant will be available during the Labor Day weekend, enjoy working with the public and work well as part of a team," said a press release.

Interested applicants may send a cover letter and resume describing their qualifications to Job Openings, Bumbershoot 1993, PO Box 9750, Seattle, WA 98109-0750.

Deadline for openings is March 31. Bumbershoot is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PLU Chorale Homecoming concert will be sung at 8 p.m. on March 30 in Eastvold Auditorium.

The performance will feature various works from the Chorale's spring tour.

Works included will be by composers such as Bach, Grieg, Howells and Nystedt. Admission is free.

The Students Soloists Concerts will take place on April 1 at 8 p.m. in Eastvold Auditorium. Musicians include winners of 1992-93 Student Soloists competition and members of the University Symphony Orchestra.

The performance is free.

SIDEWALK TALK

"What do you plan to do over spring break?"



"I'm going for a bike ride on the Olympic Peninsula. Five of us are going to take a trip and camp out for four days."

Chris Haffey
freshman



"Go home, and look for a summer job."

Syd Snyder
sophomore



"Work. Work a lot."

Todd DeMille
junior



"First, the most important thing to do is to catch up on my homework. With only a month into the semester, I can identify what problems I need to address. And second, I'm taking off to Oregon to have fun."

Vieto Dang
junior

SAFETY BEAT

Wednesday, March 3

■ A student reported that her bookbag was stolen from the University Center commons. Loss is estimated at \$150.

■ A second student reported that her bookbag was stolen from the University Center commons. Loss is estimated at \$60.

Thursday, March 4

■ A student's vehicle was broken into while it was parked in North Resident lot. Damages and loss are estimated at \$300.

■ A second student's vehicle was broken into while it was parked in North Resident lot. Damages and loss are estimated at \$300.

■ A student in Rieke Science Center reported feeling ill. Campus Safety, Parkland Fire Department and Shepard Ambulance responded, and transported the student to a local hospital.

Friday, March 5

■ A student reported that he heard 2 or 3 paintball gun shots fired from the west end of Tingelstad and aimed at a Campus Safety vehicle. The vehicle was not hit.

■ Two Ordal residents accidentally broke a window while playing basketball.

Saturday, March 6

■ An Ivy resident reported that her wallet was stolen from her room. Loss

is estimated at \$40.

Monday, March 8

■ A student reported that two other students were causing too much noise while arguing on the Foss basketball courts after quiet hours. Resident Assistants and Campus Safety personnel responded and separated the students.

■ A student reported that her black LeSport bag was stolen from the University Center commons. Loss is estimated at \$80.

■ A student in Ramstad reported having chest pains. Campus Safety, Parkland Fire Department and Shepard Ambulance responded and transported the student to St. Joseph Hospital.

■ A student reported that her Trek 1000 mountain bike had been stolen from the Ordal bike room. Loss is estimated at \$500.

Fire Alarms:

March 4, 8:43 p.m. Foss; caused by an unknown individual splashing water onto a fire detector.

March 6, 8:52 p.m. Hong; caused by burnt rice.

March 6, 10:55 p.m. Ordal; caused by a water fight splashing water onto the fire detector.

March 7, 12:01 p.m. Tingelstad; cause undetermined.

Food Service

Saturday, March 13

Breakfast:
Fried Eggs
Pancakes with Blueberries
Tator Tots

Lunch:
Chicken Crispos
Brown Rice
Refried Beans

Dinner:
Veal Marsala
Grilled Ham
Cheese Manicotti

Sunday, March 14

Brunch:
Scrambled Egg Bar
Hashbrowns
Muffins

Dinner:
Beer-Braised Beef and Onions
Vegetable Quiche
Steamed Potatoes

Monday, March 15

Breakfast:
Scrambled Eggs
Shredded Hashbrowns
Strawberry Crepes

Lunch:
Swiss Steak Sandwich
Tomato Soup
Grilled Mushrooms

Dinner:
Savory Chicken
BBQ Beef Ribs
Stuffed Peppers

Tuesday, March 16

Breakfast:
Fresh Waffles
Fried Eggs
Bacon

Lunch:
Potato Soup
Pizza Bread
Chili Frito Casserole

Dinner:
Hamburger Bar
Chili Non-Carne
French Fries

Wednesday, March 17

Breakfast:
French Toast
Sausage Patties
Muffins

Lunch:
Chicken Breast Sandwich
Macaroni Cheese Casserole
Baked Sole

Dinner:
Chicken and Dumplings
Baked Ham
Oven-Browned Potatoes

Thursday, March 18

Breakfast:
Fried Eggs
Apple Pancakes
Shredded Hashbrowns

Lunch:
Patty Melts
Tuna Noodle Casserole
Vegetable Quiche

Dinner:
Beef Stir Fry
Tofu Stir Fry
Chicken Tetrazini

Friday, March 19

Breakfast:
Scrambled Eggs with Ham
Waffles
Canned Plums

Lunch:
Fried Chicken
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Spaghetti Casserole

Dinner:
Pork Fajitas
Spanish Rice
Nacho Chips
Ice Cream Sundae

No free lunch: Student call for change, but dollars delay Torrens

By Scott Lester
Mast reporter

The results of the RHC/ASPLU questionnaire are in. A total of 531 responses were tallied and according to Dan Lysne, RHC vice chairperson, and Bob Torrens, Food Service director, there were no surprises.

Though the results revealed no surprises about student opinion, Torrens said, "money and the cost of labor are serious factors" when considering implementing the changes.

Question five of the questionnaire stated, "Would you use your meal card to purchase food at other locations (i.e. coffee shop, Uncle Bob's Pizza) even if it cost extra meals?" More than 90 percent of the respondents were in favor of this proposal.

In order to allow that, however, "I'll have to put (bar code) readers at all these other locations and tie them into the computer. That will take money," Torrens said.

Another possibility the survey addressed was changing the entire pricing structure of the food, which would ultimately increase prices, Torrens said.

Question one asked, "Would you pay the actual full price of meals (i.e. higher food rates) if you could be reimbursed for extra meals that you did not use at the end of the year?" Seventy-five percent of the returned questionnaires were in favor of this proposal.

"We need to get our act together

and explore all the possibilities ...," Torrens said in respect to finding answers that would better serve students.

Without the questionnaire results, he said he would feel like he was wasting his time looking into the prospects.

Torrens has already started using the results of the questionnaire by having a recent Yoplait yogurt tasting. "Students really loved it," said Torrens. "I plan on doing more of that."

In addition, Torrens will have a suggestion box in the UC soon so

that students can file their complaints and compliments. "I'm going to start responding to every one of them," said Torrens and noted, "I function on an open door policy."

On health issues, Torrens stated, "There is a roach problem in the University Center, that I will not deny. However, it is under control."

Food Service has been receiving good health inspection grades despite health inspectors becoming careful because of the E. Coli outbreak.



Photo by Jim Keller

Food Service employee Julie Thompson, left, prepares a sack lunch in the UC. A majority of survey respondents voted in favor of making sack lunches available without having to sign up beforehand. Food Service changed the policy before the survey results were tallied.

Wolf breaks up 'The Beauty Myth'

By Katie Nelson
Mast assistant news editor

Feminist.

When Naomi Wolf, author of "The Beauty Myth," poses the word to audiences from around the world, responses often include the stereotypical context of a radical, man-hating woman, often lesbian, seldom beautiful.

But any woman who can read, who goes to school, who votes or who has a driver's license is a feminist according to Wolf, because she is enjoying luxuries fought for by her ancestors.

This month is National Women's History Month, and ASPLU is bringing Wolf to PLU on March 17, allowing students, staff and community members to hear the views of the 28-year-old woman whose newly published book has drawn mixed reviews.

In "The Beauty Myth," Wolf explores the current views of women and their bodies, looking both at the roots of the views and the results they have on women today.

These include the 150,000 anorexia-related deaths each year in the United States and the rise of cosmetic surgery as the nation's fastest-growing "medical" specialty.

Jen Nelson, ASPLU lecture series chair, said, "She brings up a lot of points that are really important in the way women perceive themselves, the way they act and where society directs them."

Wolf also speaks of the double standard in broadcasting, Nelson said, where "you have to prove your intelligence, but you also have to be pretty." Nelson gave the example of Tom Brokaw's length of time in broadcasting compared to his female counterparts.

"It's OK if men start balding or put on a little weight, but women are consistently supposed to be young and beautiful."

Amy Jo Mattheis, ASPLU student activities coordinator, heard Wolf speak at the University of Washington.

"I guarantee every single woman on this campus who goes to see her will understand what she is talking



Naomi Wolf

about," said Mattheis, who stressed that Wolf's message is geared toward men as well.

Both Nelson and Mattheis agree that Wolf is not exclusive, and does not speak in terms of men against women, but attempts to promote communication between genders.

The charge for the lecture will be \$3 for PLU students, faculty and staff and \$6 for general admission.

One last question

Food Service omitted from RLO survey; Torrens wonders why

By Scott Lester
Mast reporter

While the results of last fall's RHC/ASPLU Food Service questionnaire were not a surprise to Food Service Director Bob Torrens, the fact that Food Service was not featured in the Residential Life Office "Quality of Life Survey" was a shock.

The news came nearly a week and a half after the Quality of Life surveys were distributed.

"Why Food Service wasn't in the survey I don't have a clue. As far as I knew I was in it. I wanted to be in it," Torrens said. "I'm really pissed that I'm not in it."

According to Laurilee Hagen, Residential Life director, the survey was created to target all segments of PLU affecting student residents, including Food Service. Hagen was told by the Quality of Life committee that Torrens and Food Service had been notified of the survey, but they did not respond.

Karin Reep, Stuen Hall director and chairperson of the committee publishing the Quality of Life survey, confirmed that attempts had been made to contact Torrens in

respect to the survey, including a letter with a few questions from previous Food Service surveys in 1987 and 1990.

Jules Eustis, Ordal residential assistant, was responsible for that letter as well as a letter to the Physical Plant. The Physical Plant responded to the letter and was included in the survey, while Torrens never responded.

The letter was a request for Torrens to respond and thus guarantee Food Service a section in the survey.

"I should have tried harder and dug deeper," Eustis said.

Eustis was under the impression that the RHC/ASPLU Food Service questionnaire published in January was a product of Bob Torrens.

With that assumption, she and the Quality of Life committee decided that Torrens was not interested because of the redundancy of publishing similar questions in a different survey.

Hagen and Reep both said they thought it was strange that Torrens was not interested in being involved with the Quality of Life survey, and they wished they would have corrected the mistake.

ASPLU grants 'In Her Headspace' exhibit \$200

By Katie Nelson
Mast assistant news editor

As March winds blow themes of Women's History Month across the PLU campus, ASPLU Senate voted Monday night to help support a campus art display focusing on the subject.

"In Her Headspace," an exhibit of the artwork of 17 women focusing on contemporary social issues affecting females, was coordinated by Jennifer Brown, PLU University Gallery student coordinator, and Susanna Musi, Brown's counterpart at the Western Washington Union Gallery.

Participants were asked to select an issue important to them and to create a piece of art within the dimensions of 5 feet by 10 feet. Brown and Musi are creating a video to document the display, one that will "not only allow others to learn about issues raised in the exhibit, but also about the special process that the women went through (in creating their works)," the coordinators said in a letter to ASPLU.

Copies of the video will be available for use by the PLU community,

as long as they are not sold or taken out of the university.

The video production will run \$1,500, leading Brown and Musi to approach ASPLU for support. A unanimous Senate vote sent \$200 toward the creation of the video.

In other ASPLU news:

Work on a new Senate body continues as senators consider a proposal presented to them on Monday night and tabled until next week.

Concerns were raised at this week's meeting about the absence of a minority senator position from the new plan. Arguments both for and against the two proposed minority seats called for delay on voting on the new Senate body until the next meeting.

Also tabled until next Monday night was a resolution on the visitation policy that will be taken before the Board of Regents in May.

The resolution states, "ASPLU recognizes the need for change in the current visitation policy," and is being adjusted after suggestions made by Senate members. Voting on whether or not to support the resolution could take place on Monday.

RLO calls for RAs, gears up for 1993-94

By Lisa Erickson
Mast reporter

Resident assistant applications are now available in the Residential Life Office for all interested students who have lived on campus at Pacific Lutheran University for a semester or more.

The applications have been available since March 1 and are due back to RLO by 5 p.m. on March 19.

After the applications have been scored, candidates will be eliminated, and those left will have interviews during the week of April 4 through April 8. The interviews are conducted by three RAs and another person who is not involved in RLO.

All of the candidates who survive the interview process will then at-

tend the "Assessment Center" on April 18, where the committee gets to see the candidates in a less formal setting. The candidates will participate in activities such as a role play and a mock staff meeting.

This part of the process allows the RA selection committee to see how the candidates work with others and how they relate in many different situations.

Erica Johnson, a Pflueger RA, said, "Assessment Center is good for both the potential candidates and for the selection committee because it gives the potential RA an idea about what the job will entail."

The RA selection committee makes all of the cutting decisions until the final draft. The committee consists of Scott Kellmer, chairman and Ordal Hall director, and 11 RAs. A bulletin board is used to help

the committee decide who will be cut. Each candidate is given a number score and these numbers are placed on a bulletin board. The committee then looks for a gap in the scores to make the cut.

Kellmer said that when choosing candidates the committee looks for potential, natural enthusiasm and flexibility. He added that people do not necessarily have to be natural extroverts; they just need to show that they have the potential to be good leaders.

Every person who survives the Assessment Center cut is guaranteed to be either an RA or an alternate. The hall directors then get together and have a draft. Kellmer said the draft is exciting because it is similar to an NFL draft.

The draft placement and alternate notification are made on April 26.

Johnson said, "The process is real long and strenuous, but it's cool to be a part of RLO, and it's nice to get free room and board. I also like the fact that you get to make your wing fun, especially for new students."

The tangible benefits of being an RA are that an RA gets a single room, \$150 a month and experience for his or her résumé. Skills that will be valuable in life outside of PLU are also gained.

Kellmer said that RAs gain a lot of leadership experience, meet new people and develop new friends.

Laurilee Hagen, RLO director, said RAs are involved in a "network

of staff and peers" that allows them to gain more personal knowledge and to establish friendships.

Johnson said that while it is difficult to explain the exact benefits of being an RA, the hardest part is "trying to create a casual, fun relationship with your wing, yet (having) it still see you as an authoritarian."

Kellmer and current RAs see some other drawbacks, such as friends treating you differently and expecting RAs to be on campus before everyone else is and until everyone leaves. Being an RA is also a huge time commitment.

Yet, Kellmer said that becoming an RA is a valuable process and everyone should be involved.

School of Nursing given clean bill of health

By Lora Whitmore
Mast intern

Excellence in the nursing program has been reconfirmed by two recent accreditation processes, said Dorothy DeLou Langan, dean of the School of Nursing.

Every eight years, PLU's School of Nursing undergoes an extensive evaluation of its entire program. Every nursing school in the nation is required to meet the standards set by the Department of Health, which are conducted through a review by the Washington State Board of Nursing.

Langan said that a representative from the state board recently gave a positive recommendation for official approval by the board, later this spring.

Voluntarily, the School of Nursing goes through a second accreditation administered by the National League for Nursing (NLN). This process was first implemented at the School of Nursing in 1965 and evaluates 39 areas of the entire program, ranging from curriculum and

policies to the admissions process and fiscal affairs.

"It really is a comprehensive process. I am convinced that we are a much better program for having gone through this whole process," Langan said. "We were able to identify our strengths as well as areas in which we can do better."

