

THE MAST

Pacific Lutheran University



LEAPING LUTES
TRACK & FIELD PREPS
FOR CONFERENCE MEET
PAGE 16

McCULTURE
SANDWICH
ILLUSTRATES
CULTURAL TRENDS
PAGE 6



APRIL 24, 2009

www.plu.edu/~mast

VOLUME LXXXIX NO.20

Saxifrage unveils 35th volume

Kari Plog
MAST NEWS EDITOR
mastnews@plu.edu

Saxifrage hosted the first ever gala in honor of the 35th annual reveal of Saxifrage, Pacific Lutheran University's premiere literary magazine, on Wednesday night in the University Center CK. Junior Co-Editor Matt Click and senior Co-Editor Jake K.M. Paikai held the event to not only reveal the book, but to showcase the art, prose and poems that received recognition in the publication.

After months of judging and intensive deliberation, the final selections were made the first week of March.

"We really wanted to make this year extra special and stand out from other years," Paikai said.

The gala was adorned in decorations that encompassed gears and tools, complete with a projection of spinning gears and gears covering the programs. The table settings were complete with the opening poem "A Sort of Song" by famous poet William Carlos Williams. Approximately 40 people attended the event, which was catered by PLU Dining Services.

"I would like people to know that our mission is to showcase the writers, artists and creative minds of PLU and its community," Click said.

The event showcased an array of selected photography, poetry and prose while also honoring specific pieces with Editor's Choice Awards. One reading included "Sonata" by senior Margaret Ellsworth. Another piece was a musical composition by future Saxifrage Co-Editor sophomore Jason Saunders titled "Portrait of a Woman by Night." His performance was accompanied by sophomore pianist Michelle Range and 2008 alumna cellist Jerilynn Harris.

SEE UNVEILING PG. 3



From left, senior Sam Grovin, sophomore Kate Erin, Associate Director of Multi-Cultural Affairs Angie Hambrick, and senior Emily Mikheyev pick up the newly released copy of the 35th annual Saxifrage. The gala unveiling of the book was held Wednesday night in the University Center CK.

Graffiti tags The Cave

Drag Show moved, goes on despite threatening graffiti

Kate Miller
MAST NEWS EDITOR
klm@plu.edu

A death threat written on the chalk wall of The CAVE moved the Harmony drag show "April Showers" to the Regency Room of the University Center Friday.

The message, "I am going to kill tonight someone is going to die tonight," was discovered by a staff member and written sometime between midnight and noon on Friday.

Campus Safety Director Tony Berger said that it is unclear whether there was an intended target or who the perpetrator was. Parallel investigations are being conducted by Campus Safety and the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. Investigators are also trying to more specifically pinpoint the time the threat was written.

Eva Johnson, director of SIL and the Diversity Center, ASPLU Vice President Emily Marks and ASPLU Venues Director Thomas Nelson contacted Harmony co-commissioner Cate Erin and Dmitry Mikheyev to make a

decision on how to respond to the threat.

Johnson said this was because "the graffiti that was found was very general," but The CAVE itself seemed to be the only thing specifically threatened.

"We decided we were going to do it anyway, and it was not a threat to us. We knew every possible safety precaution that could be taken was being taken," Erin said.

To combat the threat, two off-duty Pierce County sheriffs deputies, who were already scheduled for the evening, had a physical presence in the UC. There were also three other Campus Safety officers patrolling campus that evening. One walked through the UC until 1 a.m., an anomaly.

"The event was moved to Regency Room of the UC to ensure the safety of performers, staff and audience members. The CAVE was completely shut down for the night. It was reopened the following evening, with an added safety presence.

"A message like this shouldn't be taken lightly, but at the same time we shouldn't throw our

SEE GRAFFITI PG. 4

LollaPLUza takes to the street

ASPLU hosts music festival featuring well-known and local musical artists on Garfield Street tomorrow

Emily Hopper Treichler
MAST NEWS REPORTER
hopleeb@plu.edu

Well known known hip-hop group Blue Scholars will bring down the house as part of ASPLU's LollaPLUza celebration tomorrow.

The event will shut down Garfield Street from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and reinstate the tradition of LollaPLUza, including live music and participation from on-campus clubs and Garfield Street vendors.

ASPLU decided to bring LollaPLUza back this year, an annual event until 2001, because "it is such a necessary component for ASPLU to connect with the students," said Thomas Nelson, ASPLU's venues director.

"It's great way to accommodate student budgets and take a break from the academic atmosphere at PLU," said Megan Buchholz, the public relations director of ASPLU.

Although LollaPLUza was cancelled last year because the bookings of two top bands fell through, the music festival has been put on by ASPLU in different reincarnations since the 1970s, Nelson said. This year, however, ASPLU decided to start planning LollaPLUza with a clean slate.

"We didn't compare what we're doing this year to any other year," Nelson said.

The event was given a total budget of \$20,000, the largest budget allotted for any one event this year.

The last LollaPLUza, in 2007, was held in Olson Gym and featured The Presidents of the United States of America, whose performance was so expensive that ASPLU was forced to charge for entrance.

This year, ASPLU took a different tactic, surveying students across campus about what local bands they liked best. Blue Scholars, a Northwest hip-hop group, alternative Seattle-based band New Faces, and Anacortes indie pop rock band

Lonely Forest are scheduled to perform throughout the event.

Nelson said that the festival is not merely a concert, but will involve participation from many of PLU's clubs and Garfield Street vendors.

"We wanted LollaPLUza to reflect students and PLU, not just their music tastes," Nelson said.

He said ASPLU hopes that the event will also make more connections between the student community and Garfield Street business.

"This is an opportunity for students to connect with the larger community of Parkland and the music scene, which is not always so visible on campus," Buchholz.

Farelli's, who is helping sponsor the event, is providing a DJ for the main stage in between acts. Additionally, Farelli's, along with Naked Juice, Dreyer's, Puravida Coffee, and PepsiCo, all of whom have general contracts with PLU, will be at the event to provide event goers with

SEE MUSIC PG. 3

STATE, NATION and WORLD BRIEFINGS

Local to Global

Freddie Mac CFO commits suicide

Alan Zibel
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIENNA, VA. (AP) — The chief financial officer of Freddie Mac, one of the mortgage giants at the heart of the nation's financial meltdown, was found dead in his basement early Wednesday morning.

David Kellermann, 41, apparently hanged himself in his suburban Washington home, said a law enforcement official familiar with the investigation.

