

THE MAST

Pacific Lutheran University



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Mast solves mass paper disappearance
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DECEMBER 4, 2009

www.plu.edu/~mast

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Honoring the four fallen



Photo by Carrie Draeger

Two Campus Safety officers talk to members of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department following the shooting of four Lakewood police officers. The University's administration opened the Columbia Center to local law enforcement as a staging center in the search for the shooter.

Campus responds to shooting

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A man walked into the Forza Coffee Company on Steele Street and shot and killed four police officers at 8:15 a.m. Sunday, police said. About a mile away, on the campus of Pacific Lutheran University, staff and students went into action to protect the campus and to assist the community.

Campus Safety was informed of the shooting at about 9 a.m. Campus Safety then informed PLU's senior staff.

The senior staff activated an Emergency Operations Center in the office of the president. Greg Brewis, executive director of University Communications, said President Loren Anderson became incident commander during the emergency operations. All of PLU's vice presidents, as well as director of Campus Safety Tony Berger and other emergency response staff were mobilized and present.

It was determined early that there was no direct threat to PLU, dean of students Laura Majovski said.

The emergency response team had two priorities: 1. to ensure the safety of students and 2. to continue managing campus operations during this emergency, Majovski said.

Various administrative operations went into action to accomplish these ends.

University Communications updated the emergency banner on the school's website and sent e-mails to students regarding the safety of campus during the day Sunday and Monday.

PLU gathers with local community to start healing

Senior
Thomas Siburg was at home decorating a Christmas tree with his family when he heard of the brutal murder of four Lakewood police officers.



All he could think about was getting back to PLU to see what he could do.

"I knew that PLU had to do a candle light vigil," he said.

Sophomore
George Culver wrote a letter to his hometown of Parkland, detailing his sorrow at the shootings and hope for the beauty of the area to still be seen.



"I know that Parkland can seem bad, (but) I've never had this type of experience before," he said.

Senior
Daniel Luebke lit candles at the base of a poster that said, "In loving memory to the four Lakewood PD who were killed in the line of duty. Our prayers and thoughts are with their families."



Carrie Draeger
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Siburg, Culver and Luebke were a part of more than 200 PLU students, staff, faculty and community members who gathered for a candle light vigil in honor of the murdered officers Monday evening.

The officers were gunned down Sunday morning by Maurice Clemmons, a career criminal with an

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SEE SHOOTING PG. 3

High stakes: Mast staff helps solve mystery

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A newsstand that once stood empty each Friday on lower campus has been restored to its original purpose. The Mast stand in the Morken Center for Learning and Technology was victim to an ongoing mystery of disappearing newspapers since

the beginning of Fall semester. That mystery has been solved.

"I noticed that papers left the stand pretty quickly," said junior TJ Hecker, The Mast's business and advertising manager. "It wasn't until I went the day after placing the papers and noticed they were all gone that I thought something was up."

Starting at the beginning of the semester, staff members in charge of circulation noticed that

about 400-600 newspapers were disappearing from the Morken newsstand at an unusually quick rate. Initially it was believed to be a location with high demand for the publication. But this belief quickly shifted.

"My first assumption was that someone was stealing them," Hecker said. "We don't pay for 400 papers to be stolen each week. That is a big chunk of our spending."

The Mast circulates its weekly publication Thursday nights around 5 p.m. When the newsstand in Morken was empty at 6 a.m. on Friday every week, the mystery began. Staff members started investigating.

Facilities Management was contacted first. It was reported that no unusual disposal of papers was evident during daily rounds in or around Morken. Then Mast staff members

discreetly monitored papers in the building during hours of operation in early November, but uncovered no unusual activity.

Staff members determined it was classified as theft of university property, since a high volume of issues was being tampered with. Campus Safety was notified, and director of

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Tragedy rattles PLU

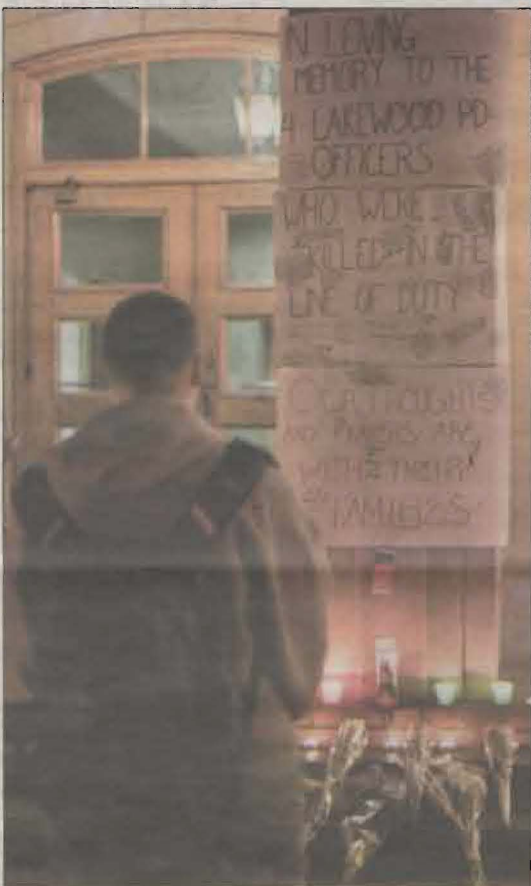
Students pay tribute to shooting victims

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Students organized various memorials in response to the deadly shooting at Forza Coffee Company on Sunday morning. PLU organized a vigil ceremony to pay tribute to the four fallen Lakewood police officers that were gunned down by Maurice Clemmons. For more information regarding the incident, see page one.

Right: Senior Nichole Munden signs her name to a note she left in commemoration of the four Lakewood Police Officers killed Sunday. A shrine of lit candles and flowers was visible in Red Square early in the day Monday!

Below: First-year Steven Mattich contemplates the shrine in Red Square Monday night. Several minutes later, groups of students, faculty and community members gathered to hold a candle-light vigil to those who lost their lives the day before.



Above: A candle from the Monday Nov. 30 vigil lights the night's program. Students read verses from the bible in remembrance of each of the officers commemorated that night.



Right: Junior Matt Anderson gathered with many other students in Red Square to pay homage to the four slain officers. Candles were distributed throughout the crowd and light spread throughout the square as people lit each other's wicks.

Photos by Ted Charles

PLU lights up for the holidays



Above: PLU Campus photographer Jordan Hartmen snaps a picture of Greg, Ruth and Lily Briggs just following the ceremonial lighting of the tree. Throngs of Lutes and community members joined in drinking hot-spiced cider and singing while waiting for the lights to come on.

Right: Campus Ministry Program Specialist Kyle Franklin untangles a bundle of lights while perched on top of a ladder. The tree was erected in Red Square on Monday.



Photos by Ted Charles

HEALING CONT. FROM PG. 1

outspoken grudge against law enforcement.

Clemmons was shot by a Seattle Police officer early Tuesday morning after a two-day manhunt that crossed two Washington counties.

The service was a solemn event, led by ASPLU president Teddy Krogh, Siburg, Culver and members of PLU's campus ministry team.

"The eyes of the nation and the world will be on Parkland for weeks," Krogh said at the service.

Krogh played Amazing Grace on the bag pipes, a staple of funerals and memorial services for fallen public servants.

The piercing drone echoed throughout Red Square, freezing time as the community mourned together.

Luebke, who wants to be a police officer when he graduates, was visibly upset when the wail of the bag pipes began.

"For me (Amazing Grace on the bag pipes) is one of the most difficult things to hear," he said.

While the music played, Luebke thought about the children, spouses, family members and friends the officers left behind.

"You think about how difficult it must be for the remaining spouse," he said.

Students read four Bible verses, one for each officer after Krogh finished playing.

A single chime rang out after each officers name was read, floating into the night with the memories of the fallen.

Culver thought of those close to the officers who had been left behind. Culver's mother served ten years as a police officer in California.

"It makes me feel more for those kids," he said.

If he could talk to the children, he would tell them, "Your parents are heroes."

After the Bible verses, Culver read his letter to Parkland.

The letter was a solemn plea to the city and PLU, calling for the city and the university to tear down its walls and band together in times of struggle.

"Although evil is present within your soul, your light of community shines bright," he wrote in the letter. "As a community we can overcome any obstacle or hardships that come our way."

Culver said the shooting and the vigil can be a way for PLU and Parkland to grow together.

"I was hoping to get across to students

at PLU not to disown Parkland," Culver said. "Let's just do the opposite and make change; make the situation better."

Siburg pushed for the vigil to be somewhere off campus, forcing students out of their comfort zone and into the streets of Parkland.

"I didn't want PLU to continue to isolate itself from Parkland," he said. "I still think that PLU needs to show a more visible presence to the community outside of (itself)."

Siburg, the social justice coordinator for PLU's Residence Hall Association, thinks that PLU needs to be more involved in the surrounding community.

"I am embarrassed and frustrated that it took four deaths for PLU to feel some motivation to step out into Parkland," he said. "We need constant reminders that we are part of this community."

Culver took it upon himself to invite local high school students and other community members to the vigil.

"I feel like the community really appreciates our response," he said.

Culver is disappointed that some members of the PLU community make negative comments about "Parkland youth" and the crimes that happen off campus.

"Some people commit crimes, but

that's not everyone in the community," Culver said.

Siburg said he hopes no one will let stereotypes of the surrounding area create more separation between PLU and Parkland.

The vigil was a good start towards building ties between PLU and Parkland, Siburg said.

"The things that were said did a really nice job of reminding us that we are one community feeling loss," he said.

That sense of loss still weighs heavy on Daniel Luebke's heart.

He has lit a new batch of candles for the officers every day since Sunday.

He plans on taking the poster to the Lakewood Police Department to add to the memorial there eventually.

If he could talk to the officers all would say is thank you.

"It's a very sobering remember of what the job can be like," Luebke said. "They don't do it for themselves. They do it despite the dangers."

Luebke said he is "eternally grateful" to any officer who gives his life in the line of duty.

"There's not much else you can say," he said. "It's unfortunate that it has to happen, but occasionally it does (happen.)"



Left: This combination of photos provided by the City of Lakewood, Wash., shows, from left to right, Lakewood police officers Greg Richards, 42, Tina Griswold, 40, Ronald Owens, 37, and Sgt. Mark Renninger, 39. The four were killed when a gunman opened fire on them at a Parkland, Wash. coffee store on Sunday, Nov. 29.

AP Photos and City of Lakewood

A benefit concert for the four murdered officers will be held at Forza Coffee Company in the Garfield Bookstore this Sunday from 5-8 p.m. All proceeds will be given to the families of the officers. The suggested donation is \$5.