After reading the faculty and student handbooks, reviewing the 500-page document concerning all areas of the nursing program and meeting a wide variety of people ranging from the university president to members of the financial aid staff, the NLN representatives concluded that PLU's nursing program has fully met 36 out of the 39 criteria.

Dr. Joanne Westman, dean of the School of Nursing at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla., and Dr. Tina DeLapp, associate dean of the School of Nursing at University of Alaska, Anchorage, recommended improvement in three areas.

"Their recommendations were that additional fiscal resources be developed to support the nursing unit in raising nursing faculty sala-

ries to regionally and nationally competitive levels," Langan said. "Also, that money be available to replace outdated equipment as well as to provide additional support to faculty and scholarly efforts."

Langan said that they compared the nursing faculty salaries with those of other schools within the university and found that even though they are comparable to some, they are still lower than most schools and divisions.

The overall recommendation of the site visitors from the National League for Nursing to the NLN Board of Review was positive, with a recommendation for full eight-year renewal of accreditation of the undergraduate program.

They also recommended a full five-year accreditation for the graduate program (the maximum time for a new program), the first since the graduate program started in 1990.

"It's been a real positive experience. It confirms that we have a quality program, and it's been exciting to have been a part of the process," Langan said.

Talking Head



Photo by Jim Kitter

A hunting fetish from the Basonge tribe of Zaire watches from a vantage on the second floor of the library. The piece is part of the library's permanent collection of African art, donated by Dr. and Mrs. J.H. Lehman.

Circle K rounds up troops for service

By Brodie Williams
Mast reporter

A small table in the walkway between the swimming pool and Memorial Gymnasium was the first checkpoint in this year's Volksmarch sponsored by the Parkland Kiwanis Club and the PLU chapter of the Circle K Club.

The table's sparse accommodations included a large Gatorade cooler of water for passing walkers as well as an ink pad and two stamps to validate the participant's cards. Sitting behind the table was Michael Stewart, this year's Circle K Club president.

The Volksmarch is a ten-kilometer walk which people pay to participate in. The Volksmarch this year drew 692 walkers and earned near \$1000. The money earned from the march went to scholarships for high school students and a program to help teenage mothers.

The Kiwanis Club is the parent club to both Key Clubs in high schools and Circle K Clubs in college. All of these organizations are united under a common goal of service to the community.

"I don't care if you call yourself a Rotarian, a Lioner, or a Kiwani, the goal is the same: help the commu-

nity," said Eric Barkman, the Kiwanis advisor to PLU's Circle K Club. The PLU club volunteers and helps raise money for charities such as Special Olympics, food banks, family shelters, and other special projects.

"My most memorable moment (as a member of Circle K) was working the 400 yd. relay at a Special Olympics event and being able to watch children with disabilities find pride in themselves to compete among each other," said Stewart.

There is nothing that can beat the enjoyment of having a child run up and give you a hug after their event is over, said Stewart.

Circle K, however, is more than a group of people working hard to help others. It is an opportunity to meet new people and travel to other schools for conferences and activities. "The main point of Circle K is to have fun," Stewart said.

This fun is found in the activities that Circle K'ers from area schools share when they meet for Interclub. In these meetings, members come to share their ideas about Circle K, discuss upcoming activities, play games, and socialize.

The PLU Circle K Club is in the Northwest District's Rainier Division which encompasses Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and parts of Canada.

The first weekend of spring break will be the Circle K District Convention which will be hosted by Western Oregon State College.

This convention is the most important event of the year to Circle K. At this convention many things take place. First, district officers are elected.

Most importantly, there are workshops on different kinds of service. These workshops are presented by a number of non-profit organizations like the AIDS Foundation, March of Dimes, and hunger programs.

The main project for this year's convention is for club sio gather the largest amount of teddy bears and bring them along to the convention.

Once all of the bears have been brought together at the convention, they will be given to the police department for distribution throughout the area to needy children.

This weekend the club is going to do a campus cleanup to prepare the track area for the meet coming this week.

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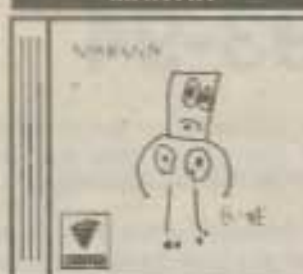
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Four-year degree an endangered species

Changing university environment sends traditional degree the way of the blue whale

By John Williams (CPS)

The hard realities of rising tuition, closed classes and the increasing number of non-traditional students attending colleges or universities are changing perceptions that most students earn their undergraduate degrees in four years.

School officials recognize that because of financial and personal pressures, many students are taking longer to get their degrees, not quite making the traditional four-year degree a dinosaur, but at least putting it on the endangered species list.

In some cases, university systems are trying to graduate students in less than four years to make room for new students who are competing for fewer classes.

"Many students have to take less courses and have to work. It's not such a bad thing," said John Duff, president of Columbia College in Chicago. "Nobody would raise their eyebrows about going to graduate

school to get a doctorate in eight years. Part of our culture is that there is some kind of stigma if you don't graduate in four years."

A major factor in the increased time it takes to earn a four-year degree is the fact that federal loan and grant money is being reduced, forcing students to work part time or full time to help finance their education. In some cases students take an occasional semester off to make money for tuition.

The American Council on Education estimates that 40 percent of students enrolled in two- and four-year institutions are non-traditional students, meaning they are older students and may work full or part time.

"There are significant numbers of small liberal arts institutions that take in students mostly out of high school and graduate in four years. But their numbers have not grown," spokesman David Merkwitz said.

'Part of our culture is that there is some kind of stigma if you don't graduate in four years.'

—John Duff

"The growth (in enrollment) is in state colleges and community colleges, which are oriented toward non-traditional students."

Many students go to school part time, which almost automatically puts them in the position of taking more time to get their diplomas. The Chronicle of Higher Education Almanac estimates that in 1993, 15.3 million students are attending col-

lege, and 6.4 million are going part time. Those numbers are expected to increase through the turn of the century.

Other students choose to graduate in a shorter time. Under a mandate from the state legislature in 1992, a Virginia council studied, and then implemented, a program that allows students in the public university system to graduate in three years. State officials, faced with the prospect of an additional 65,000 students by the year 2000, want to graduate as many students as possible to make room for the crunch.

In addition to finishing early, students can expect to save about \$10,000 in tuition and living costs.

Only one in three undergraduate students in Virginia's public university system graduates within four years, said Mike McDowell, a spokesman with Virginia's State Council of Higher Education. In the 1991 fall term, there were 165,000 students enrolled in the state's 15 four-year institutions. Figures for the fall 1992 term weren't available.

McDowell said the council conducted a study and found that students attending residential universities in rural areas of the state tended to graduate within four years. Those students who went to schools in urban areas tended to be commuters who may take time off from school to work and pay for tuition. According to McDowell, some students are taking up to seven years to earn undergraduate degrees.

McDowell said students who opt for the three-year plan get credit for high scores on advanced placement tests taken during high school. If they pass the tests, it's determined they have achieved a proficiency in the subject matter and don't have to take it in college.

"We want schools to eliminate obstacles for those who want to go this way," he said. "For some students, this is very much a cultural

thing that they don't want to graduate in three years. But for others, they would rather save the \$10,000 and get out earlier or go on to graduate school."

Duff, the president of Columbia College, said that the school's curriculum is designed for most students to graduate in five years and one semester, if they go full time. The college, which primarily offers degrees in the arts, considers itself nontraditional. It has open enrollment, tuition is \$6,500 a year and most of its undergraduates are first-generation college students.

There were 430 students who did not return for the fall 1992 term, Duff said. They all had at least a "B" average and owed no money to the school. The school sent out letters to them to find out why they didn't return, and Duff said most of them said they had to take the term off to earn money.

However, many schools—especially small liberal arts institutions—encourage students to graduate in the traditional four-year period.

Owen Sammelson, vice president for administration at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., said students should look at the income they would be losing by extending their schooling beyond four years.

"Given what a student is paying for college, why should an undergraduate degree be more than four years?" Sammelson said. "They should be able to do it in four years."

But he said that since Gustavus Adolphus is primarily a residential college in a small town, there are few opportunities for students to work off campus.

"That's not likely to change. We're graduating 76 to 80 percent of our students in four years," he said. "We're saying to students that if you are looking at our kind of school, that extra year of school may make quite a difference in employment."



Graduation: important step in payment of college loans

By CPS

GREENSBORO, N.C.—Graduation is a key factor in the repayment of college loans, according to a study that recommended universities develop stronger programs to encourage students to complete their education.

Graduation lowers the probability of default by 10 percentage points, according to the Terry Seaks, an economics professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and co-author of the study.

The study tracked 1,834 students at two- and four-year colleges and universities in Pennsylvania who borrowed money from the Stafford Student Loan Program, known prior to 1988 as the Guaranteed Student Loan Program. The study's results were reported in November's Review of Economics and Statistics.

The Stafford program was created to provide loans to student who otherwise might be unable to afford a college education. However, students who borrow the money and later refuse to pay back their loans account for about 20 percent of the total costs in the Stafford loan program.

"With Stafford default claims reaching \$2 billion per year in 1990, and with over \$10.6 billion in cumulative defaulted loans, it is important that policy makers understand the factors that influence student

'It's not the colleges or the universities that cause the problems. It's the clientele.'

—Terry Seaks

loan default," said the study, conducted by Seaks and Laura Greene Knapp, assistant director for policy analysis at The College Board.

Aside from making stronger efforts to prevent students from dropping out, the study also showed that there is little universities can do to reduce the default rate.

That's an important point, Seaks said, because the U.S. Department of Education announced earlier this year that 558 institutions could face the loss of all or some of their eligibility for the aid program because they had default rates of 55 percent or higher, or had failed to lower default rates of 40 percent or more from the previous year.

The study said it was inappropriate to penalize colleges simply because of high default rates.

"It's not the colleges or the universities that cause the problems.

It's the clientele," Seaks said.

According to the authors, students generally are willing to repay their loans if they're making enough money. However, students often drop out of college because of financial problems. And, if they can't find work or lack required job skills, the government is unlikely to collect the money, regardless of how much it is owed.

College students who are most likely to leave college and fail to pay back loans tend to come from lower-income, black, or single-parent families. But the authors also said that other factors were at work and said their findings "should serve as a warning against too quickly singling out colleges with a disproportionate number of students from low-income, black or single-parent families."

Ban on 'fighting words' abandoned at Connecticut

By CPS

STORRS, Conn.—The University of Connecticut has dropped a ban against fighting words in its student code of conduct because of its vagueness, officials said.

The section on fighting words "created a false sense of hope and expectations that regulations could be used to keep people from behaving improperly, which isn't true," said university spokesman Richard Vielieux. "It was a setup for failure because it takes out the educational component, saying that by inference, people could be using rulings to regulate behavior, and not education."

Vielieux said there was no controversy on campus about dropping the ban on fighting words, which had been invoked five times in the

past three years. Four cases were upheld, and one case was denied.

"Fighting words" are defined by the university as "personally abusive epithets" that are "inherently likely to provoke an immediate violent reaction." Issues of diversity and intolerance are now taught in numerous courses and dealt with in dorm meetings, seminars and conferences.

"We're trying to teach kids what's right and wrong. That's what education is all about," Vielieux said.

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'Quilt of Love' concert spirit should continue

Congratulations to PLU for hosting a quality event for an excellent cause, Wednesday's Quilt of Love concert.

The most impressive part of the concert was the way it brought together members of the campus and the community. Students, faculty and community members met in a prayer vigil with campus pastor Susan Briebl in Red Square before the concert to remember loved ones fighting AIDS, those who have died, and their caregivers. After following a trail of candles in glowing paper bags (set up by PLU student volunteers and coordinated by Campus Ministry), a larger crowd gathered in Olson Auditorium where PLU and local community members saw panels from the NAMES Project AIDS Quilt and listened to an outstanding concert.

The University Symphony Orchestra was another example of unity, as it brought together PLU students with members of nine other area symphonies and orchestras, from the Seattle Symphony Orchestra to the Tacoma Youth Symphony.

Proceeds from the performance benefited the Pierce County AIDS Foundation, which will in exchange provide educational programs and teach classes about AIDS at PLU this spring.

The only disappointing part of the concert was the low attendance by PLU students. Sure, the \$4 PLU admission may have seemed steep, and it is midterm time again, but AIDS prevention is a worthy cause—AIDS is a disease that will have an incredible impact on our generation, and we need to do all we can to fight it.

The spirit of this event should be highly commended. It is only through bringing people together and increasing awareness and understanding that this epidemic can be stopped. We are at risk, and it is time to come together, on campus and in the community.

—SH

Effort to re-vamp ASPLU executive selection misguided

Beginning this April, the positions of ASPLU comptroller and programs director will no longer be voted on by the student body, but will be appointed by the ASPLU Constitution and By-Laws Committee (see the Mast, Feb. 26).

The attempts of this year's ASPLU members to rewrite student government in the face of other astounding changes at PLU are admirable. The plan submitted by president Cindy Watters and vice president Lori Grosland on the restructuring is detailed and radical—perhaps the type of thing student government needs right now. But taking power out of the hands of the students is not the best way to shape a government of the students.

The plan will allow the committee, of which the new vice president and president will be members, to select the other two executive positions from student applications. By allowing this small group to make our choice for us, the elected officials will be choosing who they think is most qualified; a privilege destined to create a spoils system that would make Andrew Jackson proud. And although Watters said the ASPLU senate makes up for decreased student representation, the proposed new senate would actually be five members smaller, and include only three dorm senators from soon-to-be decided "districts" across campus.

Do those in student government distrust the student body so much that they are adopting a Hobbesian fear of mob rule, where the people are not responsible enough to decide who should lead them? I think we're smarter than we may appear.

—BC



In pursuit of the 'Missing Statement'

He was an unashamed pantheist and didn't care if it was a Lutheran school. The trees were nice, they hugged real well, gave good advice and didn't make much noise—especially the white oaks over toward the west. They were a good habitat for tree squirrels, crows and poets; the musicians never really felt welcome. So when the argument over the newest version of the Missing Statement began to heat up in the thin, recycled pages of *The Boom*, the award-winning campus newspaper, he had to ask himself what it was all about.

He knew that the Missing Statement was not to be confused with the Missionary Statement, which, if he remembered correctly, was the advice of certain Christian missionaries who told the natives of a land called Africa, or "The Dark Continent" by them, that sex was supposed to happen with the man on top. It was supposed to be in imitation of the blessed hierarchy of God then human then woman—some sort of bridegroom/bride mumbo-jumbo.

That was recorded history. But the Missing Statement was something elusive, like a sense of humor, or a straight answer. This, then, he quickly decided, was to become his own personal quest: to find the infamous Missing Statement and get the reward. (He wasn't sure there was a reward offered, but it certainly would make sense, wouldn't it?)

On the following Tuesday, the campus was in an uproar after, without consulting the student body, the local Ministry of Residential Litigation of Others made a complex decision to mortar down the musical bricks in front of the phallic Bicentennial Bell (with reservoir tip) because of the distraction that their noise caused to those learning in the large, square buildings that surrounded the plaza. People were throwing pieces of stale bread and small "protest pebbles" and chur-

BONES



BY MARC OLSON

ing "Bring back the bricks!" and "No taxation without representation!" and "Hey, you make too darn much money!" and "What about the clocks in the student union that are 10 minutes fast? They make me run when the pavement is wet—and that's a safety hazard!"