Kellermann was promoted last September when the government seized the mortgage company and ousted its top two executives. Some neighbors said they suggested Kellermann should quit to avoid the stress, but Kellermann responded that he wanted to help the company through its problems.

Kellermann oversaw a staff of about 500 at Freddie Mac's McLean, Va., headquarters and was working on the company's first-quarter financial report. Federal regulators closely oversee the company's books and sign off on major decisions.

Freddie Mac lost more than \$50 billion last year. Kellermann worked for Freddie Mac more than 16 years, starting out as a financial analyst and auditor.

Freddie Mac and sibling company Fannie Mae have both come under fire from lawmakers because they plan to pay more than \$210 million in bonuses through next year. Kellermann got \$170,000 and was to receive another \$680,000 over the next year.

Federal prosecutors in Virginia have been investigating Freddie Mac's business practices.

Police responded to a 911-call at 4:48 a.m. at Kellermann's suburban Virginia home.

This is at least the fifth high-profile



AP Photo courtesy of Freddie Mac

This undated photo provided by Freddie Mac shows David Kellermann, the acting chief financial officer of mortgage giant Freddie Mac. Kellermann was found dead at his home Wednesday morning April 22, 2009 in what police said was an apparent suicide.

executive suicide in as many months.

News of Kellermann's death came as a shock to employees of the McLean, Va.-based company.

Freddie Mac canceled a bond offering on Wednesday and top executives visited the family's home to offer condolences. John Koskinen, the company's interim chief executive e-mailed a statement to employees and the media in which he called Kellermann "a man of great talents....His extraordinary work ethic and integrity inspired all who worked with him."

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said in a statement that "our deepest sympathies are with his family and his colleagues at Freddie Mac during this difficult time."

PLU plans ahead

PLU 2020 long range plan sets future goals for the university

Kate Miller
MAST NEWS REPORTER
klm@plu.edu

Pacific Lutheran University 2020 is a proposal from the Long-Range Planning Committee, following the form of previous proposals PLU 2000 and PLU 2010. In the interests of embracing the future, the PLU constituency has been invited to help mold the proposal.

The purpose of PLU 2020 is "to fulfill our mission, to cultivate academic excellence, to build an engaged community, to enhance our global perspective, to seek fiscal strength, to ensure broad access to our programs, and to nurture life as vacation in the fullest sense," as stated on the PLU 2020 website <http://www.plu.edu/PLU2020/>.

"Those planning processes are a way for institutions to ask, 'Who are we? Who do we want to become? What does that mean we need to do?'" said Anderson. Anderson said past proposals have helped PLU "grow up" and "become a more sophisticated place."

There are six key issues to be addressed by PLU 2020: Context and Environment; Mission, Identity and Distinction; The People Place; Academic Life and Program; Finance and Infrastructure; and Integrative Themes.

"Implicit in this kind of planning work is the idea, to a certain extent, that the future is ours to shape; but we aren't going to shape it unless we reflect upon it," Anderson said.

The 13-member Long-Range Planning Committee consists of three students, two administrative staff, two members of the

President's Council, five elected faculty and Anderson.

Each draft has been posted on the PLU 2020 website. Students, faculty, staff, and constituents have been invited to comment on the proposal either by e-mail or attending one of the two forums.

The comments, mostly from faculty and staff, have generally focused on three subject areas.

"There is a real concern about keeping the academic program central as we plan for the future," Anderson said. "There is a real awareness of the sense of change around us and the sensitivity to the change we are facing—things won't be the same in 2020. It is an important reminder that our dreams and our realities must be linked together."

These long-range planning proposals serve the university in many ways. One of the chief legacies of the proposals is providing PLU with a "stronger identity," Anderson said. The mission statement was included in PLU 2000, and it was formally developed in PLU 2010. The university also branded itself as a "Lutheran University in the Pacific Northwest" in PLU 2010. The Morken Center and the "Master Plan," a long-range vision of what the campus layout will look like, were born in PLU 2000.

Now that the preliminary project proposal has been completed, commissions will study their specific areas and report to the community by spring 2010. Receiving feedback, this process will be complete by December 2010. A final report will be compiled and discussed Spring 2011 and Fall 2011. The Board of Regents will adopt the final plan in January 2012.

STUDENT HEALTH IOI

Kelsey Larson
MAST NEWS REPORTER
larsonkk@plu.edu

Did you see the "Get Yourself Tested" ad in last week's issue of the Mast?

So did you GYT? Did you know that GYT is a national movement?

Celebs such as The All-American Rejects, Santigold, Good Charlotte, Big Boi, Asher Roth, Keri Hilson, Perez Hilton and N.E.R.D. have already partnered with MTV and Planned Parenthood to campaign for an increase in testing in the 25-and-under demographic.

Would you get tested if you knew the Center for Disease Prevention

and Control stated that half of all sexually active people between the ages of 15 and 25 have an STD?

We may live in the LuteDome, but PLU is not exempt from this statistic.

"We've certainly seen much more Chlamydia than we saw last year," said Susana Doll, director of the Health Center.

But surely you'd notice if you came down with Chlamydia, right? Not always. Chlamydia has been coined a "silent" disease by the CDCP. It can very often be asymptomatic, but untreated, Chlamydia results in pelvic inflammatory disease in 40 percent of women who have it; this, in turn, can lead to more

serious consequences, including infertility. The CDCP recommends yearly screening for women 25 and younger.

And it's easy: it's just a urine test, no blood or needles required and it's absolutely free. If that isn't incentive enough, the health center will provide women with free Plan B after a visit and men with a free condom keychain.

"Couples coming in together would be great," Doll said.

If that's not going to work out for you, though, remember that it is legal in Washington for the health center to treat both the tested person and their partner.

www.plu.edu/health-center

Contact the Health Center for more info

253-535-7337

GREAN honors the earth

Sustainability events planned around campus in celebration of Earth Day

Ashley LaMagna
 MAST NEWS REPORTER
 lamagnac@plu.edu

It's Earth Week, and Pacific Lutheran University has made it part of their mission to become more sustainable and promote sustainability. GREAN (Grassroots Environmental Action Now) is putting on a full calendar of events.

Today, GREAN is teaming up with the Women's Center to create sustainable cleaning products. This event is designed to honor the earth by keeping it clean while creating products that are not harmful to the reproductive health of women.

The week began with a screening of the movie "Flow," which depicts the current state of the world's water supply, to 25 people Monday and will conclude Sunday with the Parkland cleanup.