SHOOTING CONT. FROM PG. 1

the day Sunday and Monday.

Campus Safety operations supervisors then called in extra student employees to monitor the cameras and patrol the perimeter of campus.

Campus Safety activated the emergency text-messaging system, which sent a message to the phones of students on the emergency text-messaging list.

"PLU does have a very sophisticated emergency response program," executive director of University Communications Greg Brewis said, "and even though it's not always apparent to the community, there's serious work being done incidents of these kinds."

The staff still relied on students and word of mouth to communicate.

"A critical link in the process is students sharing information with one another, and I think it proves that the system is working," Brewis said.

"This time around, I feel we were a little slow in our initial response, but I think we did a good job once we

got started," Brewis said.

The emergency team also took into account how close PLU was to the scene of the crime and offered a protected area on campus for police to use for a staging area.

Between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m., Majovski and Brewis spoke to police officers who were patrolling near Tinglestad residence hall and offered to let the officers use the Columbia center and Ivy parking lot as their staging area for the investigation, Majovski said. The officers accepted.

"We brought them coffee and cooperated fully," Brewis said.

About six law-enforcement agencies stationed themselves in the Ivy lot, including 15-20 law-enforcement vehicles, ready to respond to calls in the area.

The police officers were at the Columbia center for about three hours.

At the end of the three hours, they left to set up staging at a different location.

PLU contracts with the Lakewood Sherriff's department through Campus Safety and staff felt the effects of Sunday's tragedy.

"We have very positive relationship with the Sherriff's department and all the officers who work with us," Majovski said. "It feels like family to us."

PLU students and the Lakewood community jumped into action to recognize the fallen officers and pay their respects with candlelit vigils at Champion's Center Sunday night and PLU's red square Monday night.

"I'm grateful to the students who immediately looked for ways to honor the fallen officers," assistant dean of Campus Life Tom Huelsbeck said.

"I urge you all to love, to remember and to reflect this evening," Pastor Eric Van Alstine said to an audience of about 700 community members at the Champions Center vigil.

"It's at times like these we're reminded how fragile we really are," Alstine said, "how temporary our lives really are."

Clubs speak out against catering
High catering prices create unrest on campus

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One of Pacific Lutheran University's policies has been repeatedly called into question by many of its student clubs and organizations. To many, the university's requirement that student clubs hosting on-campus events use PLU Catering is a hindrance to the school's supposed mission.

Sophomore Ted Charles, president of PLU's chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, has had difficulty with this policy several times hosting SPJ's annual First Amendment Free Food Festival. His experiences last year told him what to expect the second time around.

"I began fundraising in July," Charles said.

The First Amendment Free Food Festival is a national program aimed at teaching students the importance of First Amendment rights. The event promises free pizza for any student willing to enter the Republic of Parkland—a fictionalized government in red square—and give up his or her

rights to freedoms of religion, assembly, petition, speech and press. For the event, Charles and SPJ wanted to order 50 pizzas. In accordance with PLU's policy, SPJ was forced to order the pizzas through the catering department.

The price totaled \$800.

"It's exceptionally costly," Charles said, "and we have minimal funding. We have to fundraise ourselves. It continues to be so hard for us to raise the funds; we're considering taking the Free Food Festival off-campus entirely."

SPJ is not the only student club that has experienced difficulty hosting on-campus events. Senior Jake Paikai has been active in student programming for several years and has run into this policy.

His most recent experience was hosting last year's gala celebrating Saxifrage's 35th volume.

Paikai wanted to provide hors d'oeuvres for 100 people and, in accordance with PLU's policy, he was forced to request the services of the catering services. Saxifrage was charged \$900, and 50 people attended the event.

"Catering has a monopoly over any food at any on-campus event. There seems to be an air of protecting profits instead of providing students with opportunities to grow," Paikai said. "The policy discourages people from being as active as they want to be. They [Catering] have to be willing to bend or be more cost-effective."

Both students say Catering's reasoning for the policy concern health and safety—a "liability policy" that prohibits the distribution of outside food items at on-campus events. These student club leaders agree that Catering's concerns are reasonable and merited, but they need to provide better options.

"I'm happy to use catering, it's just that the pricing that is currently available does not seem economically feasible," Charles said. "I know students and clubs that have shied away from hosting events because of the sheer costs."

Paikai stressed the fact that the "people in catering are great, helpful people. It's not a people issue. It's systemic. PLU Catering is ridiculously expensive."

Unique "Explore" program offered

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First-year students have the opportunity to experience something fun and exciting January 8-9.

The Explore retreat is open to all first-year students who focus on vocation, students on whom Pacific Lutheran University prides itself thanks to the Wild Hope Project.

First-year students still unsure about being a part of this off-campus event at Camp Berachah should know that activities will include swimming, a bonfire, rock wall climbing, board games and a movie. There will also be an open gym for all who attend. Amber Dehne, assistant director of Student Involvement and Leadership Programs, noted the benefits of Explore.

"The main benefit I

see in Explore is that it helps students to be more intentional with their time here at PLU," Dehne said. "It is a great way to meet new people and to think about what they want to do with their PLU experience."

Explore is something that first-year students should take advantage of because it is not offered at any other university, Dehne said.

"The Wild Hope Project has influenced campus culture and uplifted vocation on campus and enables students to talk about vocation," Dehne said.

First-year students wanting to sign up for Explore should go to <http://www.plu.edu/explore>.

The website includes paperwork to sign up for the retreat and a video of last year's retreat.

It has a rolling admission so, "The sooner students sign up the better," Dehne said.

STATE, NATION and WORLD BRIEFINGS

Local to Global

Obama gives Afghan war plan



AP Photo by Charles Dharapak

President Barack Obama takes a picture with cadets after speaking about the war in Afghanistan at the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., Tuesday.

Darlene Superville and Steven R. Hurst

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

WEST POINT, N.Y. (AP) — Declaring “our security is at stake,” President Barack Obama ordered an additional 30,000 U.S. troops into the long war in Afghanistan on Tuesday night, nearly tripling the force he inherited but promising an impatient public to begin withdrawal in 18 months.

The buildup will begin almost immediately — the first Marines will be in place by Christmas — and will cost \$30 billion for the first year alone.

In a prime-time speech at the U.S. Military Academy, the president told the nation his new policy was designed to “bring this war to a successful conclusion,” though he made no mention of defeating Taliban insurgents or capturing al-Qaida terrorist leader Osama bin Laden.

“We must deny al-Qaida a safe haven,” Obama said in spelling out U.S. military goals for a war that has dragged on for eight years. “We must reverse the Taliban’s momentum. ... And we must strengthen the capacity of Afghanistan’s security forces and government.”

The president said the additional forces would be deployed at “the fastest pace possible

so that they can target the insurgency and secure key population centers.”

Their destination: “the epicenter of the violent extremism practiced by al-Qaida.”

“It is from here that we were attacked on 9/11, and it is from here that new attacks are being plotted as I speak,” the president said.

It marked the second time in his young presidency that Obama has added to the American force in Afghanistan, where the Taliban has recently made significant advances. When he became president last January, there were roughly 34,000 troops on the ground; there now are 71,000.

“After 18 months, our troops will begin to come home,” he said flatly.

In addition to beefing up the U.S. presence, Obama has asked NATO allies to commit between 5,000 and 10,000 additional troops.

The war has even less support in Europe than in the United States, and the NATO allies and other countries currently have about 40,000 troops on the ground.

He said he was counting on Afghanistan eventually taking over its own security, and he warned, “The days of providing a blank check are over.”

He said the United States would support Afghan ministries that combat corruption and “deliver for the people. We expect those who are ineffective or corrupt to be held accountable.”

More arrests made for case of murdered Lakewood officers

Rachel La Corte

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — The convicted murderer who drove Maurice Clemmons away from the coffee shop where he massacred four suburban police officers waited with a newly purchased cigar in the getaway truck while Clemmons committed the crimes, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Darcus Allen, 38, who did time with Clemmons in an Arkansas prison, pleaded not guilty and was ordered held without bail after he was charged with being a fugitive. The prosecutor is reviewing evidence to determine if any additional charges will be filed, including criminal assistance charges.

Prosecutors warned they might charge him with the more serious offense of being an accomplice to aggravated first-degree murder — a crime that could bring the same penalties as if he had shot the police himself: life without

release, or execution.

“We will prosecute everyone involved in this murder to the greatest extent possible,” said Pierce County Prosecutor Mark Lindquist.

Investigators said Allen was the first among a network of friends and relatives who helped Clemmons avoid police during a frantic two-day manhunt that began when Clemmons walked into the Forza coffee house Sunday morning and shot to death four Lakewood police officers.

Along with Allen, two women appeared in Pierce County Superior Court on Wednesday and were ordered held for 72 hours on \$500,000 bail, bringing to six the number of people to make court appearances after being arrested for investigation of helping the killer.

The two women who appeared in court Wednesday were Clemmons’ friend, Quiana Maylea Williams, and his aunt, Letricia Nelson. They gave first aid to Clemmons, helped him change clothes and made arrangements to get him to other locations, police said.

Move for media

Student media centers advance

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In spite of the struggles facing print journalism as content shifts online, Cliff Rowe, a PLU professor of communication, sees more opportunity than tragedy.

“I think it’s a really exciting time to be a journalist,” Rowe said. The question, Rowe said, is “how can journalists accommodate the new media in a way that will make the news more accessible and still maintain the integrity?”

With journalism worldwide evolving into an online commodity, PLU’s recent push within student media has been toward online content. A recently launched Web site creates a new online presence for The Mast, as well as PLU’s television station KCNS and online radio station KCCR.

Once the doors open to instantaneous Internet journalism, the potential for continued evolution will be immeasurable, Rowe said. The three major student media outlets will have the opportunity to combine efforts to offer a greater variety of information to an expanding audience.

In particular, Rowe sees the lack of a local community newspaper as a great opportunity for The Mast and PLU’s student media outlets to reach beyond the borders of the Lutedome.

Since the Lakewood/Parkland area does not currently have a community newspaper, Rowe believes that a slight push by The Mast into the greater community would attract a greater readership and more potential for advertising revenue.

“Having a product that caters to local readers is going to provide a terrific vehicle for local advertising,” Rowe said. “You don’t have any local newspapers that can compete with you. Right now you have a lock.”

Beyond seeing student media reach a larger audience, Rowe believes a stronger online presence will allow The Mast to shed its “weekly publication” identity.

“With the opportunity for immediacy, you would no longer be weekly student media,” Rowe said.