Actually, it wasn't a crowd of people, only about four or five, and most of them were simply returning from lunch. He liked to think that people noticed the absence of the musical bricks and their potential for good rhythm production, but in his heart he knew most didn't.

Quickly he glanced up into the big Bicentennial Bell in hopes that the Missing Statement had been put there for safekeeping as a time capsule by wiser heads in a previous era. No such luck. It was dark and hollow, and extremely resonant when he spoke into it. This made him wonder why nobody ever banged the big Bicentennial Bell—after all, it was a bell, and he had known way before college that bells were for ringing. He removed his left sandal and struck the side of the instrument with it. Very little happened. After repeated attempts, he had succeeded in getting the bell to vibrate softly. It wasn't a Big Bang, but it drew the disgusted

attention of those passing by and some interested squeaks from the neighboring tree squirrels.

The tree squirrels always seemed to be playing. They were usually moving and he had to pause and think if he had ever seen one sitting still. As it turned out, the only one he remembered ever not having seen happily scampering was one that had been struck by an electric car carrying a television set. It had made him wonder what a squirrel was doing with such a sophisticated piece of audio-visual equipment. Anyway, after much coaxing, questioning and threatening, he decided that if the squirrels knew anything about the Missing Statement, they weren't talking; either that or they didn't care.

Later that afternoon, after a thorough search through the library's QUEST™ system, a confusing conversation with the woman who scanned his card when he went to eat lunch, a title-by-title inventory of the university book store and a quick check of his voice mail, he was no closer to solving the riddle of the Missing Statement than before. Trying to fight off the feeling of hopelessness that was gnawing at his insides, he sat quietly on the grass near the tree people and defiantly flung stones onto the now-silent musical bricks.

After a while, this became less fun than it had been, and he was just getting ready to begin searching again when his eye caught the brilliant colors and patterns in the tower stained glass. There he stood, struck dumb in awe of its beauty. This feeling too passed quickly, as he had things to do, so he set off once more to resume the search for the ever-elusive Missing Statement and the blissful harmony that would again visit the world when it was returned.

Marc Olson is a junior theater major who likes yogurt, puppies, and the books of Kilgore Trout.

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'Our man in China' begins to feel at home

Dear PLU,
Spring has finally arrived here in Chengdu, China. The weather has changed from a dull gray to a bright gray.

This trip feels more like a relocation now. Every day, the adventurous mood wears off as we fall into comfortable routines and the exotic sights we see become commonplace. For instance, I no longer find it fascinating that a herd of happy kids troops down the street with books under their arms every late afternoon. It finally occurred to me, "Oh. They've been at school."

Satisfied with my newly discovered, profound understanding of Chinese culture, I settled down and called this place home. . . Or at least campus life, which is the next best thing. I even slept through class one morning.

As cruel of a coincidence as it might be, campus life entails classes. The foreign students are all taught together, in English, and are offered Chinese, history, art and literature, as well as biology and organic chem-

istry, depending on the time of year.

The classrooms are in the same building as our dormitory and are not heated, which has stifled my attempts to catch up on sleep. Also, possibly due to some government policy, all windows are constantly open, probably to let fresh smog replace the old stuff from the day before. But, the clocks are always right, which is more than I can say for some schools.

We take eight hours of Chinese a week, beginning at 8:20 a.m. According to one teacher, this is because they expect American students to always be about 10 minutes late, which I always am. Most of my homework time is spent memorizing Chinese characters—"hanzi." If you have never read Chinese before, try to read this: "S@++-R&S." You will get the same effect.

In addition to formal Chinese, we are offered a conversation class where we can pick up the more practical side of the language. For example, when health was the topic of the day, we learned how to say, "I've

DEAR PLU



BY ROSS COURTNEY

fallen and I can't get up." Our teacher did not understand why I wanted to know this, but I told her that, according to American television, this can be a life-saving phrase.

Art class is essentially a field trip every week. Our first excursion was to the Sichuan Opera. The story was about a Buddhist woman's Dante-

esque descent into hell as punishment for using dog blood to save her sick son's life. That was all I know of the plot, but all I needed to appreciate it.

I had my doubts when we entered the auditorium. We handed our tickets to a man who smoked as he drew back a curtain leading into a cement-walled, dark hall with a stage. I thought, for a moment, that the taxi driver had accidentally taken us to a rock concert featuring bands with names like Power Jiz and Twice Cooked Death.

But when I adjusted to the darkness, I realized that most of the audience was old (as well as short). I enjoyed the performance, but I had never been to an opera in any country, so I don't know what to compare it to. It involved a lot of singing, dancing and over-acting, which is what all operas involve, I assume.

But one difference I did notice was the audience. It stood up, moved around, cheered and spit (long explanation, don't ask), often in mid-song. I don't remember seeing that

in any staged performances in America, except professional wrestling.

In addition to classes, we are treated to an excursion every other Saturday to places of historical interest around Chengdu. They are interesting, enlightening and come as a package deal with tuition. The same is true for a study tour in April by train, boat and plane (possibly camel, as well, for all I know) to Shanghai and back. It can be thought of as an opportunity to diversify our learning of Chinese culture outside of the classroom setting, or as a three-week long spring break.

That concludes my synopsis of the academic life for PLU students at Chengdu University. I hope all of your classes are going well. Remember, the sooner you fall behind, the longer you have to catch up.

Gotta run. I think my manual typewriter is developing an electronic problem.

Ross Courtney is a junior English major who is studying abroad in Chengdu, China, this semester.

LETTERS

Faculty House's purpose explained

To the editor:
We'd like to correct the misconceptions about the Faculty House expressed in last week's Mast.

1) The Faculty House is not owned, supported or endorsed by PLU. Our costs are covered by dues from about 185 faculty and administrators who are voluntary members. We also charge a fee for receptions, workshops and other meetings; PLU makes a small annual contribution (about one-tenth of our budget) because many faculty committees meet regularly at the Faculty House. In short, though we all teach and work at PLU, we are a private organization on private property, adjacent to but not part of the campus.

2) There's been a bar in the Faculty House for 20 years, with no-host drinks available for our dinners, receptions and Friday evening social hours. We see nothing hypocritical about this or inconsistent with PLU's policy that the campus where

many underage students (five should be dry).

3) We recently remodeled to make the basement more convenient for large meetings, deconstructing the old bar/chimney and building a new bar (nice, but hardly luxurious) in the corner. We paid for it from savings, without relying on PLU funds in any way.

Finally, students and parents should know that while PLU does not own the Faculty House, the Faculty House has made extraordinary contributions to PLU over the past two decades. It's an informal place where faculty and administrators from every department and office nurture the kind of collegiality that makes PLU special, a place for sharing and cultivating ideas about teaching, curriculum, counseling, the liberal arts, the Christian faith. That's why we're here.

Faculty House Board of Directors

Offensive rap song bad choice at dance

To the editor:
I stood quietly last Friday night near the wall at the Cascade dance and watched as dozens of people danced spiritedly to a song whose main lyric was, "We want some pussy." Rarely have I felt so attacked and disenfranchised for being a woman. The song celebrated rape, abusive sexual relations and total subordination of women.

Perhaps equally offensive was listening to men who could rap along to the explicitly abusive lyrics and watching women laugh in feigned offense as they continued to dance.

Unfortunately I lacked the courage to do what I should have. I should have walked straight over to the DJ and demand he change the music. Instead, I stood still in a kind of alien

shock and the moment passed.

I dream of a world where all women will have the courage to scream, yell and speak up against such patently offensive affronts to our basic humanity. I dream of a world where no one would laugh and sing along to songs like the one played last weekend. I dream of a world where a DJ responsible for playing a similar song would immediately be swamped by voices of women and men, demanding he change his tune.

We can't just keep dancing and expect the world to change for us.

Bethany Graham
sophomore
English major

Guest column policy

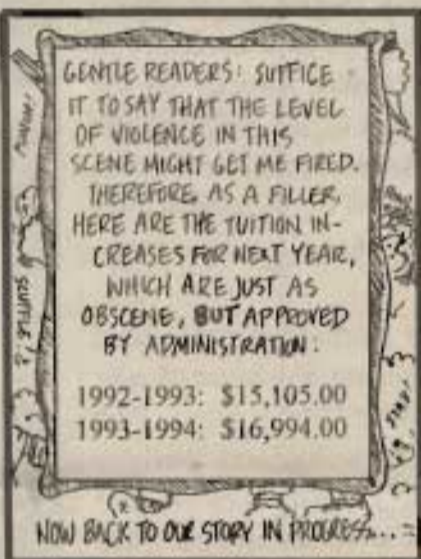
The Mast publishes a guest column every other week. This space is a forum in which members of the university community can express their views on pertinent issues.

Columns are subject to editing for style and content and topics must be approved by the Mast editors.

Anyone interested in utilizing this space should contact Brad Chatfield or Susan Halvor at x7494.

by Joe Scharf

Collegiate Snafu



the Mast

The Mast is published Fridays during the fall and spring semesters, excluding vacation and exam periods, by the students of Pacific Lutheran University.

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Letters to the editor must be signed and submitted to the Mast office by 6 p.m. Tuesday. They should include a name and phone number for verification. Names of writers will not be withheld.

Letters must be limited to 250 words in length, typed and double-spaced. For expositions exceeding this length, arrangements may be made with the editor.

The Mast reserves the right to refuse to publish any letter. Letters may be edited for length, taste, and mechanical and spelling errors.

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Graveyard gossip runs v department's 'Spoon

Despite challenging multiple roles, performances rate top-notch

The set is a muted gray, starkly shaped and thrust up toward the ceiling, like gravestones in a cemetery at night. The audience is seated almost directly on the stage, and it is easy to feel a part of the world of the "Spoon River Anthology." Different background lights emphasize every emotion presented in the monologues of this play, and the simplicity of it all increases the reality.

The cast of the Spoon River Anthology consists of Song An, Jane Finnegan, Lael Petersen, Stephanie Meade, Heather Redman, Kellie Schacher, Steve Hays, Erik Melver, Marc Olson, Mark Rockwell, Scott Welborn and Peter Wilburn. Each of the 12 cast members performs a variety of roles from the 70 monologues that comprise the Spoon River Anthology. Together with the cast members are three excellent musicians, Matt Curl, Douglas Steves, and Chantelle Wingerter. These musicians are as essential to the play as the actors, their songs setting the mood for the show.

Period costumes designed by Kathleen Macki, a professional designer, were exceptional and related well to the actors' various roles. The director, William Becyar, said that this is, "...a good show...aesthetically lovely, pleasing to the eye, stunning. I couldn't believe it."

When Wingerter's voice begins to croon the lullaby of Spoon River, the play draws in the audience and captures it in the world of the past. Excellent performances are presented by Song An. She is magnificent in all her roles and her voice poignant and exact. Olson is also very convincing and astounds the audience with his characterizations. Olson's other roles have included the cook in last semester's "Mother Courage and Her Children" and he also directed "Rough For Theatre II" in "An Evening of Three One-Acts" last semester. Schacher is moving as Minerva, the town poetess, as is Rockwell as Willie Metcalf. Each portray characters that have either wronged or been wronged by society. Hays brings a sense of maturity to the play. His characters are all strong and



Company member Lael Petersen as the ghost of a blind woman yearning for "clear eyes and sound limbs."

wise, a change from his previous role as the chaplain in "Mother Courage and Her Children."

Meade, who performs several roles such as Russian Sonia and Lucinda Matlock, enjoyed her portrayal of Lucinda best. Meade said, "Playing Lucinda was the best because of her excellent message at the end: '...it takes life to love life...', which is really a reflection on the whole theme of Spoon River..." Meade is a theater major, and this is her first role in a PLU production.

Visually and emotionally stunning, Spoon River Anthology is worthy of the PLU community.

'Spoon River' Facts:

- Edgar Lee Masters' "Spoon River Anthology"
- Adapted by Charles Aidman

ild in theater

River'

Review and story by Marisa Price
Photos by Kara Berger



Memories: Steve Hays as the sentimental ghost of the town's fiddler.

Technical ingenuity brings audiences closer to the "River"

It was a shock to the PLU theater department when the Pierce County Fire Marshall ruled that on-stage seating was a hazard to fire safety. The two plays presented after the ruling, "Mother Courage and Her Children" and "An Evening of Three One-Act Plays," both used a larger stage than any performance in the past 15 years at PLU.

This was truly a blow to director William Becvar. Becvar explained that the acoustics are terrible and that the actors felt uncomfortable using that much stage space.

Previously, the seating was located on the stage, removing the excess space and providing an up-close and personal performance for the audience. It was necessary to develop a new seating arrangement which would bring the

audience closer to the performers.

"Spoon River Anthology," the latest play by the PLU theater department, will return the intimate feeling to Eastvold. Dave Weinhoefer, director of stage services, designed the new seating arrangement. Scaffolding and risers make up the setup, which is technically not on the stage, but instead begins directly at the lip of the stage. Several levels of chairs, all well-lit with exits on either side effectively bring the stage back to the audience.

Whereas for "Mother Courage and Her Children" the audience was only a spectator, the "Spoon River Anthology" audience member will once again feel like a participant.

•Music arranged by Charles Aidman
•Directed by William Becvar
•Eastvold Auditorium

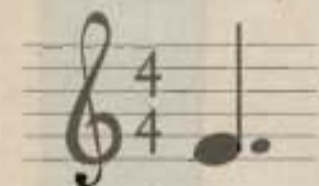
•March 11, 12, 13, 8 p.m.
March 14, 2 p.m.
•Tickets: \$3 for students, \$6 general

What's happening this week...

MUSIC

Friday, March 12

•The University Jazz Ensemble will perform a collection of works by various artists at 8 p.m. in the Scandinavian Cultural Center. Admission is free.



•Rock band Rumors of the Big Wave will be live in concert at the

Backstage in Ballard at 9:30 p.m. Tickets: \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door.

Sunday, March 14

•The all-women choral group University Singers will perform a concert at 4 p.m. in Trinity Lutheran Chapel. Admission is complimentary.

Tuesday, March 16

•The University Wind Ensemble present Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" as well as pieces by other American composers. The performance is at

8 p.m. in Eastvold Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public.

THEATER



•Tacoma Little Theatre presents "Daddy's Dyin' (Who's Got the Will)," opening tonight with performances on Friday and Saturday through March 27 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$8 for adults

and \$7 for students/seniors.

•Final performances of the PLU theater department's presentation of "Spoon River Anthology" (see story page 8) are tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for students.

•"Fahrenheit 451," a new musical drama based on Ray Bradbury's classic novel, is now showing at the University of

Washington Ethnic Cultural Theatre and runs through April 4. Performances will be Thursday through Saturday. Call 524-3717 for tickets.

GALLERY EXHIBITS

•"In Her Head Space," a collection of works by various women artists including Susanna Musi, will be on display in the University Gallery March 10 through April 1.

At The Movies

Lincoln Plaza

Street Knight 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 (R).
Amos & Andrew 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 7, 9:15 (PG-13).
Swing Kids 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 (PG-13).
Shadow of the Wolf 12:20, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15 (PG-13).
Untamed Heart 1, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 10:10 (PG-13).
Aladdin 12:45, 3, 5:10, 7:50, (G).
A Far Off Place 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10 (PG).
Sommersby 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40 (PG-13).
Howard's End 9:25 (PG).

Tacoma Mall Twin

Mad Dog & Glory 2, 4:30, 7, 9:15 (R).
Homeward Bound 1:45, 3:45, 5:30, 7:15, 9 (G).