The efforts of the PLU community to support sustainability will come together in the cleanup. The event puts sustainability in action as work will be done by different groups dispersing throughout the community to clean it up.

Persons interested can sign up at the GREAN booth at LollaPLUza this weekend. The cleanup will happen Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants will meet in Red Square and should bring work gloves if they can.

"I am really looking forward to the

Parkland cleanup," co-president of GREAN and senior Monika Maier said. "The events that we have throughout Earth Week are cool informational stuff that span across a range of interesting environmental topics, but the Parkland clean-up is probably more awesome than any of the other events because it is action oriented--we are actually going out and cleaning up the environment in our local community."

Some other events that happened on and around campus include:

- "The Take Back the Tap" photo contest, where students submitted photos of themselves with their take back the tap water bottles, winners chosen Thursday.

- A presentation on Christian response to climate change by David Brauer Rieke on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Ingram 100.

Maier said that sustainability is an important part of PLU and the surrounding community's future.

"Sustainability at PLU is a good thing. And I think it's something we work on like social justice and diversity," Maier said. "Sustainability sometimes has a hard time finding a good fit within that mix. But the PLU community does a good job in supporting our efforts to make PLU a sustainable campus."

Contact Andrew Ratzke at ratzkead@plu.edu for more information about the Parkland cleanup.

UNVEILING CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

"Saxifrage represents PLU's literary and artistic soul," Paikai said. "It really is a representation of what PLU was thinking, seeing and writing about."

The Editor's Choice Awards were given to three artists, one for poetry, photography and prose. All were given the chance to speak about their pieces following a reading of their editor's reviews. Future Saxifrage Co-Editor junior Jacob Carl Harksen was recognized for his poem "Sestina with Smoke."

"This poem is dedicated to everyone I've ever known," Harksen said.

He read samples from his poem that was accompanied by a slide projection showcasing one of the quotes from his work.

The photography selection was awarded to first-year Theodore Charles for his photograph "Guard Swallows." He gave the audience a narrative behind the photo's importance to him personally and how it reminds him of his childhood.

"In an age of digital manipulation, Theodore Charles is a digital purist," said Click, reading one of the reviews critiquing Charles' photo.

The prose selection honored by the editors was "Magic

Kingdom" by 2008 PLU alumnus Kolby Harvey. The editors noted how involved Harvey was in the process and said they were honored to award him as well.

"The entire evening had a certain elegance to it," said sophomore Maurice Eckstein. "It made me very excited to read the new edition."

Following the awards and recognition of the future Saxifrage editors Saunders and Harksen, Click and Paikai unveiled the 101 page product. The décor of gears showcased in the gala adorned the cover, and an aluminum PLU emblem marked the back. The book is currently available on tables in Hauge, the library, Ingram and the UC.

"Although Saxifrage has no theme, its vocation is to tease out from our submission a tone—a mood that represents the artistic voice of our university," Paikai said. "It's no surprise to us that there are interesting threads of commonality shared by the pieces of this book."

For both editors, revealing the final product was very rewarding.

"The most rewarding thing is to hold the book in your hands for the first time and to see your work and name in print," Click said.

Editor's Choice Awards

Jacob Carl Harksen
 Theodore Charles
 Kolby Harvey

Poetry
 Photography
 Prose

MUSIC CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

samples. Many of PLU's clubs will have booths with activities. GREAN will have planting activities. PLUtonic, the a cappella group, will have a kissing booth. RHA will be running a dunk tank. Relay for Life is holding a raffle. The items to be raffled are from Garfield businesses and tickets for the soccer team Tacoma Tide.

Nelson said that one of the biggest challenges ASPLU faces each year is how to determine and satisfy

the wants and needs of the student population.

"We're constantly asking ourselves, 'What does this do for the student?'" Nelson said.

Much of ASPLU's programming is based on requirements, rather than the requests of students. ASPLU saw LollaPLUza as an opportunity to give students exactly what they want.

"This is the centerpiece for ASPLU programming," Nelson said. "It's not an event to be missed."

LollaPLUza Tomorrow @ 11 Performance Schedule:

New Faces	11:30-12:30
Lonely Forrest	1:00-2:00
Blue Scholars	3:00-4:30



GRADUATING

Dec 2009 or Jan 2010

Graduation Applications

Due: May 1, 2009

Submit graduation application & final Academic Program Contracts (APCs) to Student Services.

Applications available in Student Services. See major/minor Dept. Chair for APC(s).

Questions?
 graduation@plu.edu
 253.535.7131

Congratulations.
 You're about to accomplish your goal.
 Now what?

Maybe it's the first step of that long-awaited career.

Or it's just time for a change.

Make sure your next step is the right one for you.

If "what's next?" is a puzzle, consider a coach. Coaching helps you move from where you are to where you want to be with clarity, purpose and the traction to make things happen.

Try it and see.

Contact Cheryl Di Re Coaching to discuss how coaching might help and to experience a short coaching session at no charge!



CHERYL DI RE COACHING

www.cheryldirecoaching.com 425-218-6528

GRAFFITI CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

hands and surrender. The actions that we took to move the event into the Regency Room were because we did not want anything to happen," Nelson said.

Despite the venue change, the drag show was the most successful in the history of the event.

"We raised \$632 and the night was a big success. People came out in spite of the threat," Erin said.

The money was donated to the Tacoma-based Rainbow Center that attempts to educate, advocate, and celebrate the different sexual orientations.

"Twelve gays, lesbians, bisexuals and their allies went on performing because they believed

in what they were doing," said senior Jake K. M. Paikai, a member of Harmony and host of the drag show.

Berger said that anyone who knows anything, or the perpetrator, to contact Campus Safety or another trusted staff member in the interest of making people on this campus feel safe. Currently, the culprit is facing a student conduct violation and could face criminal charges.

"I was very proud of how quickly PLU leadership responded to the graffiti," Johnson said. "We never questioned that we needed to have a swift response. Everybody was on board to make sure this response happened."



Photos by Ted Charles

Above left: Michelle No'Drama (sophomore Maurice Eckstein) takes a donation from an audience member. Above right: Domi D'Amour (senior Dmitry Mikheyev) strikes a pose for Harmony's spring drag show "April Showers." No'Drama and D'Amour were two of 12 performers who took the stage to raise money for the Rainbow Center of Tacoma. The event raised \$632, the most in its history.