After nearly 30 years teaching full time at PLU and more than 20 years of serving as advisor to the staff of The Mast, Rowe will be retiring this year and allowing the future to unfold in the hands of his fellow professors and the next generation of students.

Associate professor of communication Joanne Lisosky, who took over for Rowe as The Mast advisor in 2003, shares his big-picture enthusiasm for the limitless future of PLU student media.

Pointing to the close working environments and sharing of various employees within the organization, Lisosky believes that PLU is already ahead of most colleges and the journalism industry itself.

“We’ve been blurring the lines since 1995,” Lisosky said, referencing the year she first came to PLU. “The online vehicle is what will make that all come together in terms of disseminating it to the public.”

With the offices of The Mast, KCNS and KCCR all nestled in the back corner of the University Center’s lower floor, student media at PLU already has

unique situation based on the proximity of the outlets, Lisosky said.

“A story will always have either a stronger video or print content,” Lisosky said. “Being able to distinguish that and do both well will be very beneficial for students.”

Both Lisosky and Rowe spoke of the importance of offering a depth of experience for students in every medium, as audio and video clips invade newspaper websites and potential employers demand flexibility in journalistic skills.

KCNS online media director Daniel Walo worries that perceived competition between the five outlets may limit their ability to work together and share employees, at least in the near future.

“The challenge is with identity,” Walo said. “When you start to share employees, you come to wonder where one begins and ends. We have to start thinking in new ways.”

He believes that student media must become more active in opening itself to students beyond the typical communication majors who work for the groups.

Walo said that student media should be more welcoming and inclusive to all students, especially in the technological environment of today.

He mentioned the need to partner with students who make their own podcasts and reach beyond the stereotypical print, television and radio media of the past.

In order to take steps toward this goal, Walo is devoting his efforts to building up an online KCNS presence.

Referencing the popular hulu.com, he believes that “getting our content in front of people” is the best way to reach the student body. Based on this, his goal for the future of student media revolves around “on demand” content that will allow viewers to access all KCNS content at any time from any computer.

The studio next to KCNS houses KCCR, the student media outlet that has seen the most growth in the past several years.

From barely 10 disc jockeys two years ago to more than 60 this past semester, “KCCR is becoming a force on campus,” according to general manager Hilary Scarbrough.

KCCR’s goals for the near future focus on interactivity, including online podcasts and playlists for listeners to feel more connected to their favorite shows.

One of the newest features on The Mast’s website gives the opportunity for readers to post comments in response to articles and columns online. With this first step, both Lisosky and Rowe see an entirely new dynamic between the journalists and their audience.

Rowe’s ideas feature more content from sources outside of The Mast office. With the focus on immediacy of online publication, he believes that The Mast staff should focus more on editing and production and look outside the communication department walls to find more students willing to contribute content.

“How can you accommodate the new media in a way that will make the news more accessible and still maintain the integrity?” Rowe said. “To me, there’s no limit to what you can imagine.”

Holiday tips:

How to be cheap without being cheesy



Frankly, Lutes.

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College students are a generally poor group, and nothing reminds me of this like the holidays. Still, I want to give something to my family and a few friends (if my budget stretches that far). So how can we buy or make presents that fit the bill of being special without being cliché and, more importantly, without going over budget? Here are my favorite options:

- Create a scrapbook using pictures or copies of whatever you do. If you're in sports, a review of your last season. If you're an artist or a writer, your favorite ten pieces. If you're really involved in an extracurricular activity, you could document the last few events your club put on. Printing out digital pictures can be really cheap if you go to Fred Meyer, and dollar stores sell cheap scrapbooking and other art materials.

- Charitable causes. The key here is to match the cause to the person you're buying for, and then to try to buy something that gets a trinket for the person and a contribution for the cause. For instance, last Christmas I conserved 10 acres of forest for my dad (he's very outdoorsy) for about \$10, and he got a key chain and a card under the Christmas

tree (since a forest doesn't really fit; www.oneacreatatime.com).

I also love thehungersite.com, which sells globally-made, mostly fair-trade products, including clothes and jewelry. It also donates cups of food to the hungry with each purchase. It's fairly cheap and usually offers free shipping if you buy \$25 worth of merchandise. I usually end up picking up something for myself too. It's all for a good cause, right?

- Gift baskets. My aunt Carla, who is the Martha Stewart of the family, suggested cheap ways to create gift baskets, including utilizing dollar stores, thrift stores and Costco for the pieces instead of buying fancy pre-made ones. You can go big with actual baskets, medium with bowls or small with mugs.

Next, fill them up with homemade goodies like cookies and brownies and discount PLU gear from the bookstore like key chains or pens. For those of us in the residence halls, Costco and Bed Bath & Beyond sell flameless tea lights in big batches that you can match up with candleholders from the dollar store. I also like holiday ornaments or posters of a friend's favorite celebrity or movie.

- Showing up and showing that you care is all that really matters. One of the best birthday presents I got this year was a poster and balloons outside my room by two good friends. (Thanks again, Idai and Kanisha.) Cheesy or not, it is the thought that counts. If you can't afford a gift, make a card, send a card, an e-mail or make a phone call, just as long as you let the people you love know you're thinking about them.

Good luck on your finals, and happy holidays.

A-S-P-L U should know

ASPLU informs you about the issues

Dead week de-stressing

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The end of the semester has crept up on students. ASPLU has several programs planned to help you de-stress during dead week as finals approach.

Monday: Enjoy yoga and meditation at 8 p.m.

Tuesday: Come watch and discuss "King Corn," an interesting and witty documentary on American agriculture at 8 p.m.

Wednesday: Come to the Cave at 8:30 p.m. to experience the oxygen bar and get henna tattoos.

Thursday: The atmosphere gets much more exciting with the "Chill Out, Rock Out" Concert at 8 p.m.

Friday: Watch a movie and eat snacks provided by ASPLU at 8 p.m. in the Cave.

Saturday: wear head-to-toe white for the "White Out Dance" from 9-12 p.m.

ASPLU is also providing free professional massages on Wednesday and Thursday during dead week.

Sign up for a massage appointment time on the door of the ASPLU office in the lower UC. There are only a limited amount of appointments available.

ASPLU will be providing free airport shuttles on Wednesday and Thursday of finals week. Wednesday the shuttles will leave at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., and 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Thursday. Space is limited, so students are advised to reserve seats early. Shuttle sign-ups are on the door of the ASPLU office.

PLU event planning too costly

University catering policy nearly drives clubs off campus

The price of sponsoring an event on campus is too high. For the past three years, the Society of Professional Journalists has hosted a nationally-acclaimed awareness event called the "First Amendment Free Food Festival." Students have the choice to give up their First Amendment rights in exchange for free lunch while actors beckon passersby from within the compound. Even though participants are offered free food, the true cost of the pizza they eat is so great it almost

drove SPJ off campus.

After being elected the president of Pacific Lutheran University's chapter of SPJ in the Spring of 2009, I knew that one of the most important roles I played was to raise enough money to put on the event. PLU requires events on campus to utilize its in-house catering service for all food served outside of residence halls. I visited the Ted Scripp's Leadership Institute in Indianapolis to begin my training as a SPJ president. Other

presidents were astounded that our club had to pay for any of our food at all. Their schools allowed event sponsorship from outside business, making cost for food nonexistent.

The menu featured by Catering does not differentiate between faculty, administrative or student events, thus only offering one price. 50 large pizzas, plates, cups and water cost \$816. This is an enormous amount of money, especially for an organization whose goal is education and awareness.

I began fundraising in July to make sure I had enough money to purchase adequate pizza. It is now December and we were unable to raise enough funds to cover the end cost.

I have been considering my options for next year, and it is becoming apparent that the most economically-feasible options are to either take the event off campus or not do it at all. Something needs to change in the way PLU prices its catering or student-sponsored events will dwindle. I have

talked to numerous individuals wanting to host an event that have been discouraged solely by the price of food. PLU either needs to allow catering to come from off campus businesses or provide a menu more feasible with a college student's wallet.

Theodore Charles
PLU Class of 2012
SPJ President

In the wake of tragedy

A student speaks to Parkland

Dear Parkland,

Like a mother, you nursed me. Like "Air Jordans" to Nike, I am a product of you. You have watched me grow and change, and likewise I have watched you. I have watched you become the most beautiful place on a sunny day.

I have watched you provide a place for friends to live life and grow together. I have watched you create beauty. I have also seen another side of you. I have witnessed the creation of pain upon your roads. I have witnessed struggle. Injustice. Pain. Anger. Destruction. I have witnessed great loss.

Although evil is present within your soul, your light of community shines bright. As a community we can overcome any obstacle or hardships that come our way. We just need to band together and tear down our walls. We have to be willing to step out of the dome that restricts our lives.

Step out, support, make change. Today is my day of change. I will join the fight to protect your rightful image, Parkland.

I look forward to seeing you become beautiful again.

George Laverne Culver Jr.
PLU Class of 2012

community

[kuh-myoo-ni-tee] (N):

A social, religious, occupational or other group sharing common characteristics or interests and perceived or perceiving itself as distinct in some respect from the larger society within which it exists.

From the editor



Thoughts from the Boss

Kari Plog

Editor-in-Chief | mast@plu.edu

Responding to tragedy

I am a long time resident of Pierce County. My house has been fifteen minutes from the Pacific Lutheran University campus my entire life. Naturally, when I heard about the brutal murder of four Lakewood police officers blocks away not two miles from PLU, I was heart broken. We live in a small community, and something of this magnitude hits home in so many ways.

I felt a myriad of emotions the last few days as this story unfolded. Shock, anger, remorse, confusion and sympathy all lingered in my mind as I watched the desperate man-hunt for Maurice Clemmons on every news station. The main question on my mind, and I'm sure the question on all minds, is why?

Why did this man do what he did? Why was he out freereleased from jail with such a violent background? Why was he able to get away? Why was he receiving help to run from the law? The most disappointing part surrounding the course of events is the question left unanswered. Because since this man was gunned down immediately after being found, all anyone can do is speculate.

It is also unfortunate that the man-hunt ended in the same way it began—with death by gunfire. It makes me feel uneasy that our way of bringing this man to justice was through the exact means that criminalized him to begin with. How can our society justify that killing is wrong by further perpetuating killing?

The most disturbing factor in this case was the fact that it was an entirely preventable situation. From Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee and Arkansas parole officers grantedng him clemency and to a company grantalloweding him a bail bond., This violent criminal was given the multiple opportunities to continue his long history of violent crime, and more than one opportunity at that.