Lakewood Cinemas

Fire in the Sky 2:20, 5:20, 7:10, 9:25 (R).
Groundhog Day 2:30, 5:05, 7:25, 9:35 (PG).
Mad Dog & Glory 2:10, 4:55, 7, 9:10 (R).
Amos & Andrew 2:40, 5:15, 7:35, 9:45 (PG-13).
The Crying Game 2:45, 5, 7:15, 9:30 (R).
Aladdin 2, 3:55, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30 (G).

Tacoma South

Groundhog Day 2:20, 4:35, 7:15, 9:30 (PG).
Scent of a Woman 2, 5, 8 (R).
Falling Down 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 9:50 (R).
CB4 2, 3:50, 5:45, 7:45, 9:40 (R).
Best of the Best II 2:30, 4:45, 7, 9:15 (R).

To swing or not to swing: In Nazi Germany, 'Kids' are forced to choose political ideals over friendship

By Brodie Williams
Mast reporter

It is 1939, the Nazis are in power in Germany and the teenagers are hooked on the American pop culture of swing music. It is also a time when the Nazis are cracking down on any kind of rebellion against their power.

The new film "Swing Kids" focuses on a group of these rebellious boys who are part of the swing movement. This is a moving story about friendship and how it can be destroyed when human beings are faced with a major decision of loyalty.

Robert Sean Leonard, of "Dead Poets Society" fame, stars as Peter Müller, a young German who is forced into the militaristic Nazi training organization known as the "Hitler Youth" after being caught



SWING KIDS

Starring: Robert Sean Leonard, Christian Bale, Kenneth Branagh, Barbara Hershey
Director: Thomas Carter
Rating: PG-13 Language, Violence
Playing at: Lincoln Plaza, Narrows Plaza 8

stealing a radio as a prank. Peter's best friend Thomas (Christian Bale) joins at the same time and the two of them swear that the Nazis will never tear them apart. Swinging is still their first love.

Interspersed throughout the film are some brilliantly choreographed dance scenes in which the kids are allowed to show their love for the music. It is in these scenes that we see the unspoiled friendship of the whole group and their love of freedom, the music, and each other. It is too bad that such fun is soon turned into bitter rivalry and deceit.

Peter is the moral leader of the film who tries to separate himself and Thomas from the rigorous training and propaganda which they are being force fed. Thomas, on the other hand, begins to subscribe to the Nazi idealism and from there the group is divided.

The disintegration of the friendship between Peter and Thomas is almost painful to watch. As the Nazi ideas begin to wear on their young spirits, the two find themselves becoming bitter enemies. "If you side with the Nazis," Peter warns Thomas, "then we are at war!"

Kenneth Branagh appears as a Gestapo agent who falls for Peter's mother, played rather uninspiringly by Barbara Hershey. In trying to help the family, it is Branagh's character who suggests that Peter join the Nazi youth after being caught stealing. Branagh is fairly believable as the German agent but the film almost makes him out to be a spirit of benevolence rather than a member of the Nazi secret police.

The skillful direction of Thomas Carter allows us to see inside the minds of young men as they face crucial decisions that will affect the rest of their lives. His use of the camera brings the period and the on-location filming in Prague, Czechoslovakia to life. He also uses slow motion to effectively underscore the emotions of title characters at key points in the movie.

This film belongs to Leonard and Bale. The two of them play off of each other beautifully and it is almost unbelievable that the two would deteriorate into such bitter hatred. The stellar performances insure that these two will be around for future films.

The only problem I had with this film is a rather minor note. If you have ever seen the movie "Shane," then the rather trite ending of "Swing Kids" may seem familiar. I was torn between a light chuckle and a lump in my throat.

"Swing Kids" is a winner.

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Softball, baseball enjoy weekend sweeps

PLU routs Central twice as offense, pitching shine

By Rob Shore
Mast sports co-editor

If there were any lingering doubts about the offense on the Pacific Lutheran softball team this year, they were quickly put to rest Sunday.

Opening their season with a district doubleheader against Central Washington, the Lutes banged out a combined 24 hits to sweep the Wildcats, 7-1 and 9-0.

In the opener, the Lutes struck in the third inning when Nancy Bronson drilled a single to right field, scoring Jenny Radice and Keri Allen to take the lead 2-0.

But the Lutes weren't done. Toni Castrey singled to left-center field, with Bronson scoring on a head-first slide under the tag. Andrea Farquhar followed this up with a triple to the fence in left field, scoring Castrey and giving PLU a 4-0 lead after the third inning.

But the Lutes weren't finished quite yet. Allen tripled home Heather Overman and freshman Jennifer Swanson, and then scored on a balk to give PLU a seven run advantage.

Meanwhile, Becky Hoddevik was having a field day, particularly early on. Hoddevik retired the first 10 batters to face her, striking out five in that span. On the game, the senior allowed only three hits and finished with seven strikeouts.

In the nightcap, the Lutes were relentless on the offensive end, scoring in each of the first four innings to rout the Wildcats 9-0. PLU pounded Central for 14 hits, including five doubles in the game.

Individually, Bronson went two-for-three with a pair of doubles and three RBIs and Farquhar was three-for-three and scored three times.

Allison Sikes doubled home Swanson in the first inning, and Radice drove in two more runs with a two-out double in the second inning to set the pace early on.



Sophomore Andrea Farquhar slides into third base with a triple in the third inning of the softball team's season opening doubleheader against Central Washington. Toni Castrey scored on the play to stretch the Lutes' lead to 4-0.

On the mound, Stefanie Johnston came within one out of a five-inning perfect game, but a Wildcat single to left with two outs in the final fifth inning broke it up.

"It's easier to pitch when you have the big lead," Johnston said. "Everybody relaxes a little bit."

The tone of the PLU team is now somewhat optimistic after the big win Sunday.

"We've been practicing for so long, things are starting to fall into place," Johnston said.

Lute Notes

Coming off the drubbing of the Wildcats, the Lutes face a tough early test this weekend, travelling to NCAA Portland State on Saturday. The team will have Sunday off

however, where the schedule shows a critical home date with Simon Fraser, the top-rated team in the district.

The game with SFU was postponed due to ground work being done with the softball field.

On a good note, sophomore Stacy Lanning returns to the lineup this weekend after missing out Sunday's doubleheader for academic reasons.

Coach Ralph Weekly and the team had discovered Friday that Lanning did not meet the NAIA standards for credit hours over.

As of Wednesday afternoon, however, the problem had apparently been worked out within the athletic department.

Johnston expressed relief at Lanning's return to centerfield.

"Between Toni (Castrey) at catcher and Stacy in centerfield, they're just the commanders of the field," Johnston said.

After Saturday's game against Portland State, the Lutes have the week off and will not play again until their trip to Hawaii over spring break.

PLU is scheduled to play Hawaii-Loa on Monday, then get heavily involved in tournament play for the rest of the week. Tuesday, the team begins play in the Oahu Invitational and Thursday, they move on to the Hawaii Invitational in Kona.

But Lutes can't stop Washington in 11-3 loss

By Ben Moore
Mast reporter

Even though the first few days of spring have not been ideal playing conditions, the boys of summer are back for now and the Lutes, now 3-2 are looking forward to the rest of this promising season.

The field in Portland was still unplayable from all the snow and rain, so the Lutes hosted the Concordia Cavaliers for the second time in two weekends, though the Lutes played as the visiting team.

The Lutes came out with two wins in the double header, extending their record to 3-2. Though the pitching continues to be strong, the hitting has been the key factor in the Lutes' wins.

"We were swinging the bats really well," said Coach Larry Marshall. "Our offense has been a pleasant surprise. We did not expect this coming out of the blocks early in the season."

The hitting resulted in another 8-2 blowout in the first game. Junior Brian Johnson smacked his first career home run in the first inning, driving in two runs. The Lutes finished that inning with a 3-0 lead and never let go, scoring one in the second and four more in the sixth inning.

Freshman Aaron Stagle also had another outstanding game, getting two hits and stealing two bases.

Pitcher Scott Bakke came on in relief in the fourth inning to finish out the game after a good effort by Jamie Thomas. Bakke struck out five batters, gave up only two hits and no runs.

"Each time this year Scott Bakke has done an outstanding job," Marshall said of the junior pitcher.

In the second game, the Lutes again jumped out early, taking a 2-0 lead in the first inning. Then they scored six more in the second inning.

See BASEBALL, page 13

SPORTS ON TAP

Today

Swimming @ NAIA Championships, San Antonio, Texas, 10 a.m., through Saturday
Men's tennis @ Washington State, 2:30 p.m.

Saturday

Baseball vs. Western Baptist, noon
Women's tennis vs. Pacific, 1 p.m.
Softball @ Portland State, 1 p.m.
Men's tennis @ Idaho, 9:30 a.m.
Track, Salzman Invitational @ PLU, all day

Sunday

Softball vs. Simon Fraser, 2 p.m.

Tuesday

Men's tennis vs. Whitman, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Baseball @ Portland State, 3:00

Wrestlers finish 15th at nats; Peterson reaches NAIA final

By Rob Shore
Mast sports co-editor

Whatever their goals might have been, the Pacific Lutheran wrestlers that went to the NAIA tournament had to be pleased with their performances.

Brian Peterson finished second in the tournament, narrowly losing the national final match, while sophomores Nate Button and Quoc Nguyen finished seventh and eighth respectively, in the tournament.

As a team, PLU placed 15th with 26.5 points, moving up from last year's 19th place finish.

Peterson, who entered the tournament seeded fourth, won a tight 4-0 match in the first round, before a pair of consecutive pins moved him into the semifinals on Saturday. In the semifinals, he faced Northern

Montana's Randy Street who was the defending national champion at the 150 pound weight class and the only undefeated wrestler in the tournament.

With the score tied, Peterson took down Street with seven seconds left in the match to give the junior from Auburn all the points he would need to move into the final, as he defeated Street 9-7.

With the victory, Peterson became the second Lute ever to reach the finals in the NAIA tournament and the first since Adrian Rodriguez placed second in 1987.

In the final, Peterson faced Southern Oregon's Matt McDowell. The two wrestlers have met in competition three times this year, with McDowell winning their last two contests. According to PLU coach Chris Wolfe, the familiarity between the two competitors may have been

a disadvantage.

"From a coach's standpoint, I wish we had wrestled anybody in the world but McDowell," Wolfe said. "I would have much rather wrestled somebody that didn't know us and know our moves."

Peterson spent most of the final match playing catch-up with McDowell, and eventually lost the match 7-4.

Button and Nguyen worked their way through the consolation bracket after early losses, becoming only the second and third sophomores from PLU to place in the national tournament, earning honorable mention All-American status.

The top six finishers in the tournament are designated All-Americans, while the seventh and eighth place finishers are honorable men-

See NATIONALS, page 14

The 'two-minute drill' makes its return to PLU

THE BRAINS OF THIS OUTFIT



BY ROB SHORE

Dear PLU,

Having a wonderful time. By the way, the Chinese word for "having a wonderful time" is jaopo (not really).

Classes are going really well... wait a minute, this doesn't sound like my column.

(Gulp)

Oh no, the "fastest 20 column inches in print" or "two-minute drill" is back!

•Postscript to last week's column: On Wednesday, it was announced that the Minnesota North Stars would move to Dallas for the 1993-94 NHL season.

Is there any better indicator that this league is seriously screwed up? If you can't make a hockey franchise survive in the middle of hockey country, then you've got problems.

By the by, apparently it is now official that the Anaheim franchise will be henceforth known as "the Mighty Ducks." No, I'm not kidding.

•The Dallas Mavericks' No. 1 draft choice, and my preseason pick for NBA Rookie of the Year, Jimmy Jackson finally got around to signing a contract this past week. I figure if JJ averages about 50 points a game for the rest of the season, he might have a shot to beat out Shaquille O'Neal for the award.

•Major controversy was raised this week when the USBA refused to sanction Jennifer McCleery, a.k.a. Dallas "Angel Face" Malloy as an amateur boxer.

I'm all in favor of McCleery get-

ting a chance to show her stuff in the ring. But I'm not certain that if she does get sanctioned, that women's boxing will be taken seriously.

First of all, women must box against women for this sport to be legitimized.

The worst thing that could happen is that women's boxing turns into some sort of freak show. When a woman played goalie for a minor league hockey team last fall, it was set up as more of a promotion than a real athletic event.

Even worse (and believe me, I don't relish the thought) would be to turn women's boxing into something with all the athletic value of mud wrestling.

•To hell with Anderson! To hell with the administration! To hell with...oops, wrong column again.

•The conventional wisdom around the Seahawks' camp these days is that they will select Rick Mirer with the No. 2 pick in the NFL draft come April 25.

I love Mirer as a pro prospect, and think that he could become something really special in this league (I don't happen to share that opinion about Drew Bledsoe), but the 'Hawks have no business drafting Mirer.

What they really do need, is to pull their collective head out, and grab U-Dub offensive tackle Lincoln Kennedy. Even though there are about 358 reasons they shouldn't draft him, they really do need to look for offensive linemen in the draft.

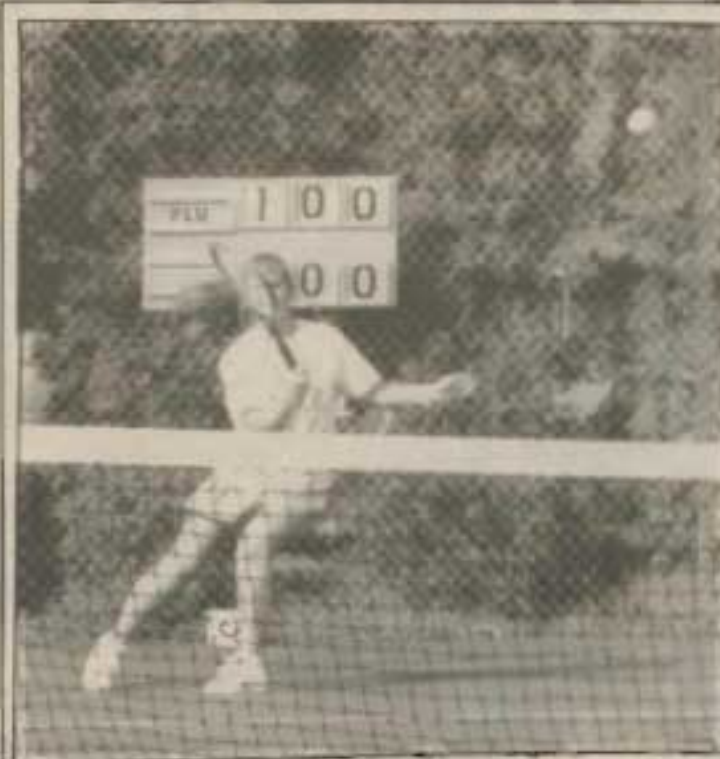
Mirer may be good, but even if he were the next Joe Montana, he'd still have no line to protect him.

•Since this is my last column before the NCAA tournament (has the name officially been changed to March Madness?), I thought it might be nice to tell you who to look for in the next few weeks.

If you're of a betting nature, don't put any money on Michigan (better known as "The Five"). Michigan is an excellent team, but they have the disturbing habit of playing down to their level of competition. In addition, their shooting leaves a little, no, a lot to be desired.

If I had to pick a dark horse to make it to the Final Four, let it be Florida State. Power forward Doug Edwards and guard Sam Cassell are both outstanding players that can carry a team and the personnel on this squad has athleticism to spare.