Garfield
BOOK COMPANY
AT PLU

**Celebrate Spring
with our Spring
Blowout Sale!**

April 17th-26th

**Huge Savings on Items
throughout the store!**

208 Garfield Street Suite 101
Tacoma, WA 98444
253.535.7665

**Spring
Textbook Buyback
May 18th-23rd**

May 18th-21st: 10am-7pm
May 22nd: 10am-5pm
May 23rd: 11am-5pm

****PLU ID is required****

For more information call
253.535.7665



**25% Off
All Alumni
and Graduation
Clothing and Gifts
Until the End of May!**

*Excludes all diploma frames.



208 Garfield Street
Tacoma, WA 98444

253.535.7665
garfieldbookcompany.com

PLU's best-kept secret

Career Development seeks to arm students with best resources to enter the job market

Ben Lamb
 MAST NEWS REPORTER
 lambbp@plu.edu

As we move toward the end of the month of April, there seem to be challenges with current economic situation. Today, however, there are still plenty of employers looking for PLU grads to hire, and Ruth Rogers, Director of the Career Development Office and Career Counselor Dawn Clark feel the Career Development resources are the best-kept secret on campus.

Seniors can receive assistance from PLU's Career Development Office. Led by Rogers and Clark students can visit their career services website at www.plu.edu/career. The site has been made user friendly, so a lot can be accomplished before you even schedule an appointment for one-on-one assistance.

To initially prepare, go online and login at the College Central Network (CCN) link that is located on the lower right hand side of the homepage. This is a posting site solely for PLU graduates.

"PLU grads are definitely in demand," Rogers said.

Students can browse all the postings as well as upload a copy of a resume for employers viewing and contact. By accessing "Resources for Students" and clicking on Job Search Skills, more information is provided as well as how-to's,

about writing resumes, cover letters, potential interview questions, about informational interviews, etc.

Go to "Career Opportunities" and find several job search websites for opportunities both domestic and abroad. If one's major appears broad, eligibility for many different jobs can be even better. Go to "What can I do with a major in?" and research all the jobs people within the specified major are qualified for. For further occupation research, go to wois.org (site key: hve323) to find details regarding employment outlook, salary information, etc. "The biggest weakness compared to career development sites at other private universities is the lack of connection to alumni, help with interviews and job shadowing ideas," Rogers said.

Rogers and Clark are available to assist with any job search. They'll review your resume and cover letter, do a mock interview with you, or just provide the necessary coaching on your job searches. "Don't forget to think about what sets you apart from other

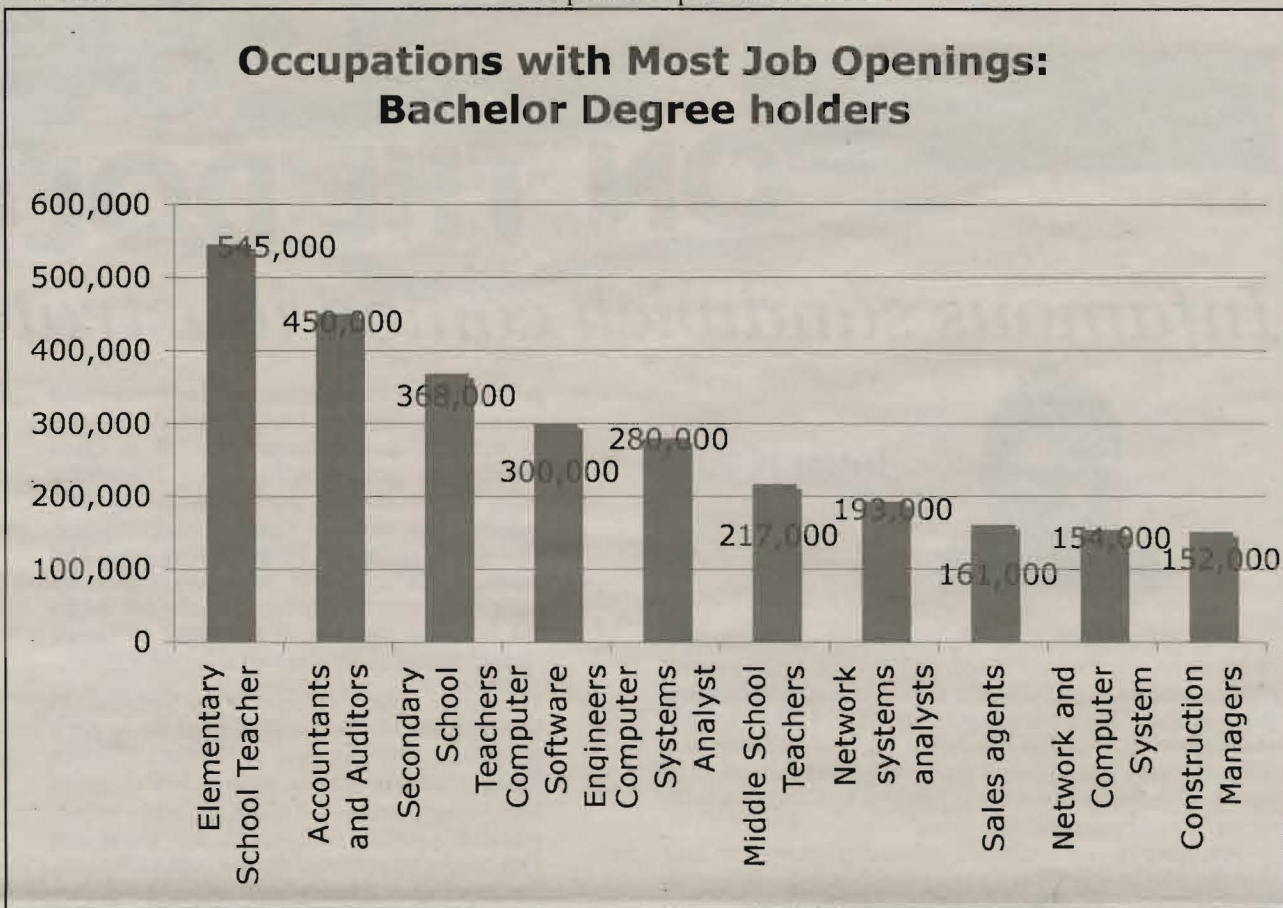
applicants," Rogers said.

Career assessments are also available to find out the job types that match people within one's personality style and interests. These assessments can be incredibly useful for students as well as the follow-up one on one appointment for further interpretation with one of the career counselors.