I am outraged that this man was out on bail afer committing rape on his 12- year-old stepdaughter this past May. In my opinion, that is one of the most disgusting crimes a person can commit, and he was able to commit the most violent crime I can fathom thanks to his newly-found freedom.

Despite the outrage, playing the blame game is pointless. The man-hunt is over, and the investigating continues. On a positive note, this incident showed what PLU's emergency response system is capable of. I am very pleased with the dedication and swift action that was put forth within hours of this tragedy. Despite my worried parents a few miles down Pacific Avenue and the proximity to the crime scene, I personally felt that PLU was the safest place to be on Sunday night.

Our campus not only responded with flying colors, but our campus officials embraced the local law enforcement community by offering a safe-haven in the Columbia Center during the man-hunt in Parkland. The University disseminated an e-mail that outlined everything students, faculty, staff and parents would want to know regarding security on campus. The urgency and transparency was impressive, and I commend the efforts by the university in such a tragic incident.

I speak for all of us here at The Mast when I say that our hearts and our sympathy go out to the families of those who lost loved ones on that tragic Sunday morning. Thank you to the brave men and women in law enforcement that who risk their lives to preserve our freedom and safety.

Bedtime Stories



Comic by Dylan O'Neil

Mystery Solved

Staff member reflects on stake-out

It's not often that a student journalist gets the chance to do investigative reporting for his or her campus newspaper. I feel privileged to be one of the few who has, especially when the issue at hand has direct relevance to the newspaper staff.

On Thursday, Nov. 12, three Mast staff members spent the night in the Morken Center for Learning & Technology in order to solve the dilemma of the missing papers. We concealed a tripod camera and video recorder behind the door of room 103, aimed towards the newspaper box located on the lower level, and stayed there from 9:30 p.m. Thursday night until 5:45 a.m. the following morning.

Even as two other Mast reporters and I stood huddled in the doorway for 10 hours, it seemed a little unbelievable that we might actually clear up the mystery. It felt like an amateur spy mission.

When 5 a.m. rolled around, we started thinking that maybe the person responsible had found out about our scheme and wouldn't show. It was difficult to stifle laughter as we passed the time until someone appeared.

But at 5:15 a.m., our suspicions were confirmed: someone was indeed taking the papers, in a janitorial outfit and with a rolling trashcan.

Fortunately, we were able to obtain a series of photographs and video footage of the incident. We then turned over the evidence to Campus Safety and the person responsible for throwing away the papers has since been terminated.

A question that still hasn't been answered, and probably never will be, is: "what in the world would motivate a person to dispose of a student newspaper before it has reached the hands of its audience?"

The Mast serves as one of the primary sources of student

voices on campus. It is weekly, student-led and very visible on campus. We try our best to provide diverse coverage and keep students informed of events both on and off campus, and to give students and staff a chance to interact with the paper's content.

Not only does the inappropriate disposal of these papers squelch student expression; it also involves theft of university property.

A standard 12-page issue costs The Mast \$700 to produce. Despite the steady advertisement revenue, it puts a dent in our pocket to see all these copies go to waste.

The Mast hopes PLU students recognize that their First Amendment rights are reflected in each of the 400 copies that are distributed to the Morken Center, and that theft from student media is a theft from the PLU community as a whole.

This column was written by a Mast staff member who wishes to remain anonymous

Mast Staff 2009-2010

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

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

The Mast encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be submitted to The Mast by 5 p.m. the Wednesday of publication. Letters without a name, phone number and identification for verification will be discarded. Letters should be no longer than 500 words in length and typed. The Mast reserves the right to refuse any letter. Letters may be edited for length, taste and errors.

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Twilight trends:

Impressionable readers too fanatical



So Wise
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Ridiculous trends always come and go, but some trends develop such massive fan bases for all the wrong reasons, like Stephanie Meyers' "Twilight Saga." "Twilight Saga" books have sold millions of copies, leading to movie deals and ludicrous amounts of merchandise.

It's not the popularity that bothers me, although I don't think highly of the books myself. Rather, it's the way that the line between reality and fantasy becomes blurred among the young

and impressionable readers. Everyone knows that vampires and werewolves are not real. You can't live forever; that's just silly. Yet many girls between the ages of nine and 20 hope that they will one day find their perfect, god-like Adonis Edward Cullen.

Never mind the fact that Edward climbs in to Bella Swan's room to watch her sleep or that he cuts the brakes in her truck to keep her from going anywhere. In the real world, that's called stalking, breaking and entering and sabotage.

Any sane person should go running in the opposite direction when someone does that, but in "Twilight" it's a sign of true love. Now young girls are sighing and hoping that they'll be lucky enough to one day be in an abusive relationship.

This franchise sends some very

negative messages to young readers, which they simply fail to understand. Bella is a poor role model to young readers in that she sneaks around her dad's back to be with a boy she has just met. When her new boyfriend of just a couple months leaves her, Bella lets her entire world fall apart. "New Moon," the second installment of the series, has several empty pages indicating the months passing. Bella is just an empty shell that does not care about anything in her life, not friends, not family, not school and not even herself. She ceases to exist or function without her precious Edward.

Losing a first love hurts and it's difficult for young girls to deal. But any girl spending as much time doing nothing as Bella did would be extremely detrimental to the girl's health. At that point, medical attention is necessary.

One boy, especially a high school boyfriend, should not control anyone's life in this way.

I don't blame the series for promoting these messages or ideals. An author has the right to write whatever she pleases. There is a responsibility on the readers' end to understand the difference between reality and fantasy, which some fans are missing completely.

"Twilight" is a phenomenon that many people take pleasure in reading, and that is the sole purpose of the work. Readers need to understand what they are reading and know the difference between reality and fantasy. Don't try to be Bella; be your own person. And don't search for an Edward. Even if he exists, you wouldn't want him in your life. Enjoy "Twilight" for what it is—a work of fiction.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As a Communication student hoping to spend most of the remainder of my life working with newspapers, I am disappointed with the lack of international issues in The Mast. For the most part, The Mast provides information that is reliable to students and I love reading it. The International section, however, leaves much to be desired. The point of an International section in a newspaper is to educate readers on what is happening in the rest of the world; hence the name "International."

The Mast's International section does not educate. There are areas of the world at war, countries being destroyed by genocide and millions of people killed, displaced, from homes with no family, and some students are oblivious. Especially as a student newspaper, it is The Mast's job to bring these problems to attention. In a talk I attended on Nov. 19 concerning human rights in Israel and Palestine, Linda Frank said that the solution to these problems was simply to "educate one another on the issue at hand."

Frank's speech on human rights taught me more about international issues than anything I have read in The Mast. I am an avid reader and have tried not to miss an issue since coming to Pacific Lutheran University in Fall 2008.

Linda Frank's speech was not superb, not fluid and not extremely impressive. But she provided me with important information that I felt changed me.

Leaving this talk, I felt informed and motivated to help those who are not receiving basic human rights. In her speech, these are the Palestinians, the very people we as a country are fighting against, paying \$3 billion a year supporting Israel, the Palestinian's murderers, pillagers and captors. The U.S. is providing money in support of withholding basic rights.

Most students cannot even form an opinion on the issue of Israel and Palestine because they do not know what is taking place there. They do not realize that the U.S. is even involved. Their tax money is going to fund an issue they do not understand or, for some, even realize is taking place.

I am not saying that the world's issues should be explained in one issue of a newspaper. When there are hundreds of thousands of people murdered for any reason, or billions of dollars put toward any military action, people should be educated. If people are educated, hopefully, as Linda Frank said, it can help to solve the issue because more people will get involved. I am only asking that The Mast makes more of an effort to educate its readers on international issues in its International section. To me, that just makes sense.

Ali Shaffer
PLU Class of 2012

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we'll help
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WHITWORTH
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Sidewalk Talk

What is the first thing you will do during winter break?



"I'm going home."
Vanessa Flores
first-year



"I'm going to play with my dog Lucy."
Chris McKnight
sophomore



"That's a no brainer—sleep!"
Dino Landino
senior



"Sleep. That's an honest answer."
Cameron Cowles
senior

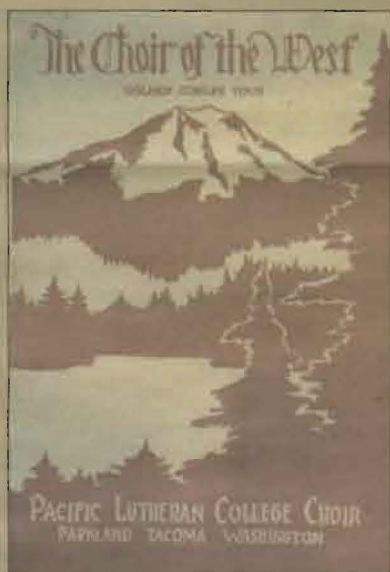
Have something to say?
submit a letter to the editor at mast@plu.edu

"SCRAPPS" OF LUTE LIFE

Lorna Burt turned 90 on Monday, surrounded by family and friends at a surprise birthday party in the University Place Senior Community Center. Burt, who resides in the Merrill Gardens retirement community in University Place, attended Pacific Lutheran University from 1937-1940.

Burt's scrapbooks and photo albums weave a rich history of her time at PLU, before it was even called PLU. Here's a peek at life as a Lute in the 1930s.

Haley Miller
LUTELIFE EDITOR
millerhr@plu.edu



ACADEMICS & ACTIVITIES

When Burt attended PLU, most students sought three-year teaching degrees like her. There was no business major, School of Nursing or intramural sports teams. The only buildings on campus were Harstad, which housed students as well as classrooms, and a gymnasium for physical education.

Burt has always loved writing. She greatly enjoyed reporting for The Mooring Mast during her time at PLU. The journalism adviser, "Mrs. Frank," was a star reporter for the New York Times. With her flaming red hair, pantsuits and baseball caps, Frank was "ahead of her time."

One day, Burt missed physical education class. She had to make up the missed class time with a friend by playing 36 holes of golf at the community course.

"We never missed P.E. again after that," Burt chuckled. "We made sure to be there, and on time."

Regular class attendance was reinforced with attendance cards. Roll was also taken during chapel.

CHOIR OF THE WEST

Today, Choir of the West is considered one of the most distinguished collegiate choral ensembles in the United States. But its history goes back a long way.

Burt participated in Choir of the West all three years she attended PLU. It was the most influential piece of her PLU experience.

PLU's music department hosted a special program for King Olaf of Norway's visit in 1939. During the performance, he stood alongside Burt as the Choir of the West sang the Norwegian national hymn.