•Burn, baby, burn!! See you after spring break.



Joni Roback returns a shot in a match against Western Washington Tuesday. The Lutes won the match 8-1.

Women's tennis rolls, winning three in a row

By Ben Moore
Mast reporter

The Pacific Lutheran women's tennis team took on and beat Western Washington earlier this week, winning all of its singles matches and improving its record to 4-5.

The Lutes also matched up against the two best teams in the southern district last weekend, and finished with a win.

Against Western, senior Joni Roback jumped out early in the first singles match, winning the first set 6-4, then building a 4-1 lead. A comeback by her Viking opponent pushed the game to a decisive third set in which Roback came out victorious 6-4.

"It was one of those matches where I didn't do what I wanted to do," said Roback, "It wasn't pretty, but I got it."

Rounding out the wins for the Lutes were Beth Dorsey 7-5, 6-1, Dani Mulder 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, Tabatha Smith 6-3, 6-2, Shannon Tilly 6-3, 6-2, and undefeated Joy Zumbrunnen with a 6-0, 6-3 win.

Last Sunday the Lutes traveled to Lewis and Clark to play Albertson College, which was the best team in that district last year. The Lutes won the match 6-3.

Dorsey started the team off with a 6-3, 2-6, 6-1 win followed by Mulder, Tilly, and Zumbrunnen.

Tilly and Roback won the first doubles match in a tiebreaker and Smith and Dorsey won the third doubles match.

Earlier that day, the Lutes had played against Linfield, which was the second best team in Oregon last year. Roback, Dorsey, Mulder, Smith, and Zumbrunnen all notched singles wins for PLU while Tilly lost a tough match in three sets.

"Joni beat a very good player from Linfield," Coach Rusty Carlson said of Roback's 7-6, 6-1 win.

While the doubles team of Tilly and Roback pushed their match to three sets before losing, the Mulder-Jean Thompson team and the Smith-Dorsey team both earned wins to give the Lutes a 7-2 victory.

Last Friday, the Lutes played Willamette in Salem, Oregon. The result was a close 5-4 loss, with three of the matches going to three sets.

"We played okay against Willamette. We had some good play and some disappointing losses," said Carlson.

Mulder, Smith, Zumbrunnen, and the Smith-Dorsey team accounted for the four Lute wins.

The Lady Lutes next match is tomorrow when they host Pacific University at 1 p.m.

LUTE SCOREBOARD

Baseball

March 6		
PLU	8	
Concordia	2	
(at PLU)		
PLU	7	
Concordia	10	
(at PLU)		
March 10		
PLU	3	
Washington	11	

Softball

Mar. 12		
Central Wash.	1	
PLU	7	
Central Wash.	0	
PLU	8	

Women's tennis

March 4		
PLU		
Lewis-Clark State		
(rained out)		
March 5		
PLU	4	
Willamette	5	
March 6		
PLU	7	
Linfield	2	
March 6		
PLU	6	
Albertson	3	
(at Lewis and Clark)		
March 9		
Western Wash.	1	
PLU	8	

Men's tennis

March 4		
PLU		
Lewis-Clark State		
(rained out)		

Wrestling

N/A tournament
March 5-6

118 - Quoc Nguyen (8th)
134 - Nate Buffon (7th)
142 - Mike Jones (did not place)
150 - Brian Peterson (2nd)

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Tennis team, alumni remember old times over a few matches

Karl Hoeseth
Mast reporter

Last Saturday was special.

It was one of those wonderful days that tennis lovers in the Northwest sit up at night dreaming about. Not too hot, not too cold, not too bright, and not enough wind to foul up your serve.

On this beautiful day some of the finest athletes to ever play tennis for PLU gathered for the 1993 men's tennis team alumni match.

They were here to test their skills against the young upstarts who are carrying on the tradition of excellence many of these alumni helped create.

But the event was more than just tennis. Much more.

Shannon Affholter ('91), listed many reasons for coming back, none of which were competitive.

"It's exciting to come back and see friends," Affholter said. "I enjoy being around the PLU atmosphere again. You don't really appreciate it until you leave."

After pondering the whole alumni match for a moment, Affholter thought of another reason.

"But the big thing in coming back is to see Mr. Benson."

On typical match days one might see head coach Mike Benson pacing from one court to another with long, swift strides. He usually wears a shiny, new, black and gold sweat suit and white tennis shoes.

On this day however, Benson is lounging in a wooden chair. He is sporting sandals, shorts, and a polyester yellow sweat-top with a black stripe down the arms. Made in 1977, he says.

He still walks from court to court, but it is mostly to introduce the varsity to their alumni opponents. Then he goes back to his chair. All the while he looks like a grandparent bursting with pride when all the grandchildren are gathered in one place for a long-anticipated event.

"It's one of the most special days of the whole year," Benson said. "It brings back so many good

memories."

One thing that was extra special about the day for Benson was to see Keith Johnson compete. Johnson and Benson were district doubles champs in 1968, the first district tennis champs ever at PLU.

Johnson's son Brett is a sophomore on the varsity tennis team. They are the first father-son combination to ever compete in the alumni match. In fact, Johnson has competed in more alumni matches than anyone else including the first one—held in 1976.

"It's a unique event that very few college tennis teams hold," Keith Johnson said. "No Northwest school has as many of its alumni involved in tennis... and it's great to share in a program like the PLU tennis team."

As the elder Johnson played freshman Eric Monic, Brett watched closely. After winning a point, Johnson would walk slowly back behind the baseline. Intensively staring at the ground.

Many of Brett's teammates joked with him saying, "Your old man's going for the kill."

As the match went on, it was evident that watching his dad play against his teammate was a special experience for Brett.

"It's hard to figure out who to root for," he said. "I tend to root for family. I'm kind of hoping my dad can win so I can boast."

As the evening drew to a close, the alumni chatted amongst themselves, gave advice to current team members, or introduced their wife and kids to anyone who was nearby.

Although several participants had very successful careers on the court (nine went to nationals and four were district champs), very few of their conversations dealt with a specific point, set, or match.

"The road trips, those are the experiences you remember," Affholter said. "It's the time off the court you miss most."

As the alumni each went their separate ways, it seemed clear that although tennis was the common bond that brought them all back to PLU, the event had little to do with tennis.

Baseball —

Continued from page 11

Concordia came back with a few hits of their own and got five runs in the third inning. The Lutes added insurance runs in the fifth and sixth innings.

Concordia threatened in the bottom of the sixth, scoring two more runs and loading the bases.

But with one out, Rick Gross came in and induced a ground out and a pop fly to preserve the Lutes' 10-7 victory.

"We're looking for a closer," Marshall said. "Someone who can take and thrive on that pressure. Rick could be that guy."

The Lutes also continued their hot hitting in the game getting 11 hits off of the Cavaliers. Transfer Bill Cohen lit up Concordia for two hits including a home run and three RBIs. Brett Stevenson and Brian Johnson both had two hits.

The majority of the pitching was done by Matt McPoland, who Marshall said pitched very well both on Saturday against the alumni and on Sunday.

"McPoland did a tremendous job," Marshall said. "He threw on Saturday with loaded bases and got us out of a jam with no runs scored. He uses his talents very well."

That Saturday game became a good offensive tuner for the Lutes. They took care of the alumni team, 9-7.

"We played a lot of guys that haven't played a lot this year," Marshall said of the alumni game. "We've got a lot of depth and being able to use that depth is really going to help us this year, and that was evident on Saturday."

Marshall commented on only one aspect that needed work, which was



Vern Mills/The Mast
Danny Diamond tries to outrun a throw to first base during the alumni baseball game Saturday.

the pitching in the middle of the game.

"There seems to be one inning in every ball game that the pitching staff isn't doing the job we think they can do," Marshall said.

Middle inning pitching came back to haunt the Lutes Wednesday, as they travelled to Seattle for a non-league game against the University of Washington. The Lutes led 3-1 after five innings, but were unable to finish, with the Huskies taking the game 11-3.

"The final score was not indicative of how close the game was and how well we played," Marshall said.

The Lutes began the scoring with an RBI single by Josh Falcemar in

the first inning. Behind the pitching of Kyle Stancato for the first five innings, the Lutes held off the Huskies while adding two more runs in the fourth inning.

But then the Huskies broke the game open, scoring a run in the fifth inning, three more in the sixth, and six unearned runs in the seventh.

"When we play a team of that caliber, we need to sustain our level of play," Marshall said. "We learned a lot from it. It was a good experience for our guys."

The Lutes will now come home to play Western Baptist tomorrow, then travelling down to Portland State for a game Wednesday.

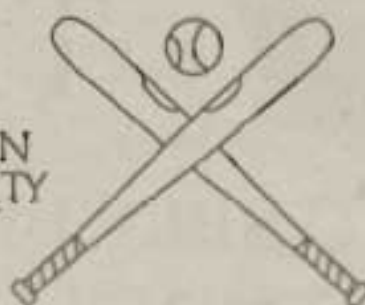
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Trivia Question of the Week

What team had the distinction of losing in the first round of the NCAA basketball tournament to the eventual champion for two consecutive years (1988-89)?

Answer to last week's question: Bobby Carpenter

Track squad committed to balance this season

By Tofa McCormick
Mast reporter

The start of yet another track season is underway at Pacific Lutheran University. The track team has captured an identity of impressive performances and now demands respect from its opponents.

Tomorrow is the first time the entire team will compete. Instead of looking back on last week's performance at the Husky Invitational, they are looking forward to the 23rd annual Salzman Invitational tomorrow.

The Salzman Invitational is named in honor of Mark Salzman, a former athletic director and track coach at PLU. He died at age 50 from a long term illness. In his honor, the track team has this meet and invites teams in the district and conference that Salzman's work had touched.

As well as competing in their strongest events, the Lutes are defending their fifth straight title. Coach Brad Moore is expecting some great performances from his athletes. "It is very possible for new records to be set in the running and field events," Moore said. "We're a little ahead of times than in previous years."

Along with national qualifiers Tracy Fox, Jennifer Fraser, and Aaron Linderud (see related story, right), some other individuals to watch this year, as determined by fellow team members are: jumper Jennifer Rick, thrower Jason Thiel

and distance runner Mike LeMaster. Sophomore Wendy Cordeiro, the NAIA's defending national champion in the discus, is also off to an impressive start and will be one to look for in the future.

The national qualifying performances often highlight many meets, but these meets wouldn't become wins for the team, if it weren't for the athletes competing in the shadow. According to Moore, one of the luxuries that PLU has is that it is very deep in almost all of the events.

'This year, we expect to be the best ever.'

—Dan Collieran,
on the track team's
jumpers

By developing an all-around team, Moore has been able to not only achieve some great performances from individuals, but has been able to maintain a high level of success for the team. The theme of being balance has paid off for the Lutes because they are able to enter many athletes into several different events, knowing that they will do well enough to place.

Dan Collieran, leading Lute high jumper and school record holder in

that event, believes this is "the best year we've had. We should be bringing in quite a few points for the team."

Collieran is one of two returning jumpers, who along with four newcomers, should give the team quite a bit of depth. In fact, he states, "this year we expect to be the best ever, and should have some qualifiers for nationals."

Another asset to the men's team is the mid-distance and distance runners. Particularly valuable is Steve Owens who ran a 8-47.76 in the 3,000 meter event Saturday, the fifth fastest time in PLU history.

Coach Moore said that the field events are the team's strongest point. While Linderud has already qualified for nationals in the hammer throw, Moore expects four or five more of his throwers to qualify.

On the women's team, the hurdle crew and the jumping squads are the bread and butter of the team. This isn't to say that there aren't other "outstanding individuals in other events, because there are," Moore said. The team doesn't win on one performance, but rather a group effort, he added.

Moore's long term goal is to improve on last year's final standings at nationals where the women finished a strong fifth and the men at 20th. Moore is expecting the same strong showing from the women and "possibly a top ten finish from the men."

But for now, the focus is on the next weekend and "cheering on your buddy," said Linderud.

Linderud sets new mark; Frazier, Fox excel at Husky Invitational

By Shannon Amin
Mast co-sports editor

The Lute tracksters met their first challenge of the year Saturday at the Husky Invitational, and passed with flying colors.

Although only about one-third of the team competed, the lack of quantity was made up by quality performances. Aaron Linderud, Jennifer Frazier and Tracy Fox led the way by turning in national qualifying performances.

Linderud set the school record in the hammer throw, with a toss of 189 feet. Frazier won the triple jump with an effort of 38-3 1/4, the second best in PLU history. She also won the long jump. Fox's 37-8 1/2 in the long jump was strong enough to make her a national qualifier.

Right behind them was All-American, Wendy Cordeiro, who

set a lifetime best in the shot put with a throw of 42 feet. This throw was strong enough to give her a first place finish. She also placed second in the discus.

While these were PLU's top performers, several other Lutes had quality showings. The Husky Invitational was the first opportunity for the athletes to showcase their abilities and start qualifying for nationals.

Impressive finishes were turned in by Steve Owens in the 3,000 meter run; Erik Probstfield in the hammer throw, falling just short of a national qualifying throw; and Dan Collieran in the high jump. On the women's side, freshman Sandy Metzger placed sixth in the 400 meters and freshman Kathie Anderson placed seventh in the 100 meter hurdles.

Tofa McCormick also contributed to this report.

Nationals Continued from page 11

tion All-Americans.

"According to NAIA guidelines, they're honorable mention All-Americans," Wolfe said. "But I'll call 'em All-Americans."

In doing so, Button and Nguyen became the PLU's first sophomores to place at nationals since Stark Porter finished seventh in the heavy-weight division in 1990.

The biggest disappointment of the meet for the Lutes was Mike Jones' ending his PLU career by getting eliminated in his first two matches. The senior, who injured his knee early last month, narrowly lost to Central Washington's Eric Rotondo

11-10, and was in control of his second match, who his opponent executed a sudden reversal and pinned him with 15 seconds left in the first round.

Left out from the trip to nationals at the last minute was junior Roy Gonzales. Gonzales had been out for much of the second half of the season with a dislocated elbow, but had planned to wrestle at the NAIA tournament until his doctor wouldn't give him clearance to wrestle.

Still, Gonzales was only one of nine wrestlers in the nation to garner Academic All-American awards. Peterson also made the Academic All-American list.



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Dr. Arthur Vegh

Environment, racism lead off at ELCA forum

By Kimberly Lusk
Mast reporter

"When we're talking about the environment, we're talking about the cities that people live in... not just the natural environment."

These words from Michael Isensee, a 1992 PLU graduate, explain the basis of the ELCA church and government seminar, "On Earth as It Is in Heaven: Bringing Environmental Issues."

The 36 participants discussed environmental racism, which is the targeting of people of color for dumping pollution from industrial, military, agri-business and government sources.

During the seminar, participants learned about environmental issues from religious, political and social viewpoints.

Calvin DeWitt, a professor of environmental studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said the roots of all environmental issues are in the Bible.

DeWitt wanted to inspire participants to put their beliefs together with environmental issues. He said that Christians need to "work as a whole human being," and not separate the different parts of their lives.

He finds the key to his thinking in Genesis 2:15, where it is written that people were put in Eden to cultivate and keep the garden.

With those definitions, and according to Genesis 2:15, Adam must serve the garden and keep it in all of its fullness, a garden which DeWitt thought was similar to a rain forest.

DeWitt derives the concept of earth-keeping from this verse, a principle which he believes Christians have violated. "When you say the earth is the Lord's, you take care of it differently," he said.