"Much like anything, every industry has opportunities, they just may be harder to find. That is where networking comes in to play. Networking can help you find jobs and position you to be a strong candidate," Clark said.

Appointments can be made with Clark or Rogers after researching their website resources. Their passion and hope is to help find their students

passion and their optimum job fit. They want to assist you in developing the career development skills needed to manage a lifetime career as well as help students find their first position after college. Call the Career Development Office at ext. 7459 to get an appointment or drop by the Ramstad Commons Ramstad 112.



Source: College Board

Are you graduating in May?

- Got a job?
- Got a resume?
- Got a coverletter?
- Got interviewing skills?



Looking for help?

The Career Center

can help!

Visit us at www.plu.edu/career, call ext. 7459, or drop by Ramstad Commons 112, to set up an appointment.



**Step 3: Devour,
Consume.**

**Step 1: Obtain
1 double
cheeseburger and
1 spicy chicken
sandwich.**

**Step 2: Forcibly
shove chicken
sandwich between
the two halves.**

Photo Illustration by Jake K.M. Paikai

The anatomy of a burger rape: The McGangBang, depicted here in this photo illustration, weighs in at 800 calories, 115mg of cholesterol and 39g of fat. 1,400 calories with medium fries and a large coke.

ON THE DOLLAR MENU

Infamous sandwich combo illustrates cultural trends



Queerfully Yours

Jake K.M.
Paikai
paikaijk@gmail.com

I was on Facebook, a few weeks back, around midnight or so, perusing the news feed, as I am apt. I discovered, freshly posted, a picture of a friend of a friend holding what looked like a misshapen Big Mac. I came to find out, however, that the sandwich he was holding was not a mishap, but rather a purposeful hybridization of one double cheeseburger and one chicken sandwich. Its name? The McGangBang.

For those of you confused, urbandictionary.com said that the McGangBang is "a tasty sandwich combination from McDonald's." The website even gives directions: "Order one double cheeseburger and one Spicy McChicken sandwich. Spit [sic] the double cheeseburger between the two patties, and then put the entire Spicy McChicken sandwich inside the double cheeseburger."

That's it, folks. Time to throw in the towel. Rape has infiltrated our sandwiches.

It's no surprise to me. Rape has suffused our cultural landscape, has become so deeply entrenched within our cultural DNA that it's hard to distinguish where the lines of harmless humor and serious degradation should be drawn. Rape has become so commonplace it has infiltrated everyday speech. Roaming the halls of Hauge, one might hear "That test totally raped me" or "I got my ass handed to me by that paper." I doubt that those who first coined the term "McGangBang" thought about the possible serious implications of their proposed burger name. But what can we say about a society that invokes rape imagery into its sandwiches? Let's examine the name:

- A Gangbang is a situation where a person has sexual intercourse with multiple persons in turn or at the same time. It is often colored in pornography as a successive rape, wherein one person is continually subjected to violence upon sexual violence. The words gang and bang are sing-song and onomatopoeic. When one sees the word gangbang, one invariably sees the act, hears the act—the same way, if I were to shout, "Bang! Bang!" you'd invariably see a gun.

- The prefix "Mc," because of the ubiquity of McDonalds, has become as tired as Apple's ubiquitous "i." As one uses one's iPod or iBook or iLife or iPhone, so does one eat one's McChicken, drink one's McCafe and accept, without question or concern, any thing else that might be prefixed by the commonplace, matter-of-fact, wholly-acceptable "Mc."

Altogether, the act of tearing the sandwich apart and shoving, against its will or design, another sandwich into its midst becomes a light-hearted, acceptable joke. Rape, an extremely violent act, is transfigured into one of delight, of humor. It is as comical as a string of bops, zips and buzzes and as ordinary, familiar and recurrent as the wind or rain. Acts of rape and violence cease to move us—they cease to provoke or incite.

Rape survives in the television and film industry as an acceptable plot device. Men's rape of women causes them to reconnect with their sisters, to accept their super-powers or to even become villains. Men's rape of men causes them undo shame, ejection from society and ostracism that we, as a culture, clearly like to see because these shows get high ratings and these movies make money. A movie with a rape in it might receive a PG-13 rating, maybe an R Rating while consensual relationships between gay men and women receive R and NC-17 ratings. Violence is the norm, the standard.

We prefer sexual interactions on film to be liquid, to seem natural. Stopping to ask for consent ruins the mood. You know she wants it.

And while men are listed as the most common perpetrators of rape, the culture of rape doesn't only harm women, but men as well. Men are continually seen as having the propensity towards rape and so must continually check themselves. Most men don't have a raping bone in their body and yet suffer wearing the face of rape. Women should be scared of all men in the dark. Ignore your late-time cravings for Taco Bell ladies. You shouldn't go outside unaccompanied. Men shouldn't wear all black, walk together in a large group or be between the ages of 16 and 22 and white.

Rape culture is not fair, it is not reflective of our good intentions and it is unnecessary. And only we can stop it.

This month is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and organizations around our university are making it their personal missions to spread awareness about consent, about assault and how our society is complicit in the success of rape. More importantly, they will attempt to tell us how to stop it.

I encourage you to take this special time to self reflect, to think about your words and to make your own personal pledge to not only take back the night, but to take back the name of rape—for its seriousness, for its injustice. Let the word mean what it means. Do not let it be used otherwise.

I made a pledge to myself a few months back that I'd stop watching anything, be it a movie or TV series, if rape was used as a means to advance its plot. For this, I've given up "Heroes," "Law and Order" and other shows that I would otherwise enjoy. Am I becoming less guilty? Have I escaped the pervasiveness of our rape culture?

When I was on Facebook that night, looking at my friend's picture, I caught myself grinning. I may have even been laughing.

Decemberists' newest release pushes the limits

*Tour de force
concept album
tells tale of ill-
fated romance*

Ben Tully
tullyba@plu.edu
MAST A&E REPORTER

It's been awhile since I've anticipated an album as much as I have with The Decemberists' "The Hazards of Love." Because of this, I feared being profoundly disappointed. An epic rock opera by one of my favorite working bands? With guest appearances by other artists? And on the heels of the band's best album yet? Could it be like the Seattle Mariners' 2008

season with so much hype, yet so much failure? Fortunately for all of us listeners, there are no crippling disappointments present on "The Hazards of Love." With this March 24 release, frontman Colin Meloy proves himself the heir to The Who's Pete Townshend as the "poperatic" composer of his generation.