Choir of the West was also asked to represent the state of Washington in the 1939 World Fair in San Francisco. They sang in a 1,000-person choir made up of Lutheran schools from all over the U.S.

Burt, along with 45 other students and chaperones, spent 24 days making the trip down to California, in the fairgrounds and the trip back to Washington. She kept a running diary of the trip.

STUDENT LIFE

Although Burt was a commuter student from Parkland, she heard a lot of wild stories from friends who lived in the residence halls.

Male and female students residing on campus lived in the top floor of Harstad, separated by a wall divider and prohibited from visiting each other. Dean Hauge, who served PLU for 48 years, enforced a strict 8 p.m. curfew.

"I was always afraid of Dean Hauge until I took a psychology class from him and got to know him better," Burt said.

One time, when students wanted to have a bonfire after curfew, female students sneaked out of their rooms at night and climbed down the fire escape stairs to meet up with male students at the bottom of Harstad. One girl became scared and a football player had to carry her down.

The group was found out and students were grounded for several weeks.

Similarly, dances were banned because, to Hauge, dancing was considered a "sin." Students often tried out to attend other schools' formals since they did not have one of their own.

LIFE AFTER PLU

Burt graduated in 1940 with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. In 1942, she married her high school sweetheart, Robert Burt, who had graduated from the University of Puget Sound (then known as the College of Puget Sound) the year before.

Burt taught first grade for five years and then began substitute teaching when her family moved back to the Tacoma area. Her husband of 67 years passed away earlier this year.

After all this time, Burt has remained incredibly close to home; close to the place that had such a profound influence on her life.

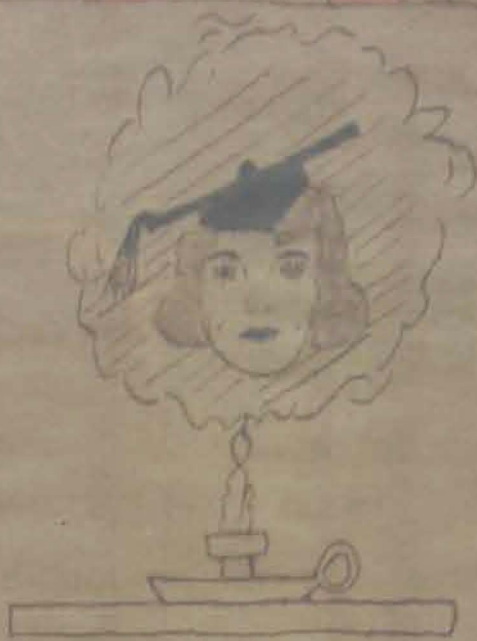
Dedicated to
L.R.L. & R.R.B.
Mother and Dad



Upper left: A bulletin for the Choir of the West's Golden Jubilee Tour, in 1939.

Left: Burt holds her grandchildren's hands as she blows out the candles on her birthday cake last weekend.

Photo by Carol J. Burt



“Dear Diary,
 These are my
 memories of college
 days at P.L.C.”

1938

PLC



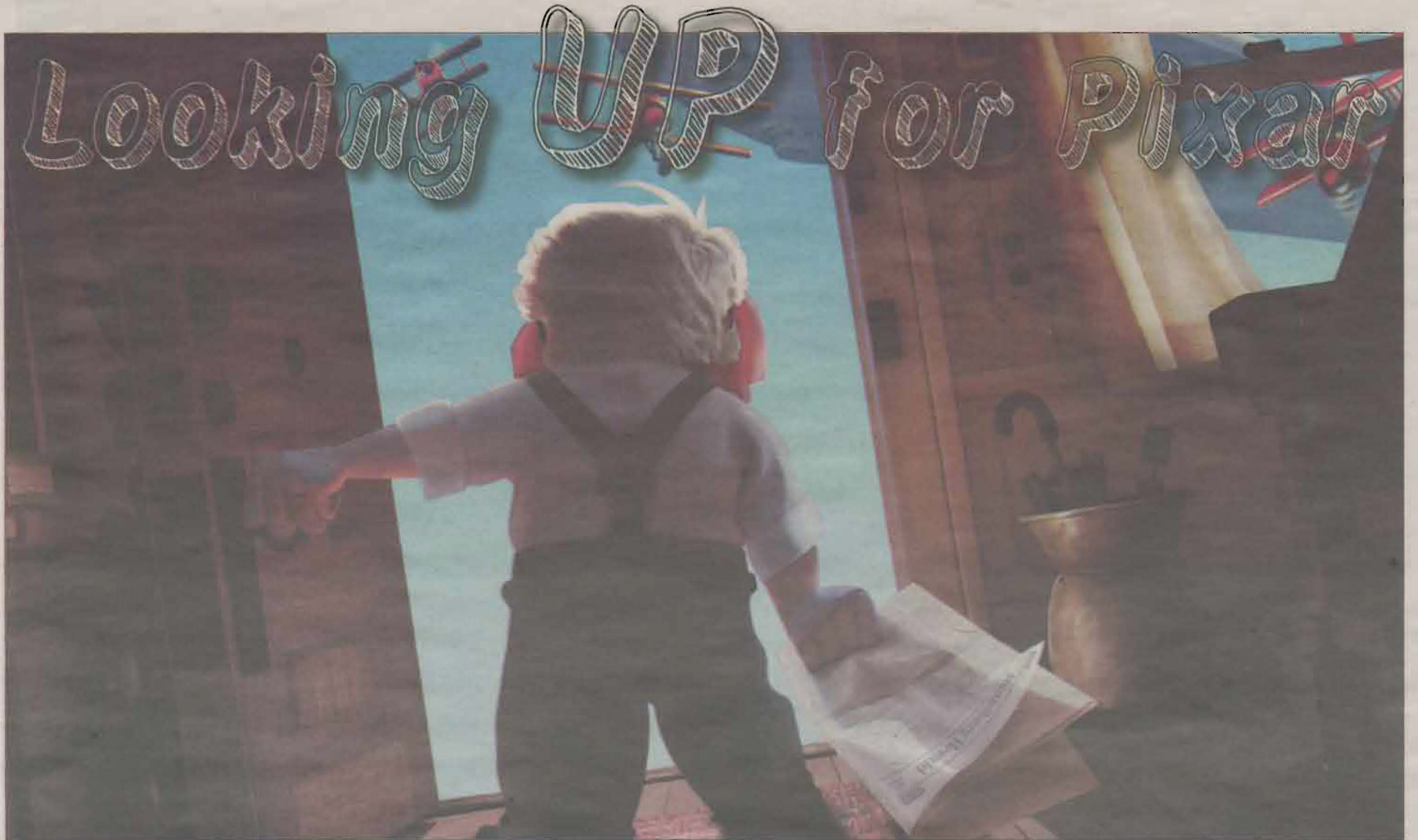


Image courtesy of Pixar Animation Studios

Shots from the 2009 film "Up" showcase Pixar's attention to detail and constantly evolving computer graphic images. Pixar is the most successful studio currently making CG-animated films, ahead of even Dreamworks.

Companies struggle to surpass Pixar

Think about the last CG-animated movie you saw. Chances are, it was one of ten movies released by Pixar Animation Studios, founded in 1979 and acquired by The Walt Disney Company in 2006.

Pixar has produced such titles as both "Toy Story" films, "A Bug's Life," "Monsters, Inc.," "Finding Nemo," "The Incredibles," "Cars," "Ratatouille," "Wall-E" and "Up." All of these films were released between 1995 and 2009 with four more feature-length films now in production.

Despite having only made ten films, all within the realm of computer-generated animation, Pixar has performed consistently better than the much larger and more independent Dreamworks SKG, which has no parent company and produced CGI films such as "Kung Fu Panda" and "Shrek."

Now, when I say "better," I mean better in every sense of the term. For example, Pixar's budget/gross ratio is much higher than Dreamworks'. "Monsters Vs. Aliens" has the highest budget of any of Dreamworks' films to date, with \$175,000,000. The movie went on to gross \$379,882,019, making the film's earnings \$204,882,019. That's a 37% profit.

Pixar's biggest budget film, "Wall-E," clocked in at \$180,000,000, with an overall gross of \$534,745,866. The film made a total of \$354,745,866. That's a 99% profit.



The Cuddly Inferno

Rhain Leddy

leddyrn@plu.edu

What's more is that the average budget of all of Dreamworks' movies is \$123,250,000, while the average budget for all of Pixar's movies is \$109,100,000.

Yet, for all of Dreamworks' massive budgets, Pixar films have won thirty-one Academy Awards, five of which were for Best Animated Picture. Dreamworks, on the other hand, has won (and been nominated for) a whopping zero.

Why is it that Pixar is so much more successful than Dreamworks, a company which much more money and a greater number of films (19 total)? Before you scream "It's because Disney is giving it money," you should remember that Disney didn't acquire Pixar until 2006, which means only three Pixar movies have been produced under Disney ownership. This isn't enough to make the claim that Disney alone is the cause of its success.

I like to think that Pixar's success lies in its ability to consistently write fantastic storylines. When "Toy Story" came out, it actualized the dreams and wishes of children everywhere. I know I would have loved for my

Legos to suddenly spring into sentience and play out the wistful scenarios in which I placed them.

Meanwhile, many Dreamworks films all seem to lack originality, often having stories or premises that are strikingly similar. For example, "Antz" and "A Bug's Life." Both are about personified insects speaking, acting and communicating like people. Yet, "A Bug's Life" came first. Not suspicious at first, but then you've got "Shrek" and "Finding Nemo" along with "Flushed Away" and "Ratatouille." Shame on you, Dreamworks.

Students are somewhat divided on the issue.

"Pixar's domination is opening new doors of opportunity for animators and is pushing the boundaries of animation in both technology and technique," said sophomore Meghan Arntson. "Smaller, newer companies will have examples to follow."

Senior Katy Helbling was less enthusiastic than Arntson, who is an aspiring graphic artist.

"If I were an animator at Pixar, I'd have to compromise, since Pixar is so family-friendly," Helbling said. "You'd be hard-pressed to find a Pixar movie within the next 50 years that dealt with more mature themes."

Pixar's commanding lead in the CGI film industry could potentially spell disaster for competing companies, especially with Pixar's relationship with Disney. Disney, being the powerhouse that it is, has the potential to surpass Dreamworks and others in the future since Pixar will have access to Disney's vast funding and animation technology. Other production companies could be forced to increase their budgets, spending more and more just to keep their movies up to par and eventually going bankrupt. I smell a monopoly.

As always, you can e-mail me with comments, or questions. Also, I'm still searching for a catchy sign-off.