In discussing these issues, the terms "environmental justice" and "environmental equity" are used almost interchangeably with "environmental racism."

Richard Regan, a Lumbee Indian from North Carolina and a policy analyst working on environmental issues at the Center for Policy Alternatives, distinguished between the connotations of each term.

"Environmental equity" tends to give the impression of spreading risk, he said, while work actually needs to be done to limit risk.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prefers the term "en-

vironmental equity." Administrators for the new EPA Office of Environmental Equity are using this term to say that all communities deserve equal protection from environmental hazards, while they admit that they are dealing with environmental inequity.

Regan said that the term "environmental justice" pulls in too many issues.

He likes the term "environmental racism," while he admitted that what he is referring to is not always racism. The prejudice can come from an economic level, political power, race or a variety of other differences, he said.

Power plus prejudice, one accepted definition of racism, helps in understanding how racism is a part of environmental issues.

"If you're rich enough, or you're industrial enough," you can get rid of your waste, said an intern from the Environmental Defense Fund.

She explained that this is true nationally and internationally. If you have the power, financial, political or otherwise, you have the ability to pay or force others to live with your waste.

Industrial countries like the United States can afford to pay other countries to take their waste.

Polluting companies usually go into communities where the people don't have the political power or the resources to fight back.

Kimberly Jones, legislative correspondent for Barbara-Rose Collins (D-Mich.), finds that convenience is a part of environmental racism.

"These areas already have areas that have been contaminated... they were already basically dumps," Jones said.

Regan called those fighting against the effects of environmental racism the "rats and roaches" of environmentalism.

He divided environmentalism into three tiers. The first is the bird lovers and the tree huggers. The second tier consists of the wildlife types who want to protect the land.

The third group is the rats and roaches who are struggling with the issues on a daily basis and don't have time for what many consider elite causes, Regan said.

Jeanette Dörner, PLU senior and geology major, said "environmentalism cannot stand on its own... it has to be related to other justice issues... that's what this conference is about."

Students, politicians face-to-face

By Karolina Regius
Mast reporter

In the future, direct communication between the Olympia legislature and private universities may bring PLU students within a point-blank conversation range of the legislators.

Washington Friends of Higher Education (WFHE) are thinking about starting a student lobby where each of the private colleges and universities in the state would have one student stationed in Olympia on a temporary basis.

Dave Anderson, campus coordinator for WFHE, said that the idea of a student lobby seemed natural, especially since the public schools already have such a group.

Washington Student Lobby (WSL) has brought student lobbyists from public schools to Olympia for 11 years.

Although Anderson anticipates a group similar to WSL, he said that the differences in the administrative system between public and private schools called for some differences in their lobby as well.

"Public schools have more issues because they have a more adversary relationship with their administration," he said.

"We've got a pretty good relationship with our administrations. A private lobby would have time to build infrastructure between the schools and have students educate students about the legislature."

Anderson said that a student lobby would work like a two-way street. On the one hand, the student representatives would bring the schools to Olympia and inform the legislators about the schools' position.

On the other hand, the representatives would bring legislative information back to the schools and give students a better understanding of how the legislature affects them.

As examples, Anderson said students would learn more about the legislature hotline, letter-writing and the process of persuasion in the legislature.

ASPLU President Cindy Waters thinks a student lobby would be a "great idea," but recognizes the effort required in creating the program.

"I think students are interested, but it would be a lot of work for whoever wanted to be involved in it," said Waters, referring both to those who would organize and par-

ticipate in the program.

Waters sighted two potential problems in implementing a student lobby. Besides a possible difficulty in funding, the program could be criticized for only being of benefit to students that are Washington residents.

However, Waters said, if a few students go to Olympia and are successful in pursuing issues like financial aid, this could benefit the whole campus.

A financial aid reform could both increase PLU enrollment and enable PLU to free up some of its own money presently used for students in financial need.

Tom Parker, vice president of WFHE, said there would be two benefits to a student lobby. First, from the students' perspective, "this would be a great opportunity to learn how the legislature is working."

Second, he said that such a lobby would "allow the legislators to get to know the many faces of the independent colleges."

Parker added, "Many don't have an idea of what these students are all about."

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PLU grad finds a home with ELCA Volunteers

By Kimberly Lusk
Mast reporter

PLU alum Michael Isensee explained his decision to work for the Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) with what he called a "typical male response": he was afraid of commitment.

Isensee, who graduated last May with a biology major, liked the idea of a one-year commitment to LVC, as opposed to trying to determine a career. As an "LVCer," he was assigned to the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs (LOGA) in Washington D.C., the federal public policy office for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA).

A commitment to LVC includes a dedication to its three tenants: working for social justice, living a simplified life-style and living in a Christian community.

Volunteers must be at least 21 years old. There is no upper age limit and participation is open to people of all Christian faith perspectives.

As part of its service, LVC places volunteers at a variety of non-profit organizations. Each volunteer receives a subsistence salary from the placement organization, which covers living expenses (food, rent and utilities), work-related transportation and a personal stipend of \$85 a month.

Medical insurance, travel to and from the placement site at the beginning and end of the year and two weeks of paid vacation are also included.

At LOGA, Isensee is the public policy advocate associate for environmental issues and is considered a full-time staff person at the office.

The bulk of Isensee's time has been spent coordinating the seminar on environmental racism, including arranging speakers, finding lodging and preparing flyers.

Isensee's other work consists of preparing material for publication, including legislative updates, and meeting with people in the religious and political communities to discuss environmental legislation.

Quilt

continued from page one

Some of the quilts evoked a simple peace, like Rod Ofanelli's which simply read "Our Hero" in gold letters. Other patches were intensely personal, like Garth Wall's, which his mother said was made of his old T-shirts.

Still others seemed to have been made in anger, like the one for Warren Piece, which read: "DEAD because of your INACTION."

The evening was capped by the symphonic performance, which featured Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, and John Corigliano's First Symphony, written, he said in the program, with inspiration from the Quilt of Love.

Corigliano wrote the symphony as a composer in residence for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1988-89, and has won two Grammy Awards for Best Orchestral Performance and Best Contemporary Composition.

The concert raised approximately \$1100 for the Pierce County AIDS Foundation.



Photo by Liz Tarnell

PLU graduate Stacy Burde views the Quilt. Burde works at a summer camp for hemophiliac children, many of which have AIDS.

DWI

continued from page one

In the event that a drunken driver escapes the absolute penalty of death by an alcohol-induced accident, the dramatization illustrates a host of other methods used by the legal system to persuade offenders not to repeat their crime.

Such methods include jail time, the establishment of a criminal record that carries a damaging social stigma, fines, probation, costly "financial responsibility insurance," mandatory counseling and mandatory attendance at a "victim's panel discussion" where victims of alcohol-related accidents discuss their experiences with DWI offenders.

In "One Two Many," all of these elements are included in Hansen's and Mulder's sentences, even though the Mulder character had had "just a couple."

The video is the brainchild of Mulder, who conceived the idea last year while acting as a resident assistant in Pfeiffer Hall. After witnessing irresponsible behavior involving drinking and driving under the influence, he wanted to make a statement about the potential dangers.

The concept of recreating on video the potential outcomes of driving while intoxicated was thus born, and became a reality last week when Mulder and Hansen wrapped up a two-week filming stint that involved fellow students and what Mulder called the "amazingly cooperative" Pierce County Sheriff's Office.

Appropriately, "One Two Many" was completed during National Collegiate Drug Awareness Week, which is the first week in March. March itself is National Drug Awareness Month.

Mulder said that the video is intended for use by the PLU community through the Residential Life Office. It has been distributed to the residence halls for use by the RAs in programming, and there is a possibility that the Pierce County Sheriff's Office will retain a copy for educational purposes.

However it is used, Mulder hopes his message gets through. Though some people seem to be able to drink and drive unscathed, he said, "sometimes you wonder if they're always going to be so lucky."

Diversity: PLU and Beyond

Ex-gangster now fights for future

By Kimberly Lusk
Mast reporter

"I don't like thinking, 'cause every time I think, I start thinking about bad things," said Willie Rollins, better known as Chuckie. The bad things include his former involvement in gang activity and selling drugs.

He also said the good things are starting slowly. "They will happen for sure," Rollins said.

The good things include his plans to go to college and his goal of getting a degree in computer science.

But first, the bad. Rollins got involved with gangs at 14.

He hung around them and did the things they did "just to experience what it was like," he said.

The promise of fast money, a promise he found to be "very true," lured him. But, it was also "something adventurous to do."

Being affiliated with a gang meant taking part in gang activities like heating people up. When he was 16, he said he decided to "just quit."

"Some people still like it, some people still want to be in it, but

that's not for me," he said.

He said he was tired of being harassed by police or rival gang members every time he walked down the street.

"Police would stop me every time and ask me questions," he said.

Rollins sold drugs from the age of 15 until 18, "cause I had to."

His mom wouldn't buy him clothes or other supplies, so he needed to earn money. At first, he was too young to get a job, and when he was old enough, he was too lazy.

Rollins started selling cocaine with his younger brother, who was already selling. He tried it and "liked the money" — \$400 on an average night.

Rollins dropped out of school during his affiliation with gangs. In April 1991, at the age of 17, he started going to school irregularly, while still selling drugs.

When he was 18, Rollins quit selling drugs, got an after-school job, and started attending school regularly.

Now his typical day consists of school, work, basketball and homework.

Rollins is a junior at Stadium High School and will graduate in June 1994. He is taking required classes, including two sciences, shop, his-

tory and English, as well as working in the attendance office. After graduation, he plans to pursue a degree in computer science.

"(Getting a degree) might take me a long time, but I'm going to get one," he said.

His spare time is spent at the People's Community Center. He plays on two league basketball teams there, plus the informal games that happen every afternoon.

One coordinator at the center considers Rollins his "senior helper." Rollins helps supervise the younger kids. He teaches them how to play pool and foosball and has free throw contests with them.

But right now, Rollins said he is stressed and depressed. He finds it hard to deal with the pressures of family, school and girlfriend.

"I shouldn't be going through this at the age of 19," he said.

Rollins said that he doesn't have any one to talk to.

"I just keep it inside; I don't let anybody know about anything," he said.

"Nobody knows what I'm going through unless they're my race and they grew up the same way," he said. "Nobody can really help."

A cappella group to visit PLU

By Christie Falk
Mast reporter

When the A cappella quartet 2nd Glance performed in the Cave during Interim, the audience "went crazy," said Bill Wallis, PLU religion major.

"It was the most audience-participatory concert I've seen in the Cave this school year," Wallis said with a smile. "They (2nd Glance) had us up doing silly things, and we were having fun."

Saturday, 2nd Glance will again give an open-to-the-public concert at PLU in Olson Gymnasium from 12:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The concert is scheduled as part of PLU's Church Youth Day '93, so high school participants will be enjoying a barbecue lunch before and during the concert.

PLU students will not be offered lunch, but they will be entertained by a group that performs everything from rap to '50s do-wop.

The four young men in this Seattle-area quartet have performed in schools, prisons and churches, sharing motivational messages through words and music.

According to a 2nd Glance promotional flyer, the group "encourages people to say 'yes' to living a full life of joy and excitement and to take '2nd Glance' at the gospel of

Jesus Christ."

Adrienne Chamberlain, a senior education major, emphasizes that people don't have to be Christian to enjoy 2nd Glance.

"Their message is enthusiastic and dynamic, and you can't help but be affected in a positive way by their energy," Chamberlain said. "They will speak right to the issues of your heart."

Church Youth Day

What: Church Youth Day. Second annual in this format.

Who: PLU faculty and students. Participants are senior high students from Idaho, Washington, Montana, Oregon and Alaska. ELCA churches and other denominations.

When: Saturday, March 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Why: To provide high school students with opportunity to discuss issues of faith and service, think about the future, spend time on the campus of a church-related university, have fun meeting new people.

How to get involved: Churches send in registration or show up on Saturday morning. PLU students can call Campus Ministry Office (x7464) to volunteer.

Nokleberg —

continued from page one

Nokleberg, who retired for medical reasons in 1991, received her Bachelor of Arts in Education degree in 1953 from PLU and went on to spend several years in the classroom before returning to the university in 1959.

For the next two decades, Nokleberg assisted PLU's education majors. Within the school "virtually every one of the students had met Nan," said School of Education dean Robert Mulder.

Nokleberg's duties included placing students in the school system, and counseling applicants for graduate level courses and degrees within the school.

"She was universally respected as a caring and approachable person," Mulder said.

"What I am seeing in my mind's eye, he continued, "is her (Nokleberg) coming out of her office, walking to greet and meet yet another person and ultimately (help) them get what they need."

To Mulder, Nokleberg was "a cheerful 'good morning' over, and over, and over, again."

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Lutherans & Latin America

Instead of eating the traditional Scandinavian Lutheran lefse and lutefisk, they eat tortillas and beans. Like Lutheran churches in the United States, Lutherans in Latin America often face similar problems of low membership and small budgets. But Latin American Lutherans also face issues of development, poverty, social injustice and civil wars, that for most U.S. Lutherans are a world away.

Responding to injustice: What is the church's role?

Lutherans offer financial help, provide programs to meet needs

In U.S. society poverty often seems invisible. This makes it even more shocking to walk into a barrio in Latin America, where people often live in shacks, crudely put-together dwellings made of scrap wood or cardboard, with dirt floors and no running water or electricity.

In Latin America, where extreme social injustice is often a reality, especially in the last decade in Central America, the political and social situation has had a profound impact on the church. Roman Catholic or Protestant churches have responded in many ways to injustice.

Victoria Cortez, a Lutheran pastor in Nicaragua, said, "In all the parables of the New Testament, the reign of God is a way of criticizing the society of the times, denouncing injustice. This is our role, to struggle for justice and peace. Whoever doesn't do this does not follow Christ."

She added that the Lutheran church works with other groups that have the same objectives, other denominations as well as political organizations.

The Nicaraguan Lutheran Church is an outgrowth of the Lutheran church in El Salvador. It was founded by Cortez, a Salvadoran pastor in exile, to meet the needs of 21,000 exiled Salvadorans in the early 1980s. The church is involved with some 500 different cooperatives, including growing coffee, basic grains and fishing.

The church has a training center for women, a training school for carpentry, a preschool, a Lutheran clinic, and home gardening projects as well.

"Our church carries out its pastoral work among the poorest neighborhoods of Nicaragua," Cortez said. "In some neighborhoods people are eating only once a day. You don't know how difficult it is to speak of God to people who are starving."

There are similar stories told all over Latin America. In Guatemala City, the Lutheran Church is active working in communities, helping people meet basic needs. It works alongside the people, and offers workshops for women helping them realize their own self worth and recognize their abilities that can be used to better their economic conditions.

The struggle is not easy, however. The church faced red tape from the government when it worked to install a potable water system in a community. Working to empower women in a society that trains women to be submissive to their



Photo by Brian Hunt

Dr. Robert Hoferkamp husbands and often leads to sexual, physical and emotional abuse can be a controversial mission.

Like Native Americans in U.S. society, indigenous peoples in Latin America are also pushed off their land, and often live at the bottom of the social ladder. They tend to live below the poverty line, in a society where minimum wage averages \$4 a day. They are often servants to "mestizas," people of mixed race.

Mexico

Women and indigenous people are hardest hit by poverty and oppression not only in Central America, but also in Mexico.

In Mexico, social action is often related to Central America. Many churches take in refugees from war-torn countries in Central America.