Trying to tell a story over the course of an album is a daunting task, but if any current band is up to the task, it would be the Portland-based Decemberists. The band's previous four records are made up of eloquent story songs, such as the memorable "O Valencia!" or "The Mariner's Revenge Song." But with "The Hazards of Love," the band embarks on the hour-long tale of William and Margaret, two star-crossed lovers not far removed from the tragic heroes of Shakespeare. Of course, William's surrogate mother is the evil forest queen and Margaret gets caught up in the clutches of a ferocious villain known as the "Rake," so things don't go quite according to plan. Meloy graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in creative writing and the libretto he penned here is certainly enough to

make any professor proud.

Musically, much of the album is staggeringly different from the group's earlier work.

"The Hazards of Love" retains the delightful acoustic guitar-driven melodies found throughout the Decemberists' catalogue, but the folk tunes are interspersed with heavy blues-rock. The contrast is nothing short of shocking as we hear ye olde English Romeo and Juliet meet up with the earth-shattering guitar distortion that accompanies the forest queen.

"The Wanting Comes In Waves/Repaid" is an example of the remarkable ambition on the album. The track begins with a harpsichord accompaniment, much like a recitative in a classical opera, and is sung by Meloy as William. About a minute in, the drums enter and we have a passionate full-bodied rock chorus, cut short by a bluesy riff serving as the intro to the second part of the song, "Repaid." Then comes the queen's response to

★
★
★
★
★
AlbumReview
"The Hazards of Love" (2009)
The Decemberists
Capitol Records



William's requests as Worden screams, "This is how I am repaid?" to thunderous power chords. All is repeated again but with even more vigor, as the mother and son quarrel about whether William should be with Margaret. This stunning lyrical illustration closes the first half with a vengeance.

The seventeen tracks on the album are seamless, with no pause from the music at any point. But an hour goes by quick while listening to "The Hazards of Love" as there is never a dull moment. Pitchfork Media gave the album a lukewarm reception, stating "Nobody got into the Decemberists for the riffs." But to me, this band has already established their mastery of clever sea chanteys and such. They are now expanding from their comfort zone and that's fantastic. I can hardly imagine what they might do next.

Warm weather brings big blockbusters

Action films and comedies dominate summer film season

Cinematic Excursions



Matt Click

clickmt@plu.edu

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (May 1)

Hugh Jackman reprises his role as the mutton-chopped, adamantium-clawed Wolverine in this prequel to the X-Men franchise. The plot entails Wolverine living as an immortal through the decades and eventually entering into the Weapon X program, which gave him those nifty metal claws. "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" looks like your basic action flick with some over-the-top stunts and cheesy one-liners. Here's to hoping it's better than "X-Men: The Last Stand."

Star Trek (May 8)

J.J. Abrams helms this slick-looking reboot of the classic television series. A young, attractive cast takes control of the U.S.S. Enterprise and goes up against a psychotic Romulan (Eric Bana). It will be interesting to see how Abrams manages to attract the young adult audience without alienating fans of the classic series. Recent TV spots proclaiming the reboot "Not your dad's Star Trek" are troubling, but I remain optimistic.

Angels & Demons (May 15)

Tom Hanks, Ron Howard and Tom Hanks' hair return in this prequel to 2006's underwhelming "The Da Vinci Code." Fans of Dan Brown will likely enjoy Howard's treatment of the source novel, but it otherwise looks like a fairly bland crime thriller.

Terminator Salvation (May 21)

This film, starring Christian Bale, is one I was originally prepared to write off. But the phenomenal trailer released a couple of months ago piqued my interest. The plot revolves around John Connor (Bale) and his resistant fighters, set in a post-apocalyptic future. It looks as though the Terminator franchise might survive after the departure of Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Up (May 29)

Pixar's newest film has its main character (voiced by Christopher Plummer) attempting to make his house fly using thousands of helium balloons. Obviously, being a Pixar film, this film is more than its appearance. If last summer's "Wall-E" taught us anything, it's that Pixar, far from running out ideas, is outdoing themselves with every film. Pixar is one of the greatest studios working in Hollywood today and "Up" should be fantastic.

Land of the Lost (June 5)

Will Ferrel stars in this humorous take on the old television series. "Land of the Lost" will be geared towards kids and families, but the special effects and humor courtesy of Ferrel might draw in a larger audience. Expect to see this one in 3-D.

Year One (June 19)

Harold Ramis directs Jack Black and Michael Cera in this tale of antiquity. Black and Cera star as a pair of lazy hunter-gatherers who leave their village after being exiled and wander the ancient world. If you can get past the blatant inaccuracies and liberties taken, it looks as though it might be a unique and hilarious comedy.

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (June 24)

Michael Bay took some serious missteps with "Transformers." And though I didn't hate it, there were definitely some severe disappointments for this lifelong fan of the robots in disguise. The subtitle of this film suggests that villains defeated in the first film might return. Now if only the title was "Transformers: Michael Bay Finally Zooms Out and Gives Us a Wide Shot."

Public Enemies (July 1)

One of my most anticipated films of this summer, Michael Mann helms "Public Enemies," starring Johnny Depp and Christian Bale. Shot in Mann's distinct digital film style, this flick is a 1930s gangster crime-thriller with a robust cast and a promising screenplay penned by Ronan Bennett along with Mann.

Brüno (July 10)

Sacha Baron Cohen, the star of 2006's raunchy semi-documentary "Borat," returns as another one of his characters, Brüno. An outrageous, Austrian fashion correspondent for gay TV, Brüno will journey through the U.S. south and spread his particular brand of edgy, awkward humor.



Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (July 15)

Probably the most anticipated film of the summer, this latest adaptation of J.K. Rowling's book series was originally slated for a fall 2008 release. Rumors of disgruntled test audiences and re-shoots aside, the trailers for Half-Blood Prince promise a darker tone fitting for the source material.

Inglourious Basterds (August 21)

Quentin Tarantino's purposefully misspelled title involves a secret Jewish-American squad of soldiers during World War II who are commissioned to spread terror through Nazi-occupied Europe in the hopes of harming the morale of the German troops. Brad Pitt leads a strong cast in Tarantino's stylized vision of this iconic period in our history.

Northern Pacific Coffee Company

Open Mic Nights
Every Wednesday
Half off all beverages with this coupon*

CALL (253) 537-8338

Serving Washington for over 25 years!