Comic books surpass expectations

Ransacking the Stacks



Jessica Ritchie

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If there is one genre that has exploded beyond society's expectations, it is graphic novels. Once derided as fluff, insubstantial, even mind-rotting, the comic book is like the oft-mocked ugly sibling that becomes a foxy millionaire. Graphic novels have been proving that they're more than people in tights and capes for some time now, exploring such genres as auto-biography, adaptation and even the literary.

Unfortunately, beyond the Marvel- and DC-verses, few know where to start. In this column, I won't be talking much about the adaptation sub-genre, except to say that it exists. Sir Arthur

Conan Doyle's "Sherlock Holmes," Frank Baum's "The Wizard of Oz" and Steven King's "The Dark Tower" series are all examples of exemplary novel-to-comic adaptations, and fans of the originals may find much to appreciate (or loathe) about them.

I will say one more thing about the adaptation genre, and it is this: "Pinocchio: Vampire Slayer." Enough said. After Pinocchio's adventure in the whale, Pinocchio finds his true calling. The art is Tim Burton meets "Invader Zim," with stark, film-noire-esque black and white.

How does Pinocchio slay his vampires you ask? Well, having a nose that shoots out when you lie certainly can come in handy. Say goodbye to being a "real" boy; the singing, dancing cricket and the nice, amiable foster parent. Worthy of a pick up if only for the chuckle it will undoubtedly give.

In the literary realm there are

the already established the auto-biographical "Fun Home" by Alison Bechdel and Marjane Satrapi's "Persepolis." But the sub-genre didn't end with those. In my research for this column, I came across a gem: "Y: The Last Man" by Brian K. Vaughan. It's exactly what it sounds like.

Oneday(chronicled in "Unmanned"), all men on earth die. Yorick Brown is the only man alive. While Yorick has his own "trivial" priorities such as finding his remaining family and his girlfriend, others have their own plans. The government is in shambles with few left to run it.

The "Amazons" think that the mass death of men was the will of God, and set about trying to make a violent matriarchy. Far from mourning the death of the men, upon discovering Yorick's existence, set about trying to kill him. It's smart commentary on gender issues in a post-apocalyptic

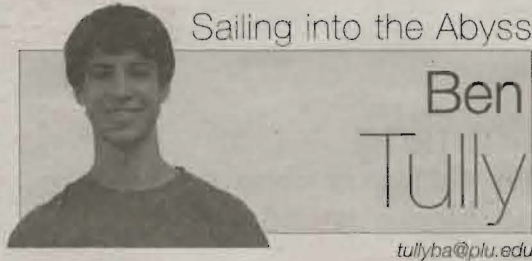
setting. In short, it's fantastic.

Bryan Lee O'Malley's "Scott Pilgrim" series is also well-established. And I found it boring. Scott Pilgrim is an average younger twenty-something that just got out of a serious relationship, and is hitting the dating scene again. Does that sound boring? Because it is.

While the series eventually picks up with the onset of a relationship with a woman who has seven, evil-mastermind ex-boyfriends that he has to battle in order to be with her, that doesn't happen until nine-tenths of the way through book one. So just skip it. It was the biggest waste of two hours I've ever spent. The reason I mention it at all is because it is well-established, and you might consider getting it. Maybe you should, but just start with the last 30 pages or so of volume 1: "Scott Pilgrim's Precious Little Life," and don't purchase until volume 2: "Scott Pilgrim versus The World."

Recognizing Northwest albums

Counting down the albums of the decade



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For the final installment of this series, it seems appropriate to sum up the best music to come out of this area. This also happens to be the last Mast issue of the decade. What better time to look back on the past ten years?

Artists who are associated with the Northwest produced each of these five albums. Two of these artists are associated with Portland (The Decemberists and Elliott Smith) and three with the Seattle area (Blue Scholars, Fleet Foxes and Pedro The Lion). The list is in no particular order; they are too good to rank. If you don't have them yet, put these on your Christmas list.

"Fleet Foxes" (2008) by Fleet Foxes: This band is almost too good to be true. Unabashedly influenced by Crosby, Stills and Nash, The Beach Boys and My Morning Jacket, Fleet Foxes have a uniquely Americana sound that reminds us all why the world just can't have enough vocal harmony. Robin Pecknold's 11 songs are like one huge breath of fresh air. From the delightfully ragged "Sun It Rises" to the swan song "Oliver James," the record paints pictures of the natural beauty of our country better than anything this side of Aaron Copland.

"The Long March" (2005) by Blue Scholars: Yes, this is an EP. Yes, I may be biased because I met the two members of the Blue Scholars. Much of this is inspired by the Chinese communism of Mao Zedong. Nonetheless, I hardly had to think twice about including this incredible record on this list. Each song is an eye-opening anthem to the struggling middle class. Each song makes you want to get up and do something about the problems of the world. Each song keeps you listening to every passionate word from the mouth of MC Geologic and grooving to every beat courtesy DJ Sabzi: "I heard a few heads say that hip hop is dead. No it's not. It's just malnourished and underfed."


"The Crane Wife" (2006) by The Decemberists: The Decemberists made five albums this decade and each one has glorious moments. But this

album stands alone as the band's greatest achievement thus far. With songs ranging in length from 3:48 to 12:26, "The Crane Wife" is a brilliant balance of ambitious rock and simple shimmering pop craft. There's no clear thematic thread to the work (that would come later, on "The Hazards of Love"), but it somehow feels like the songs relate to each other, unlike the charming pastiche of tunes on previous albums. The final song here is called "After the Bombs," which is ironic because there isn't a single bomb of a song present. Nonetheless, "The Crane Wife" is an explosive record and I'll never tire of lighting the fuse.

"Figure 8" (2000) by Elliott Smith: Every bit of praise I can heap on Smith I do without hesitation. The guy can do no wrong in my book. "Figure 8" is his first album with hi-fi production. He handles the change with elegance. It's a daunting task to record 16 songs with no filler, but Smith succeeded. Each track is drenched with that mysterious X-factor of Elliott Smith. They're beautiful, emotional and painful all at once. I can hardly listen to them without melting. It just isn't fair that he had to die, because I don't know if anyone recording in the 2000s was blessed with the gifts that he had.

"Control" (2002) by Pedro The Lion: Born and raised in Edmonds, David Bazan has had his share of rough times and is not afraid to sing about them. But the man behind the Lion never comes across as whiny or self-pitying. His slow dirge-like songs are brutally honest snapshots of memories we are often afraid to recount. This existential album discusses adultery, corporate brutality, romantic rejection and more. Bazan delivers his heart-breaking words in front of a minimal arrangement of electric guitars, bass and drums. This album's dark sense of irony may not be for everyone, but if you want to hear songs with no holds barred, spend some time with Pedro.





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Mon-Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:05, 9:15

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Drag show to raise funds

Queens, kings honor World Aids Day

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In order to raise funds and awareness for World Aids Day, 15 drag queens and kings from Pacific Lutheran University and the surrounding community will take to the stage in the Columbia Center tonight at 7 p.m. for their fourth annual performance. Performances will range from The Ting Tings to Beyoncé to Lady Gaga to Prince.

The event is sponsored by Harmony, an organization headed by senior Dmitry Mikheyev and sophomore Clayton Haselwood. Senior Jake Paikai, Chair of Benefit Fundraisers for Harmony, said that the event is not one to be missed.

"People who have come before will be getting a show unlike any other," Paikai said. "They will be shown a good time."

The show is important for many reasons, Paikai explained. Not only is it an entertaining way to introduce people to an important facet of queer culture, but it also helps in raising awareness and funds for World Aids Day (WAD).

"Raising funds and awareness for WAD is important to PLU because AIDS and HIV is a worldwide issue," Paikai said. "And for a university committed to service and international education, AIDS must be a part of that dialogue."

The \$1 admission immediately enters audience members into a raffle for prizes that include gift cards for Garfield Street businesses. All admission and tips go directly to the Pierce County Aids Foundation (PCAF), which uses the funds to prevent and educate. For Paikai and the rest of the performers, the drag show is a fun, fabulous way to promote social justice.

"People think that social justice work is all Doctors Without Borders and spring break mission trips," Paikai said. "Sometimes, social justice is fabulous and involves three pairs of false eyelashes."

Harmony recognizes that many people might be wary of attending a drag show, as the performers tend to engage the audience, often allowing them to participate in dance routines.

"Drag isn't for the faint of heart," Paikai said. "But we PLU queens and kings are welcoming and are mostly concerned about people having a good time and raising money and awareness while they have it."

At this show, there will also be a special "no touch" area in which people can sit and enjoy the show without fear of being pulled from the audience to participate in the performances.

Above all else, though, the drag show tonight is about raising money for a worthy, worldwide cause.

"It's important that people know that AIDS is not a gay issue," Paikai said. "It's a PLU issue and a world issue."

Lutes SPORTS SCHEDULE

Men's Basketball

PLU at Northwest Christian Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m.,
vs. Northwest University Dec. 12, 7 p.m.*

Swimming

PLU vs. College of Idaho Jan. 9, 1 p.m.,* vs.
College of Idaho Jan. 10, 11 a.m.*

Women's Basketball

PLU vs. Cal Lutheran @ Chapman University
Dec. 4, 5 p.m., at Chapman Dec. 5, 3:30 p.m.,
at Evergreen State Dec. 8, 6 p.m.



AN ASTERISK REPRESENTS A PLU HOME GAME

Lutes fall to Seattle U

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The Pacific Lutheran University women's basketball team was defeated by Division I Seattle University 75-37 Monday. The Lutes also lost to Division II Seattle Pacific University Nov. 24.

Members of the team value the importance of facing tougher opponents in order to prepare for Northwest Conference action.

"It's fun being the underdog," junior captain Jordan Westering said. "It's encouraging when we see good things happen against these teams."

Westering topped the Lutes' scoring against Seattle with 10 points. Sophomore Sara Backstrom also chalked-up nine points with first-year Shelly Kilcup following with eight.

"Even though we might be losing," Backstrom said, "we're taking a lot from these games and improving."



Westering

Backstrom also said she believes PLU is doing a good job at coming out and being prepared for the games against its non-conference opponents.

"We want to learn from our mistakes and improve what we're working on," Backstrom said.

PLU shot 23 percent from the field in Monday's game and allowed the Redhawks to convert 23 points from 24 PLU turnovers. Both of these factors contributed to the Lutes' loss.

The team's spirit remains high despite adding to a three-game losing streak.

"It's a good thing we're playing these Division I and Division II teams," Backstrom said. "But at the same time, we're still young and inexperienced."