When Lutheran Bishop Medardo Gomez of El Salvador received numerous death threats in 1989, a number of Lutheran churches sponsored an advertisement in a Mexican newspaper denouncing the fact that his life was in danger, hoping it would affect the Salvadoran consulate in Mexico City.

A more common form of social action is to provide funding to needy families, organizations, and projects. Pastor Steve Herzberg of Iglesia Luterana El Buen Pastor (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church) explained that people stop by two to three times a week needing assistance, and that donations (financial or supplies) are determined on a case by case basis. Sometimes people in need can do work in exchange for aid, such as yard work. Buen Pastor also provides financial assistance to a school for the deaf.

Dr. Robert Hoferkamp, dean of Comunidad Teologica de Mexico (Theological Community of Mexico), believes that in Mexico

See AID, page B4



'Can we be that yeast and leaven again in the communities...?'

Poverty in Latin America seems thousands of miles away. It is. But poverty isn't.

Over and over as our group traveled through Mexico and Central America, people would ask us, "Why are you here? What are you going to tell your friends and families about us?" It was a hard question to answer. It is often difficult to relate situations of extreme poverty and oppression to a middle class white educated life experience.

But there was much to learn, for there are similar stories here in the United States.

Lutheran Bishop David Wold, who is also a member of the PLU Board of Regents, learned similar lessons when he visited El Salvador a few years ago to accompany Salvadoran Lutheran Bishop Medardo Gomez when Gomez's life was threatened.

Wold explained that Gomez talks about how God calls Christians to walk the way of the cross. He calls then for North American Christians to pray and to accompany people in Central America.

"Accompaniment has been a strong element," Wold said. "Sometimes it's physical so we go and attend, or we visit and hear the stories."

"It's very much more romantic in a sense to go to El Salvador or Guatemala or Honduras to hear those

'It's very much more romantic to go to El Salvador or Guatemala or Honduras to hear those stories, but realize that there are thousands of those stories being told in Parkland, if we would listen.'

— David Wold
ELCA Bishop

stories," Wold said, "but realize that there are thousands of those stories being told in Parkland, if we would listen."

He said we must hear the cry and ask ourselves, "Is there a way for us? Are we the ones or how shall we do this? How shall we tend to the wounds of our neighbors?"

"People are starting to say, 'This is a new time.' In some cases our parishes exist, not in the midst of hostility, but indifference. Yet there

are people all around us crying out in deep need," Wold said.

There are many opportunities that exist to fight poverty and injustice, opportunities through PLU, such as the Volunteer Center, Bread for the World, Amnesty International, etc., as well as many opportunities in the community.

Wold asked, "Can we be that yeast and leaven again in the communities, and not just chaplains to religious folk groups?"

For more information about how to get involved working to make change locally and on a broader scale, contact the following:

Volunteer Center: x8318
Campus ministry: x7464
Family and Children's Center: x7173
Peace, Justice and Environment House: x7875

Theology of life: A larger context

To many people in the United States as well as in Latin America, simply the mention of the term "liberation theology" brings to mind connotations of communism, socialism, and revolutionary violence.

Liberation theology, which is rooted in Roman Catholicism, often is an especially sensitive issue for Latin American Protestants, in a culture where the differences between Catholicism and Protestantism are accentuated.

What is becoming more widely discussed in Protestant circles, is theology of life. While in many ways similar to liberation theology, theology of life has its differences.

In his book "Liberation Theology," Philip Berryman describes liberation theology first as being an interpretation of Christian faith out of the suffering, struggle, and hope of the poor.

Second, he says it is a critique of society and the ideologies sustaining it, and third, it is a critique of the activity of the church and of Christians from the angle of the poor.

Victoria Cortez, a Lutheran pastor in Nicaragua, said, "Liberation theology was joined with the struggles of the people in Central America, which is why it had a strong dose of politicization. That doesn't take away from its religious value, but it also used Marxist models and spoke a great deal of structures of society. It didn't speak very much of structures of the person."

She explained that theology of life looks not only at aspects of people's lives, but also at the larger picture, including the environment in which people live.

"We as Christians have to defend creation in its totality, not only to think of the person, but also the context the person lives in. We have to struggle for the conservation of all. This is what is called the theology of life, a deepening of the theology of liberation."

"There is no contradiction (between) the two theologies," Cortez said, explaining that the same analytical method is used in both theologies. "We the Protestants are leading this movement."

She said, "The method is the same, but now we have a vision of defense of creation in its totality." As an example, she mentioned the harmful effects of smog and ozone depletion. "All of these aspects were not developed in liberation theology because we were too involved in the struggles of people," she said.

"We also learned that we cannot compare the reign of God with any political project," Cortez said. "People used to say the Nicaraguan revolution was the reign of God. Well, what happened? The reign of God fell when the Sandinistas lost? Many Christians were frustrated when the Nicaraguan revolution fell...A Christian cannot lose hope because our hope is the reign of God."

Cortez added that Nicaraguan Lutherans were among the few who kept working in communities bringing a message of life and hope



...We cannot compare the reign of God with any political project...A Christian cannot lose hope because our hope is the reign of God.'

**— Victoria Cortez
Lutheran pastor**

after the Sandinistas lost the 1990 elections to Violeta Chamorro and the UNO coalition.

Dan Erlander, a Pacific Lutheran University campus pastor, recalls hearing a sermon in Honduras, translated into English, that spoke about the experience of the poor during the last 500 years in Latin America. "It was a real sermon of hope that oppression would end," he said, noticing many themes of liberation theology present. However, he said theology of life was referred to more often than liberation theology.

ELCA Bishop David Wold said that one of the essential features he saw in theology of life was its focus on Christ, instead of just the restructuring and redemption of society.

Wold said, "I think what I experienced there, both in Mexico and El Salvador, was a kind of liberation theology that had a Christology. That's been one of the critiques, that if you take the Marxist categories and bring them strictly into the church that essentially you're trying to reshape society and out of society itself becomes the redemptive factor."

"The preaching and the teaching that I saw in El Salvador and Mexico was really fundamentally Christocentric and therefore was not naive about the circumstances of the society," Wold said.

He explained that changing society meant more than just giving people better information or finding people with different interests to run society. Instead, social change requires new, changed people.

"I think Lutheran witness to the faith could say we all have the capacity, that brokenness, simply to serve ourselves. New wine in old skins will always break open the old skins. What we need is a new person. That seems to permeate the teaching," Wold said. "No one was taking it on and saying we're going to take liberation theology and mend it but I think that's essentially what was happening."

A question of more than merely roses

From the beginning, we weren't sure why the roses were there.

The two women from Iglesia Luterana Guatemala (the Lutheran Church of Guatemala) dressed in their business suits with their arms filled with roses led us along a dirt path to La Isla, a marginalized community on the outskirts of Guatemala City. As we walked, we wondered at the beauty of the surrounding hills and ravines, the occasional pig that wandered by, and finally at the many houses made of cardboard and scrap wood that faced us at the top of the path.

We were greeted as celebrities. Children competed to hold our hands and walked behind us shyly whispering as we toured the community.

As we gathered and sang with the women of the community in the multipurpose building used as a school, church, and community center, we were introduced to the many projects the Lutheran church has begun in La Isla. They included health care, women's issues, potable water and breadmaking.

We gradually realized these women assumed we were their benefactors, that they had us to thank for these projects. That made us even more uncomfortable.

PLU junior Amy Luinstra said of the visit, "The women from the church did their show and tell spiel: 'This is so-and-so who's in charge of breadmaking. This is so-and-so who's in charge of health care.'"

We joked about the "Sally Struthers syndrome," how we felt being a group of white, North American women with children clinging to us and begging us to take their pictures.

We weren't sure how to feel about the project. In some ways it seemed so patriarchal. How much control did the women really have over these

projects? How would breadmaking help them when they couldn't bake bread in their community because they had no electricity?

At the same time, these people were struggling for survival. The project was beginning to meet some basic needs, and at the same time was giving the women skills that could be marketed, as well as giving them a new sense of self esteem.

And then there were the roses. The Lutheran women gave the roses to the women of La Isla, who in turn distributed the roses to us, accompanied by a hug, a kiss, and "gracias."

We realized the roses were their way (an orchestrated way) of thanking us for these gifts they had been given. But what had we given them? They didn't know we had nothing to do with this church, that we had no contact or input with this project.

There was almost an unbearable irony to the situation, that we who had so much were being given roses by women who lived with so little beauty in their lives.

A week later we learned that the homes of these 125 families were at risk. That the original owner of the land wanted it back, and had the support of the Guatemalan government. Where would these people who came to La Isla because they had no other place to go, go now?

It was a quiet bus ride home for many of us, as we thought about the many issues that had been raised. The visit brought more questions than it brought answers. Why were we there? What were we meant to see? What were we expected to learn? How should we feel?

These questions haunted us all semester, but perhaps never so strongly as they did that day.

And what could we have done about the roses?



Two La Isla girls didn't get any roses, but Guatemalan community excitedly begged for them.

Animosity rises as Protest

They say you can recognize a Protestant in Latin America because Protestants are neatly dressed, don't drink and don't smoke.

While in the United States, the distinctions between Protestants and Roman Catholics often seem blurry, in Latin America, the differences are well-defined, and each group has its own stereotypes.

While Latin America is predominantly Catholic, the Protestant movement is gaining momentum. The fastest growing Protestants are the fundamentals and Pentecostals (see definition box).

Many mainstream Protestant churches have seen slower growth rates because they have reduced their commitment to foreign evangelization, instead concentrating their limited resources on global peace and justice issues.

Evangelicals on the other hand, see the church growth as a top priority, which has been demonstrated in rising memberships throughout Latin America, according to Debra Preusch in a 1988 article in the "Resource Center Bulletin."

The mainstream and evangelical Protestant movements tend to have more of an adversarial relationship with Catholicism and liberation theology. The Protestant movement is small compared to Catholicism, but it is growing fast.

Edmundo Madrid, president of the Evangelical Alliance, has been quoted as saying, "Catholicism

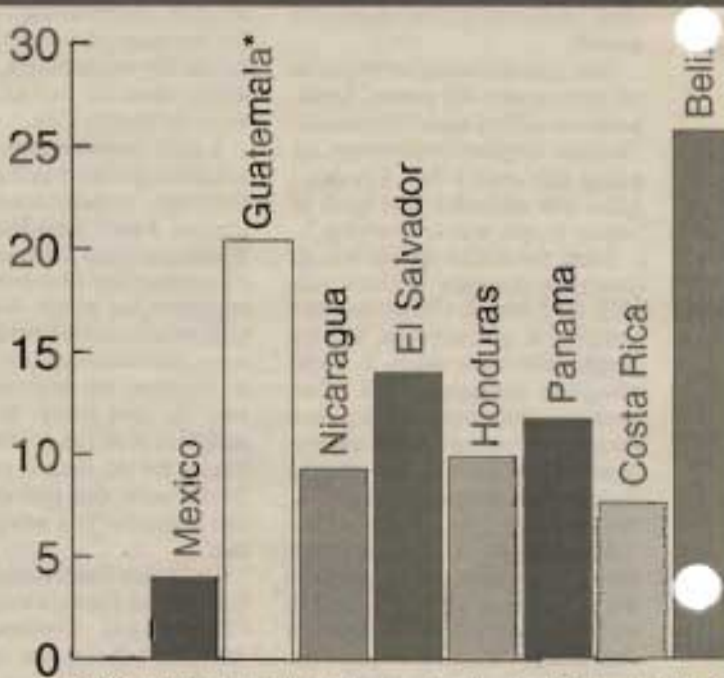
means alcoholism, adultery and crime. In the social sphere, the Catholic Church may be strong, but on a spiritual level they are weak."

The Pentecostal movement has given many Central Americans a "renewed sense of self-importance, helped them overcome alcoholism, and unified their families," ac-

ording to the article, "The Religious Right in Central America 1987" "Resource Center Bulletin."

It goes on to explain that the churches "supply a supportive and an uncomplicated theology, an personal morality, and an escape complicated problems of this 'I

Percent of Protestants in Mexico and Central America



1986 statistics from "Is Latin America Turning Protestant" By D

* More recent statistics show Guatemala at 33% Protestant (Guatemala: A Country Guide, By Tom Barry, 1989)

This report was produced by Susan Halvor for her depth and investigative reporting class.

The bulk of the research for this project was done fall semester in Mexico, Guatemala and Nicaragua, where she was studying abroad through a Center for Global Education program looking at issues of women and development. Some research was funded in part by the Readers Digest Foundation Fund for student reporting.

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To be a Lutheran in Latin America

Perhaps the most unusual thing about attending a Lutheran church service in Mexico City was the absence of anything unusual.

PLU junior Amy Luinstra, who studied abroad in Chertovaca, Mexico, last semester, said, "From a very personal standpoint, I felt very at home there (at Iglesia Luterana El Buen Pastor (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church)). It was just like any other Lutheran church I'd been to, except the service was in Spanish."

She has seen a number of Lutheran churches, since her father is a pastor in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS).

Buen Pastor is typical of many Lutheran churches in Mexico in that it began as an outgrowth of Lutheran ministries in the United States, and continues to receive financial support from both LCMS and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA).

The first Lutheran church in Mexico was Iglesia San Pablo (St. Paul's), established in 1940. Since that time, roughly five different synods have emerged.

These synods include, among others, the Iglesia Luterana de Mexico, Iglesia Luterana Confesional, World Mission Prayer League, and Alianza Apostolica Luterana de Mexico. Other churches are affiliated to the German Lutheran church and the Missouri Synod. These churches were all originally outgrowths of U.S. Lutheran churches or other international church bodies.

The vast majority are still subsidized by outside organizations. For example, Buen Pastor receives money from Missouri Synod and ELCA, but is trying to gradually reduce the subsidy and has very little contact with either synod. Iglesia San Pablo is the only Lutheran church that does not receive a subsidy, a fact which the church is proud of, but



Pastor Steve Herzberg of Iglesia Luterana El Buen Pastor (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church) in Mexico City takes a break after a service to spend time with a friend in his congregation.

which also causes financial difficulties.

While there are a number of Lutheran synods in Mexico, it is important to keep in mind that overall, the number of Lutherans in Mexico is very small.

Dr. Robert Hoferkamp, dean of Comunidad Teologica de Mexico (Theological Community of Mexico) in Mexico City, estimates that there are between 5,000 and 10,000 Lutherans in Mexico now, with membership slowly increasing. The total population of Mexico is estimated to be nearly 80 million people, and 97

percent Roman Catholic.

In Central America, it is as likely that Lutheran churches will be connected to the Lutheran Church of El Salvador as to the United States. The Nicaraguan Lutheran Church, for example, is a direct outgrowth of the Lutheran Church of El Salvador. It receives funding primarily from European Lutheran churches, in Germany, Sweden, Finland and Denmark, and also has relations with the ELCA.

While the Nicaraguan Lutheran Church makes its own administrative decisions, it looks to Bishop

'From a very personal standpoint, I felt very at home there (at Iglesia Luterana El Buen Pastor). It was just like any other Lutheran church I'd been to except the service was in Spanish.'

— Amy Luinstra
PLU junior

Medardo Gomez of El Salvador for spiritual leadership.

The Lutheran church in El Salvador began as a Missouri Synod church, but became independent in 1988, at which point it began ordaining women as pastors.

Originally from El Salvador, Pastor Victoria Cortez of Nicaragua is the only woman in the world to be both pastor and president of the Lutheran church in a country.

The Nicaraguan Lutheran Church is also unusual because it has strict membership requirements. To become a member, a person must participate actively in the community for two years and then take a class about Lutheran theology. The first 64 official members were inducted last October.