SUPERCUTS®

The best haircut in town
and only... \$15.00

14125 Pacific Avenue South
Tacoma 253-536-1130

\$2.00 off any Supercuts' service with your
PLU student ID card

SUPERCUTS
Parkland is here to
support Pacific Lutheran University!

Tickets are only \$6.50 with your current student ID!

606 S Fawcett Ave | 253.593.4474 | grandcinema.com

EARTH (G)
Fri: 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 8:55
Sat/Sun: 12:05, 2:15, *4:30, 6:40, 8:45
Mon-Thurs: 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 8:45
A discussion will follow Saturday's 4:30pm show

THE BLACK BALLOON (PG-13)
Fri-Sun: 1:50, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30
Mon-Wed: 4:00, 6:15, 8:30
Thurs: 1:50, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30

SUNSHINE CLEANING (R)
Fri: 10:10am, 12:30, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:10
Sat/Sun: 12:30, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:10
Mon: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:10
Tues: 2:30, 4:45, 9:10
Wed/Thurs: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:10

EARTH (1998) (NR)
Tues: 6:45
Part of the Faith and Film Series

ROW, ROW, ROW YOU

Crew 2009
WIRA Championships
 May 2-3
NCAA Division III Championships
 May 29-31



Photo by Ted Charles
Front to back: First-year Mandi Nyland, senior Natalie McCarthy, first-year Megan Anderson, senior Naomi Bornemann, sophomore Annie Voorhies, Corrin Vassey, first-year Megan Randich and first-year Rachel Kisling prepare their shell for the Saturday race. The women's eight competed against seven other schools last weekend.



First year Mandi Nyland, first-year Megan Randich, first-year Corrin Vassey, first-year Megan Anderson and senior Naomi Bornemann carry the shell on Saturday, April 18. The regatta was held at Lake Stevens, Wash. Saturday.



Sophomore Audra Stafford, senior Stephanie Farrow, senior Amber Iverson and sophomore Alix Mackey are guided by sophomore coxswain Nicole Martin in the women's varsity four race, Saturday. Crew is a club sport at PLU. The team practices on the lake to avoid boat traffic and have calm waters.

ur boat

Page layout by Alisyn Franetich and Maren Anderson



Photo by Ted Charles

Anderson and first-year Lydia Woessner carry a four person women's shell before their regatta



Photo by Ted Charles

Sophomore Sam Whedon and junior Chad Hall compose the men's varsity pair for the crew team. The PLU crew team is coached by two PLU alumni who also rowed during their college careers.



Photo by Ted Charles

ices early in the morning on American Lake in Lakewood, Wash. so that they can be on the lake during times with minimal



Now serving

Hamburgers!

Cheeseburger
Hamburger
Teriyaki Burger

Bubble Tea
Milkshakes



10% PLU & military discount
(with valid ID)

From the editor

Let's make a plan

Brendan Abshier
 MAST ONLINE EDITOR
 abshieb@plu.edu

Elizabeth City State University held an armed intruder emergency drill in February and it didn't turn out well for the school.

The school's police officer played the role of a gunman and burst into an American foreign policies class. Text messages and e-mails were sent to school faculty and students describing the drill situation, but not everyone apparently read the messages in time. Go figure.

This situation may sound funny when first read, but after being examined, it is very scary. And, when thinking about it, does our school have a surefire plan?

There is currently no federal law requiring schools to have emergency management plans. This means there is no regulation on how a fire, earthquake or armed intruder drill should be administered.

The school doesn't need the army to show up, but having nothing at all is useless.

So students, senators and school leaders, here it is for you, let's make a plan.

Having no specific plan poses as a huge problem to schools across the nation. If schools can't create effective ways to teach students how to react in case of an emergency, then we need to step up and develop a set of guidelines that schools across the nation can follow to carry out an emergency drill.

PLU has an emergency handbook that the school recommends school employees become familiar with.

But lets be honest, with all the preparation for class and assignments that students turn in, professors don't have many spare hours to memorize an emergency handbook.

A wake up call from the recent near-campus shooting incident should alert staff and students that our emergency procedures and lack of emergency drills wave a red flag.

The teacher and students of the class at Elizabeth City State University were frightened to the point that they were preparing for death during the drill.

The students were offered counseling after becoming unknowing participants in a very poorly attempted drill.

The victims in the classroom may have decided to risk their lives and attack the mock gunman. The gunman could have been killed and the school would have faced a huge lawsuit.

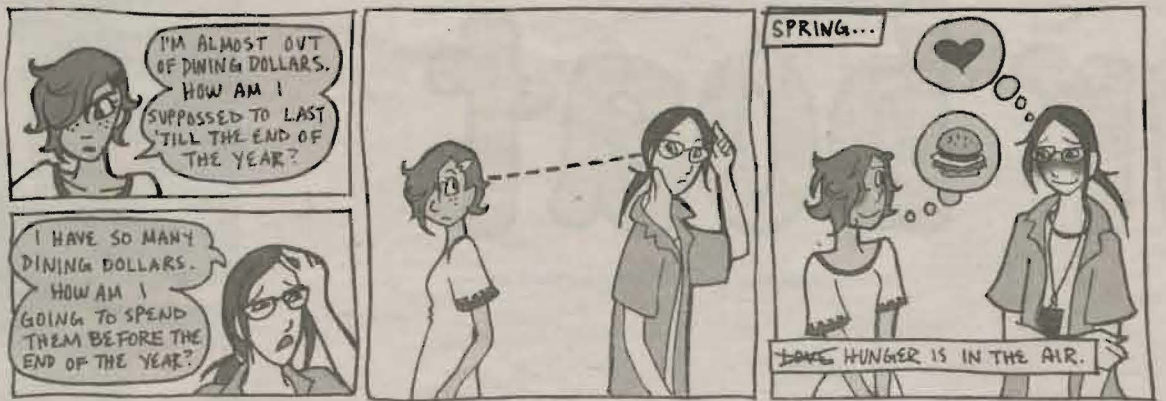
Instead of the lawsuit, however, now they only face a group of students who are psychologically damaged from being severely scared.

When our students at PLU weren't aware of what was happening during the lockdown drill many of them were scared and jumped to conclusions. Stories of gang shootings and random killings brewed as many rumors stirred between friends at our school.

What happened to our invincible cell phone notification? I'm not putting the blame on anybody at our school for students not being alerted, but it proves my point that an effective plan, if we even have one, isn't being carried out to the fullest.

Don't think this is not a big deal. This can happen at PLU, we need a foolproof plan that can be practiced effectively.