The Lutes left for California Thursday, which will be a big opportunity for the team to prove itself to other Division III schools and will allow the women to see the level their squad is at.

"We expect to win and work hard and expect to come to play focused," Westering said. "We all get along well and I think that's key with our playing. It's fun to see the competitiveness in practice and we try to bring that everyday."

PLU will take the court against California Lutheran Friday and Chapman Saturday in Orange, Calif.

Break out cake and candles



Mast Sports Insider

Tyler Scott
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Bring on the birthday cake.

Wednesday marked the 40th anniversary of the first basketball game played in Pacific Lutheran University's Olson Auditorium.

The PLU Knights hosted the Vikings of Western Washington State College Dec. 1, 1969, ending a six-game losing streak to Western with a 67-57 win in Olson's inaugural contest.

The program from that first game featured a short piece entitled, "Third Era of PLU Athletics Underway This Season."

Detailing Pacific Lutheran's athletic history, the article focuses on the previous 40 years of athletics by splitting them into two 20-year eras.

Clifford Olson's creation of the athletic program in 1929 "signaled the beginning of the first era," the program said.

The second era began with the completion of Memorial Gymnasium in 1948.

A new athletic facility was built to house PLU sports for the third era 20 years later.

So as we celebrate the big four-oh with balloons, hats and large quantities of cake, let us cherish a building that does not look a day older than 50 years, a building that still houses the majority of the PLU athletic department.

After all, who needs shiny new facilities when you have a building as old as some of the parents of current PLU students?

Sure, the first two eras lasted only 20 years before massive construction projects introduced new digs for the athletic department.

We should celebrate that our third era is still going strong as it reaches middle age.

I think we should throw a party at the Lutes' next home game, Dec. 12 against Northwest University.

We can call it a throwback night, with players sporting classic jerseys bearing the moniker "Knights" across the chest.

I am sure this year's team would eagerly show off the unnecessarily short shorts with striped socks that reach to the skies, or at least the knees.

We can ignore the three-point line on the floor and turn off the shot clocks, and "after the game, let's go to... Johnny's Dock or Johnny's at the Mall Restaurant" (an actual advertisement in the inaugural game program).

Sports clearly have not changed much in the past 40 years, so why should the home of our athletic department?

Instead we should celebrate, not because Olson is not outdated, but because our coaching staffs have been able to assemble competitive teams to play in such a glorious mausoleum.

A glance at the athletics archives reveals that the men's basketball team's all-time winning percentage has steadily decreased - from .646 in 1969 to .553 entering the 2009-10 season - during the past 40 years.

The Lutes have had exactly one winning season (14-11 in 2002) since the start of the new millennium after posting 25 consecutive winning records from 1947 to 1972.

Today is a time to join together in a great festival of celebration in honor of a building that is still going strong after 40 years.

We had better remain optimistic about it, because at our current rate it appears that Olson will hit 50 before the athletic department has a new home.

So as we sing "Happy Birthday" and annoy our friends with those wonderful party noisemakers, we can be thankful that our brick-and-concrete slab has aged so gracefully.

Not every athletic department can boast such ripened facilities.

Now, can somebody pass the cake?

PLU topped twice during turkey break

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The Pacific Lutheran men's basketball team lost twice this weekend, once to Ripon Saturday, 81-75 and to Wisconsin-Platteville Sunday, 68-61.

The men continued their losing streak after tipping off the season with two losses last week, going into their fifth game with a 0-4 record.

The Lute's loss to Ripon at the UW-Platteville Thanksgiving Classic on Saturday did not come without a fight.

PLU took an eight-point lead off the bat, but Ripon rallied the score, tying the game at 17 points.

When the first half came to a close, the Lutes had fallen behind, suffering a four-point trail.

PLU junior post Victor Bull, who scored 19 points in the game and recovered seven rebounds, rolled in a lay-up five minutes into the second half that evened the score at 45.

Bull then put the Lutes ahead not long after when he slammed in a missed shot.

PLU was able to hold its lead until five minutes left in the game, when Ripon's Aris Wurtz nailed a three-point shot,



MacTaggart

putting his team up by three.

Junior Kyle MacTaggart tied the game with three minutes left but his team was unable to regain the lead.

MacTaggart contributed 14 points, six blocks and three assists, while junior Tony Polis threw in 11 points and six assists.

Wurtz made nine more points for Ripon, securing the win.

Wurtz was the game's leading scorer, with 26 points and 10 rebounds.

His teammate, Taylor Koth, put in 19 points.

The Lutes continued their fight in the Wisconsin tournament with a struggle against the host school.

After the first half, PLU was behind by two points with a score of 29-31.

However, the Lutes were able to take the lead in the final period with baskets scored by MacTaggart and Cameron Schilling.

After the score had evened out at 35 points each, the Wisconsin-Platteville Pioneers rallied eight points.

Pioneer Curt Hanson, who made two three-point shots, scored the first six points.

Sophomore James Conti was the leading scorer for Pacific Lutheran with 11 points, followed by MacTaggart, Schilling, and Bull who all earned 10.

Hanson was the game's leading scorer, earning 24 points and 15 of Hanson's points came from three-point shots.

MacTaggart earned all-tournament honors after scoring 24 points and blocking six shots.

Pacific Lutheran continues its season on Dec. 5 at Northwest Christian.



Photo by Ted Charles

Sophomore point guard James Conti attacks the hoop against Evergreen State Nov. 24. Conti shot 6-7 from the field, finishing the game with 12 points and four assists. PLU lost the game 82-91.

Lute Volleyball finishes No. 20

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Below: Junior Beth Hanna's arm blurs through the air just before meeting the ball in a match this season. Hanna finished second on the team with 274 kills, earning AVCA All-America honors for the third straight season.



Photos by Ted Charles

Above: Senior Kelcy Joynt celebrates with a teammate during a match this season. Joynt helped lead the Lutes to an undefeated Northwest Conference 16-0 record (20-7 overall) and the program's fifth NWC title in six years.

Below: Sophomore Katy Tauscher strikes the ball earlier in the season. PLU ended at No. 20 in the Division III Coaches Top 25 Poll. The team dropped three spots from No. 17 throughout the course of the regular season. The 2009 season labels the fourth consecutive season in which the Lutes won at least 20 matches.



Around the conference

Jack Sareault dies

Jack Sareault died Nov. 22 in Gig Harbor at age 74. Sareault documented the history of the Northwest Conference as a sports publicist, historian, and writer. He earned his way into the Tacoma-Pierce County Sports Hall of Fame and was a recipient of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Lifetime Achievement Award. Sareault also worked with Golf World magazine from 1966-2002.

Pirates fall in semis

No. 15 Whitworth University lost to No. 5 Dominican University in the semi-finals of the 2009 NCAA Division III men's soccer tournament. Dominican delivered a duo of dandies into the back of the net, taking a late 2-0 second-half lead. Whitworth is now 9-5-2 all time in the NCAA tournament, concluding its sixth trip to the event.

Wildcats win again

No. 5 Linfield topped seventh-ranked Mary Hardin-Baylor Saturday. The Wildcats forced seven turnovers on its path to victory. Linfield junior quarterback Aaron Boehme passed for a total of 260 yards, completing 20-of-32 attempts for three touchdowns. Linfield plays St. Thomas next in the quarterfinals.

Loggers grab Lady 'Yote Classic

Puget Sound University dribbled out a 60-51 win against the College of Idaho in the 2009 Lady 'Yote Classic championship in Caldwell, Idaho. Logger senior Claire Ely led the scoring with 24 points, hitting 7-of-13 shots from the field.

By Brendan Abshier

Lute basketball hopes to raise funds

Men's basketball head coach Steve Dickerson will pursue fund-raising event in memory of fallen Lakewood officers and support for Lakewood Police Department

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Pacific Lutheran University's men's basketball head coach Steve Dickerson wants to honor the memories of the four fallen Lakewood police officers at the Dec. 12 basketball game against Northwest University. Dickerson, along with other members of the PLU athletic department, plan to hold a fund-raiser to support the Lakewood Police Department. "The Lakewood Police Department needs to understand how much we appreciate what they do for us," Dickerson said. "They do all the dirty work and nobody says much." All proceeds from the game's ticket sales, concession stands and donations will go toward the benefit. The women's basketball team will also take money at the gate and sell specially made T-shirts. The men's basketball team was in

Wisconsin when it heard the news of the officers and is now trying to show support for the officers' relatives.



Dickerson

"Guys on the team got together and they wanted to know what they could do to help the families," Dickerson said. The benefit is still in its early stages and unsolved matters in the planning process still remain. "We're trying to get a verbal 'okay' from the Lakewood Police Department, which I don't think will be a big issue," Dickerson said. To whom donations and checks need to be made out and what to call the fund have not been decided.

"We're trying to contact the Lakewood Police Department at this time right now to basically coordinate with them that we're going to do this," said Sports Information Director Nick Dawson. Admission isn't usually charged for a game at this time of year, but Dawson said in light of the fund-raiser the teams are asking for whatever donation attendees can make. "There's a lot of people in the community who are getting behind these families, the Lakewood Police Department, behind law enforcement in general," Dawson said. The idea of charging PLU students for admission to the game has also been thrown on the table. "We trust that the PLU community will get behind this and come and enjoy a basketball game," Dawson said, "but also be willing to support with a little bit of money to go toward those families." Planning for the fund-raiser began Dec. 1 and the PLU athletic department is working quickly to help the benefit become successful.