However, Cortez added that there are no differences between members of the community and members of the church. For the church, the most important work is in the communities, and decisions are made by members of the communities, not just church members. She said that 90 percent of the people coming to the communities are Catholics, who may not agree with all the political positions of the Catholic church and see an alternative in the Lutheran church.

ended up with some greenery. Children in the to take their pictures until our film was gone.

nt membership increases

They offer an ideology of anti-communism that requires no social commitment, while giving believers hope that the "age of miracles" is at hand. Social responsibility is downplayed, and forgiveness comes easy to those who declare their faith in Jesus."

Traditionally, missionary Protestantism offers an ideology which emphasizes "individualism, freedom for progress, liberal democracy and success," said Carmelo Alvarez in his 1991 "Latin America Press" article, "Coming of Age: Protestantism in Latin America." This is very different from Catholic values of community and commitment to the poor.

Among the lower classes, the evangelical sects often win converts because of their aid programs and because they can often reach rural areas in a personal manner that the Catholic movement has difficulty reaching, especially when liberation theology movements have been expelled.

The evangelical movement often offers a vast network of social services, distribution projects, and community development programs, which often occur along with an effort to recruit new members.

For example, they distribute medical supplies, food (from beans and rice to the dietary chocolate pudding "Slim-Fast"), and even Jockey underwear, according to the article "The Rise of the Religious Right in Central America."

Unlike liberation theology, this evangelical movement downplays

'Catholicism means alcoholism, adultery and crime. In the social sphere, the Catholic Church may be strong, but on a spiritual level they are weak.'

— Edmundo Madrid
president
Evangelical Alliance

social commitment on a personal level, stressing individualism and personal morality rather than community. It discourages and often prohibits citizen activism, such as joining unions or community boards.

According to this movement, responsibility for changing the world rests on God, not the individual. The only exceptions to this policy is encouragement to join opposition to leftist governments.

This fell in line with Reagan administration strategy, explained in 1980 in Santa Fe, calling for active opposition to the spread of Catholic priests supporting liberation theology and empowering the poor.

According to the article "Is the world's largest Catholic region becoming Protestant," in "The News," Nov. 30, 1990, the CIA supplied seeds with financial and practical aid.

Pentecostals often preach a dualistic theology, portraying a global political showdown between God (representing the "free" Western world) and Satan (formerly the eastern bloc, communist and socialist countries). U.S. evangelical organizations tightly control evangelical sects in Latin America, such as groups like World Vision, Campus

Crusade for Christ and Overseas Crusades, Preusch reported.

Unlike liberation theology, the evangelicals often focus on the problems of the middle and upper classes. Medardo Gomez, Lutheran bishop of El Salvador, has been quoted as saying, "The middle and upper strata of the population believe that the Catholic church has sold them out because it concerns itself mostly with the poor and is often critical of the military. The sects, on the other hand, offer soldiers redemption for torture and murder."

While this fundamentalist movement has no contact with liberation theology and has little involvement with other denominations, mainstream Protestant denominations tend to be more involved with ecumenical organizations responding to social and political concerns.

These movements at times include Catholics. In Nicaragua and Guatemala, ecumenical peace organizations including evangelicals, Protestants and Catholics have lobbied together for peace and begun campaigns including forums, marches and seminars designed to bring Christians together in their commitment for peace.

Definitions: What do the labels mean?

The following definitions explain the differences between terms used to describe different churches and religious movements.

Catholic: Roman Catholics believe that the pope, as bishop of Rome, has the ultimate authority in administering an earthly organization founded by Jesus Christ. Latin America is predominantly Catholic.

Evangelical: Evangelicals stress both doctrinal absolutes and vigorous efforts to win others to belief in Christ. Evangelicals are often doctrinally conservative. They make up some conservative denominations and are numerous in broader denominations. The evangelical movement is growing rapidly in Latin America. The term is often used to refer to all non-Catholic churches in Latin America.

Liberation theology: Liberation theology evolved out of the Roman Catholic Church in Latin America. In his book "Liberation Theology," Philip Berryman describes liberation theology first as being an interpretation of Christian faith out of the suffering, struggle, and hope of the poor. Second, he says it is a critique of society and the ideologies sustaining it, and third, it is a critique of the activity of the church and of Christians from the angle of the poor.

Neo-Pentecostal, charismatic: These terms apply to a movement that has developed within mainline Protestant and Roman Catholic denominations since the mid-20th century. It is distinguished by its emotional expressiveness, spontaneity in worship, speaking or praying in "unknown tongues" and healing.

Pentecostal: The Pentecostal movement arose in the early 20th century and separated from the historic Protestant denominations. It is distinguished by the belief in tangible manifestations of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and healing. Denominations include the Assemblies of God, the Pentecostal Holiness Church, the United Pentecostal Church Inc., and the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

Protestant: Protestant churches formed as a result of the break from the Roman Catholic Church during the Reformation in the 16th century. Protestants include a number of denominations, such as Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist, Anglican and Quaker groups.

Theology of life: An outgrowth of the Protestant churches in Latin America, theology of life is very similar to liberation theology, but is described as a "deepening" of liberation theology. It includes concern for the environment, and is generally not considered as politicized as liberation theology.

Machismo and the church: Women respond to patriarchy, oppression

Paul says women should keep quiet in church. Jesus' 12 original disciples were all male. Women are to obey their husbands, and are generally regarded as property. The Bible, written more than 1,000 years ago, is a very patriarchal document.

Religious women in Latin America live in an atmosphere that is predominantly Roman Catholic. Women are not allowed to be priests.

Add machismo to the equation, and the result is a culture where women are oppressed and marginalized.

So where does this leave women?

Nicaraguan Lutheran pastor Victoria Cortez said, "Because the Bible was written by men, and (because of the cultural norms of the times), women are looked at as objects. When we read the scriptures with a critical sense as women, it is terrible. But despite all that is written by men and about men, there must be something for us. We found it."

She gave an example from the Gospel, saying that when women met Jesus at the tomb when he was resurrected, they went to tell the other disciples and were not believed because they were women.

Cortez explained that it is important to read the Bible from a woman's perspective, to recognize its patriarchy and to find the things that are positive.

She gave Mary, mother of Jesus, as an example.

"We believe the values (Jesus) had as a man, he acquired from his mother. She has a very special message for us as women. She confronted the society of her time," Cortez said, explaining that as an unmarried pregnant woman she could have been stoned to death.

Cortez described Mary as a woman who fought and who had to be very self-assured. While she came from a poor social class, she was not poor in spirit. "She's a woman we need to imitate. She leaves a great example," Cortez said.

She emphasized that, "We are Christian women and the Bible is fundamental, but we do not forget that the Bible is not written by God but written by men."



'Women here in the church are incredible. I can't believe how much they serve. Women serve here like crazy.'

— Judi Tyler
Lutheran deaconess

By critically examining the Bible, Cortez said, "We find new meaning. It gives us strength in order to work. New men and new women emerge from this."

"Pastoral work for women does not mean to fight with men, because men also are products of machista society," said Cortez. "We as women are promoters of that society. ... A woman alone cannot be liberated... she has to be liberated along with men. When we began to awaken as women and became aware of the value God gives us, the first person with whom we would have confrontations would be our husbands. For young women it would be at home with her parents."

Because wife-beating occurs frequently in Latin America, it has been important for the church to take a stand against domestic violence, Cortez explained.

"Part of pastoral work is that men have no right to beat women. Solidarity among women is important. We have said that the church is going to assume responsibility for women who are beaten," she said.



'The church tries to preserve unity, but abuse of women is destructive to women and to children. We cannot promote a unity that is not true, that is against women's dignity.'

— Victoria Cortez
Lutheran pastor

"The church tries to preserve unity, but abuse of women is destructive to women and to children. We cannot promote a unity that is not true, that is against women's dignity. Our women have a great deal of dignity," she said.

While women are rarely in leadership roles in Latin American churches, they still play important roles within churches. Women often make up the majority of congregations.

Judi Tyler, a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) deaconess who works in Ajusco, Mexico, just outside Mexico City, said, "Women here in the church are incredible. I can't believe how much they serve. Women serve here like crazy." As an example, she said that women prepare food for almost every church function.

Tyler added, however, that it is important to be culturally sensitive when considering the roles of women, saying, "Women have fought for their rights, but in their own way."

Both Tyler and Cortez expressed the difficulties of women taking leadership roles in the church because of machismo's prevalence in society.

Tyler said that her role as a deaconess rather than a pastor is perhaps more appropriate for Mexican society, saying, "I'm not as threatening to them." While she hopes one day women will be ordained in the Lutheran church in Mexico, she doesn't know whether it will ever happen.

Within the Lutheran church, women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) can be ordained as pastors. In LCMS, women can become deaconesses, meaning that they receive theological training, but their ministry has a greater emphasis on service and teaching, while pastors' ministries include word and sacrament.

However, while women may often not have recognized leadership roles, Pastor Steve Herzberg of Iglesia Luterana El Buen Pastor (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church) in Mexico City, said, "It's the women that are the real leaders in the church."

As one of only three ordained female Lutheran pastors in Central America, Cortez faces much discrimination.

"Among the Protestant churches of Nicaragua, I am a special person because I am a woman. Sometimes I am upset at some of the activities, when I'm only invited because I'm a woman. They don't believe I have the ability," Cortez said, adding that among men and women, there will always be some who are able while others are not. But, she said, there have to be women involved.

Cortez founded the Lutheran church in Nicaragua when she left El Salvador in 1983, during a period of much persecution of the church, saying, "I believe I had the honor of being among the ten most wanted people in El Salvador."

Now she believes she has a great deal of responsibility to represent women in international organizations. Her two primary goals are, first, to not allow anyone to disrespect a woman just because she is a woman, and, second, to show women can also do work and do it well.

AID

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congregations are less involved with social ministry than in Central America. Regarding social change, he believes it's important to look at the situation from a historical perspective.

Hoferkamp, who has lived and worked in Mexico, Guatemala and elsewhere in Latin America for 40 years, said that Mexicans, in general, feel that they've had their revolution (early in this century) and don't want another one.

He compared this to Central America, where many countries are now undergoing or just ending revolutions, which creates a different atmosphere.

"A lot of Mexicans, as I sense it, have not been too sympathetic, I think, to the revolutionary concerns of Central America," Hoferkamp said.

Hoferkamp also pointed out that it is common not only in the Lutheran church but all Protestant denominations, that one finds people who come from lower classes moving up the social ladder.

"When people try to talk to them about social responsibility and so on, I think it doesn't have too much effect," he said. "Somehow psychologically, they have come from the lower socioeconomic levels. They have worked their way up and it seems the effect is they don't want to know anything about it. They tend to forget their origins."

He added that their faith and religiosity tends to be very individualized and somewhat otherworldly.

The Lutheran churches do have a social ministry, however. After the 1985 earthquake in Mexico City, an aid association of Lutherans was formed to help people rebuild their homes and make sure people had food to eat. Through this program, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod wound up working in Ajusco, a small community where Deaconess Judi Tyler still works. LCMS helps people pay for medical tests, medicine, and transportation for medical care. It also assists with funeral services and financial aid.

"In my opinion, the church needs to continue to work in preventative social aid, but it does react when emergencies arise," Tyler said.

Another group which receives support from Lutheran churches in Mexico is AMEXTRA, a community organizing group. AMEXTRA works with agriculture, education, health and construction needs. It also trains people to be agents of change and promotes a network of participation.

AMEXTRA works around the concept of faith as a transforming agent, as explained in Romans 12:2, which says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Cortez explained that, "What happens on earth is not all the will of God. Many things happen because men and women want this. This is the role men and women have, to give life to the word of God in communities, to give strength to live. It's not a life that's passive, waiting. God gives us strength to struggle."

She added, "We need to pray and we need to act. It is only in this way that we have enough strength to survive in such a difficult world as we have today. We teach people to reflect on the word of God, we learn to be builders of a new society."

Lutherans respond to different needs

Making generalizations about Lutherans in Latin America can be as tricky as attempting to make generalizations about "Christians" in the United States.

In Mexico, for example, where Protestants only make up an estimated 3 percent of the population and Lutherans are only a small minority among Protestants, there are Lutheran churches with ties to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, German Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Synod, the World Mission Prayer League, and more.

Perhaps the strongest influences on Lutherans in Mexico and Central America come from the U.S. Lutheran churches and from the Lutheran Church in El Salvador.

These influences are almost opposite extremes.

Attending Iglesia Luterana El Buen Pastor (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church) in Mexico City is like attending an ELCA or LCMS church in the United States, except that the service may be in Spanish (depending on which service you attend). While the congregation there may not be entirely Scandinavian or German, about 40 of the active members are from the United States, and 65 are Mexican.

Pastor Jaziel Lopez of Iglesia San Pablo, the oldest Lutheran church in

'If there are some good things that happen in your life, you praise God for it. If there are difficult things, you assume that is also a part of the life of faith.'

— David Wold
ELCA Bishop

Mexico City, (and one with an entirely Mexican congregation) said the environment molds the church. He explained differences between the missions of Lutheran churches in Mexico and in El Salvador, where his seminary classmate Medardo Gomez is Lutheran bishop.

Lopez explained that in El Salvador the church must respond to a war situation, which creates a very different environment than the more stable situation in Mexico.

ELCA Bishop David Wold, who is also a member of the PLU Board of Regents, echoed these remarks, saying "In a very strong way, the church's agenda will be written by the circumstances around it."

Wold, who spent time accompanying Gomez when the Salvadoran bishop's life was in danger because of the political situation in El Salvador, explained how Gomez was transformed by his experiences with the Salvadoran people.

Wold said Gomez was trained in a Missouri Synod seminary, saying, "We largely import our classic traditional styles of doing things and send people into fairly homogenous

communities. Suddenly those are broken apart."

"(Gomez) said he went out and listened to people and their stories of faith. And then he listened for the cries...and then the civil war started," Wold explained, saying that in the early 1980s refugees began arriving in San Salvador, people whose lives had been torn apart.

Wold said the question became, "Do we respond to their needs and speak God's word and set God's word? The setting is very different here but the center is not."

Dr. Robert Hoferkamp, dean of the Comunidad Teologica de Mexico (Theological Community of Mexico) in Mexico City, said some of the Salvadoran Lutherans in Mexico City aren't as comfortable with the Mexican Lutherans because the situation is so different.

What are sometimes minor differences between Lutherans in Mexico and Lutherans in Central America, become even larger disparities when compared to the United States.

Wold said, "We are able in the United States to compartmentalize

our life. We can have church in one bracket and we can have our social life or certainly our political life...we don't talk about politics or religion with our friends or we get in trouble."

"In places, particularly where there has been a war going on, it is impossible for people to separate out their acts of faith from their daily lives in any way, when it has been those very acts of faith, providing housing, medical care, food, shelter, care for displaced children, and so on, all of those things, which Salvadoran Lutheran Christians have seen as the very things they must do," Wold said.

"This is what Christ calls us to do and then these things have labeled them as insurrectionists and rebels. We were labeled as terrorists, frequently, for identifying with them," he said.

Wold said, "I've asked Christians in many places, 'How can you, in the face of this terrible oppression, continue to hold so tenaciously to this faith?'"

"Their answer is, 'What other word do we have? What other hope do we have?'" he said.

Wold said that for many Christians in Central America, "If there are some good things that happen in your life, you praise God for it. If there are difficult things, you assume that is also a part of the life of faith."