Scorecard

Men's Basketball

as of 12/2

NWC Standings				
Team	NWC	%	All	%
Whitman	0-0	.000	4-2	.667
George Fox	0-0	.000	1-1	.500
Pacific	0-0	.000	3-3	.500
Whitworth	0-0	.000	1-1	.500
UPS	0-0	.000	2-4	.333
Willamette	0-0	.000	1-3	.250
L&C	0-0	.000	1-4	.200
Linfield	0-0	.000	0-3	.000
PLU	0-0	.000	0-4	.000

- Team FG Percent Leaders**
 Cameron Schilling: .571 (12-21)
 James Conti: .517 (15-29)
- Team Scoring Leaders**
 Victor Bull: 51 pts (12.8 ppg)
 Kyle MacTaggart: 51 pts (12.8 ppg)
- Team Assists Leaders**
 Tony Polis: 17 ast (4.3 apg)
 Kyle MacTaggart: 14 ast (3.5 apg)
- Rebounds**
 Victor Bull: 21 reb (5.3 rpg)
 Gabe Smith: 15 reb (3.8 rpg)

Women's Basketball

as of 12/2

NWC Standings				
Team	NWC	%	All	%
George Fox	0-0	.000	4-1	.800
L&C	0-0	.000	4-1	.800
UPS	0-0	.000	4-1	.800
Linfield	0-0	.000	2-2	.500
Whitworth	0-0	.000	2-2	.500
Pacific	0-0	.000	1-2	.333
PLU	0-0	.000	1-3	.250
Whitman	0-0	.000	1-3	.250
Willamette	0-0	.000	1-3	.250

- Team FG Percent Leaders**
 Shelly Kilcup: .465 (20-43)
 Jordan Westering: .429 (15-35)
- Team Scoring Leaders**
 Shelly Kilcup: 58 pts (14.5 ppg)
 Jordan Westering: 44 pts (11 ppg)
- Team Assists Leaders**
 Mandy Wall: 14 ast (3.5 apg)
 Sarah Backstrom: 13 ast (3.3 apg)
- Team Rebounds Leaders**
 Tracy Goehri: 24 reb (6 rpg)
 Mandy Wall: 22 reb (5.5 rpg)

Men's Swimming

as of 12/2

NWC Standings				
Team	NWC	%	All	%
Whitman	3-0	1.000	4-0	1.000
UPS	3-0	1.000	3-1	.750
Whitworth	3-0	1.000	3-1	.750
L&C	2-0	1.000	2-0	1.000
Willamette	0-2	.000	0-2	.000
Linfield	0-3	.000	0-3	.000
PLU	0-3	.000	0-3	.000
Pacific	0-3	.000	0-3	.000

- Team Leaders:**
50 Free - Jacob Nord, 22.05
100 Free - Jacob Nord, 49.32
200 Free - Phil Rempe, 1:51.31
500 Free - Phil Rempe, 5:01.69
1000 Free - Alex Limoges, 10:52.49
50 Back - Alex Limoges, 26.50
100 Back - Alex Limoges, 56.14
200 Back - Alex Limoges, 2:02.50
100 Breast - Rayan Carter, 1:04.12
200 Breast - Rayan Carter, 2:33.68
100 Fly - Alex Limoges, 55.08
200 Fly - Mathew Kim, 2:14.19
200 IM - Alex Limoges, 2:06.81

Women's Swimming

as of 12/2

NWC Standings				
Team	NWC	%	All	%
Whitman	3-0	1.000	4-0	1.000
UPS	3-0	1.000	3-1	.750
Whitworth	3-0	1.000	3-1	.750
Willamette	1-1	.500	1-1	.500
L&C	1-1	.500	1-1	.500
Linfield	0-3	.000	0-3	.000
PLU	0-3	.000	0-3	.000
Pacific	0-3	.000	0-3	.000

- Times Leaders**
50 Free - Elisabeth Simpson, 26.60
100 Free - Jessie Klauder, 56.63
200 Free - Jessie Klauder, 2:02.66
500 Free - Elizabeth Althaus, 5:35.85
1000 Free - Courtney Karwal, 11:28.45
50 Back - Casey Jackson, 29.71
100 Back - Casey Jackson, 1:01.03
200 Back - Casey Jackson, 2:14.56
100 Breast - Jessie Klauder, 1:12.13
200 Breast - Rachel Trout, 2:39.59
100 Fly - Shelby Allman, 1:08.97
200 Fly - Shelby Allman, 2:28.33
200 IM - Casey Jackson, 2:23.31

Strong strokes for Lute swimmers

Men's and Women's Teams seize fourth place in Northwest Invitational



Photo by Ted Charles

First-year Shelby Allman comes up for air in a meet this season. Allman currently leads her Lute teammates in the 100-meter fly with a time of 1:08.97 and the 200-meter fly with 2:28.33. PLU's performance allowed the men's and women's teams to finish in fourth place.

Hailey Rile
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The Pacific Lutheran University swim team gave strong performances at this year's Northwest Invitational hosted Nov. 21 and 22 by Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore.

The men's and women's teams competed in the two-day event.

The Invitational is different than regular dual meets. Swimmers have to swim preliminaries and finals in the same day both days of competition.

Junior Alex Limoges touched second in the men's 200-meter backstroke on the first day. Sophomore Rayan Carter, senior Matt Kim and first-year Jacob Nord took third in the men's 400-meter medley relay with a time of 3:45.56.

On the women's side, junior Casey Jackson finished fourth in the women's 200-meter backstroke.

Jackson, sophomore Elizabeth Althaus, first-year Rachel Troutt and junior Jessie Klauder picked up a team fifth-place finish in the women's 400-meter medley relay, clocking 4:22.96.

At the end of day one, the men stood in fourth place and the women in fifth.

On day two, Jackson won the women's 100-meter backstroke with a time of 1:01.03, out-touching Whitworth's Jennifer Benson by more than half a second.

In the women's 1650-meter freestyle, Althaus finished fourth and first-

year Courtney Karwal touched eighth. Klauder and Troutt took fourth and sixth respectively in the women's 100-meter breaststroke.

Limoges picked up a second-place finish in the men's 100-meter backstroke and a fourth-place finish in the 100-meter butterfly.

Nord finished strong in the 50-meter freestyle, taking fourth.

"I think we did pretty well as a team overall," junior Gina Wittman said.

Wittman individually swam the 100-meter and 200-meter breaststrokes and the 50-meter freestyle.

"I didn't have my best meet, but it also wasn't my worst," Wittman said.

At the end of the meet, both the men and women's teams secured fourth place, the men with 330.5 points and the women with 312.

"This type of meet is really three days worth of swimming crammed into two," men's team captain senior Bryce Manso said. "But so many of us are used to this type of meet, so it wasn't too bad."

Manso's events included the 100-meter and 200-meter breaststrokes and the 400-meter Individual Medley.

"We lost our first few meets, which were against the best teams, but we shouldn't lose any more meets," Manso said.

The teams will continue training hard until Christmas break.

The Lutes are done with competition until January.

They resume their season at the PLU pool when they host the College of Idaho Jan. 9 at 1 p.m.



Limoges



Wittman

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MAST CONT. FROM PG. 1

Campus Safety Tony Berger coordinated a hidden camera operation in Morken with the permission of administration. The attempt was unsuccessful due to technological difficulties.

"I thought the best way to catch the person was to set up video after the papers were delivered," Berger said. "After that failed, I thought a stake-out, which was already suggested by Mast staff, would work only if there was a promise that no personal confrontation would occur, if and when the perpetrator was caught."

A stake-out was coordinated as a result, and Berger granted Mast staff members access to Morken room 103 during off-hours to monitor the newsstand further.

"From the stake out we expected to find someone stealing The Masts," Hecker said, "but this was definitely not the outcome I expected."

The Mystery Solved

At approximately 5:20 a.m. on Nov. 13, staff members watched as a PLU custodian wheeled a trash bin up to the Morken newsstand and inappropriately disposed of all 400 newspapers. The staff had positioned cameras, and obtained live footage and sequenced photographs of the unusual disposal.

"My first assumption was that it was a student or multiple students, but not a custodian," said Hecker. "I was surprised to find out it was a custodian."

The staff members turned the photographic evidence into Campus Safety. The department of human resources was also contacted because the perpetrator was an employee.

"What I took away from this incident is that if students, faculty and staff work together to solve problems, we can be successful," Berger said. "We can trust each other that, in the final analysis, we are all interested in making PLU a place where we can be proud to learn, work and live. I am pleased that we have done so in this case."

This unusual disposal of unread Masts is believed to have occurred each week over the course of the past semester. Staff members in charge of circulation during several years noticed a similar mysterious trend, suggesting this disposal may have been committed throughout the past few years.

The custodian who was caught throwing these papers away was terminated from the university.

Due to confidentiality purposes, a name was not released and the former employee was unable to be contacted for comment.

"I want to maintain confidentiality," Teri Phillips, director of human resources, said, "but it is fair to say that this person is no longer working at PLU."

Phillips addressed the rarity of termination at PLU. She said that issues of corrective action rarely result in termination.

"There are not a lot of terminations that happen, and we try really hard to work with individuals and have productive relationships," Phillips said.

But Why?

The main question that remains unanswered is why. A number of university officials have speculated about the motive of the former employee.

"My understanding is that the removal of the Masts in Morken was related to keeping the building clean and was in no way related to the content of the newspaper," said Laura Majovski, vice president of Student Life and dean of students.

PLU President Loren Anderson suggested the man's motive might have been to create less work for himself. Anderson expressed disappointment in the acts of the custodian.

"It was an act of preventive cleaning," Anderson said. "It was a thoughtless and inappropriate action."

This overzealous cleaning was costly for The Mast. Calculations conducted



A PLU custodian empties copies of the Mast into a recycling bin before students could read them. Mast staff employees set up a stake-out to find out what was happening to the missing papers. The employee no longer works for the university.

Mast Staff Photos

by The Mast staff conclude that nearly \$1,500 worth of newspapers were disposed of since the beginning of the semester.

"The university is most concerned that the removal of the newspapers has stopped," Majovski said.

Reactions and Ramifications

The motive of this former employee may never be identified, but some feel the ramifications are far-reaching, exceeding the financial and legal issues that already surround the incident.

"I think this is harmful for any publication, not just a student publication," said Doug Drowley, PLU communication instructor.

Cliff Rowe, PLU professor of communication, discussed the importance of a free press in a self-governing society, and that any interference of circulation hinders that

freedom.

"I think (the disposal of unread newspapers) is an abuse of a free press," Rowe said. "Press is not free if you have people hindering the distribution of it. There are many ways you can violate press freedom, and stealing newspapers is one of them because you are taking the actual press out of circulation."

Hecker and other members of The Mast staff expected a greater level of respect from a PLU employee regarding the circulation of their publication.

"You think he would've considered the interest of the students, since he worked here, and better supported us for all the work put into it," Hecker said.

The Mast is a branch of Student Involvement and Leadership, a department funded and facilitated by the Student Life office. The money used by The Mast to publish each week comes from a grant provided

by Student Life at the beginning of the academic year. The disposal of unread newspapers was an act against university property.

Hecker, who was mainly concerned with the financial and implicit effects facing The Mast, emphasized the detriment caused by the act of theft.

"It's a lot more than the base amount that was spent on printing," Hecker said. "From just this year alone we lost a bare minimum of \$1,500, and that is not taking into account the amount of time that students took putting papers in that building, the amount of work that was put into making those papers, and the advertisements that were paid for that didn't get out to people."

The Mast staff is still pondering the motive, even with the current speculation.

"All that work put into (the newspaper) just thrown away," Hecker said. "I want to know why he felt it was necessary to make his job easier at the expense of our jobs."

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