I can't put words into students mouths for them, but I know I don't want to have to get psychiatric help after an emergency drill, or lack thereof, gone bad.



Comic by Aubrey Lange

Layoffs sad but true

Carrie Draeger
 MAST COPY EDITOR
 draegecl@plu.edu

The economic downturn has hit Pacific Lutheran University in many ways, but none is more personal than the layoffs that began two weeks ago.

The unexpected removal of Jeff Smith, Dining Services' regulatory compliance operations manager, and "Big" Dan Cashen of facilities as well as numerous other positions are unfortunate but necessary steps for the university to continue providing the best possible education for its students. Spending must be closely watched as we look forward to the start of another academic year.

The Lutedome has been largely insulated from much of the problems of higher education in the state of Washington. Public schools such as the University of Washington and the Evergreen State College face tuition hikes of up to 28 percent in the next year and layoffs in the hundreds. Pacific Lutheran's tuition will increase by 7 percent. The University of Washington could not afford to admit students for Winter and Spring Quarters, but PLU's freshman tuition deposits already

exceed last year's admissions by 50 incoming students.

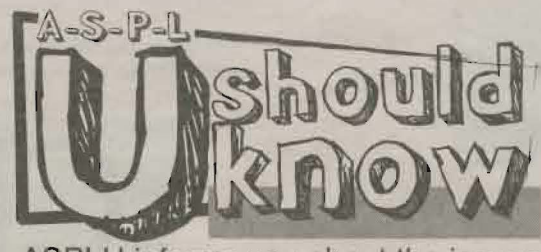
For the university to keep giving the best it can to its students, sacrifices must be made, no matter how difficult they are. The university also plans to remove 10 faculty and staff positions by the end of the year to help balance out the affects of an international recession.

Faculty members will not be laid off. Instead, faculty members will not be offered contract renewals. The staffing layoffs will be more difficult because positions will be eliminated to try and balance the budget. Layoffs are difficult to stomach for all on campus, not just students.

Rumors of a student boycott of the Commons in protest of Smith's removal are not only futile, but disrespectful to the administration of this university, as well to those who have been laid off in other departments. Protesting Smith's position being terminated undermines the sacrifices that others on this campus have made.

Student meal plans have been paid for months and a boycott of the Commons does not hurt the university economically. A protest would waste food, man hours and the very sustainability that this university holds in such high regard.

Students of this university have much to be thankful for and should think carefully about the sacrifices others are making for their continuing education.



ASPLU informs you about the issues

Megan Buchholz
 ASPLU Public Relations Director
 buchhomr@plu.edu

LollaPLUza Music Festival

Big name Northwest hip-hop band Blue Scholars will be headlining Pacific Lutheran University's LollaPLUza music festival Saturday on Garfield Street. LollaPLUza starts at 11 a.m. with up-and-coming rock band New Faces followed by The Lonely Forest at 1 p.m. Blue Scholars plays at 3 p.m. and will round out the festival.

All day there will be exciting activities such as

a kissing booth filled with PLUtonic members, games with Relay for Life, flower planting with Grass Roots Environmental Action Now (GREAN) and much more.

And don't worry about going hungry while at the festival because vendors, such as Naked Juice, Dryers Ice Cream, Pepsi Co., Emerald City Smoothie and LollaPLUza sponsored Farrelli's are giving out free samples. Garfield Street businesses are also involved in the festival and will be offering discounted prices and specials for the day of the event. Rain or shine, the music and festivities will go on.

Senate News

General Elections for ASPLU senate will take place April 29 and 30. Vote for who you think would best represent you in ASPLU.

Vote at

www.plu.edu/aspluvote

The Mast Staff 2008-2009

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.

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

Editors-in-chief
 Alisyn Franetich
 Maren Anderson
 mast@plu.edu

News editor
 Kari Plog
 mastnews@plu.edu

Sports editor
 Collin Guildner
 mastsp@plu.edu

A&E editor
 Matt Click
 clickmt@plu.edu

International editor
 Nic Tkachuk
 tkachuhn@plu.edu

LuteLife editor
 Ted Charles
 charletp@plu.edu

Photo editor
 Daniel Ahrendt
 ahrendtd@plu.edu

Business & Ads manager
 Michael McNary
 mastads@plu.edu

Online editor
 Brendan Abshier
 abshieb@plu.edu

Copy editors
 Carrie Draeger
 draegecl@plu.edu
 Stacey Barber
 barbars@plu.edu
 Reno Sorensen
 sorensr@plu.edu

Op-Ed columnists
 Jessica Ritchie
 ntchjejr@plu.edu

Nate Hulings
 hulingna@plu.edu
Amanda Peterson
 petersae@plu.edu
Jono Cowgill
 cowgillj@plu.edu

A&E columnist
 Allen Schliebe
 schlieba@plu.edu
Jake K.M. Paikai
 paikajk@plu.edu

Sports columnist
 Tyler Scott
 scottt@plu.edu

Cartoonist
 Aubrey Lange
 langeam@plu.edu

Webmaster
 Brad Ballinger
 ballinbr@plu.edu

Reporters
 Ellen Kanuch
 Cale Zimmerman
 Kolby Harveyw
 Amanda Clancy
 Michael Martin
 Emily Hopper-
 Triechler
 Thomas Huffman
 Kaitlin Hansen
 Kate Miller
 Ashley LaMagna
 Ted Charles
 Lorna Rodriguez
 Carrie Draeger
 Ben Tully

Interns
 Hanna Gunderson
 Kelsey Larsen
 Jordan Beck
 Vivian Ngo
 Ben Lamb

House Illustrator
 Sam Glover

Photographer
 Ted Charles

Adviser
 Joanne M. Lisosky

Circulation
 Collin Guildner
 Ashley Coats

Cheating ourselves



embezzlement, evasion and obfuscation. But it's okay, everyone is doing it. For the sake of our country, our schools cannot allow rampant cheating to continue.

My proposed solution? Get tough. Zero tolerance policies at our universities provide a stark warning to any student who feels the urge to cheat. Let's introduce that rule at the high school level.

Instead of the harshest punishment being a zero on the assignment, let us make that the low bar. Suspension and expulsion should not be out of the question if students cheat habitually.

However, such a tough approach must be coupled with increased education and awareness about cheating and its damaging repercussions.

Across the curriculum, teachers need to start discussing ethics in classrooms by addressing the dangers of cheating. Educators must let students know that in the "real world," cheating on taxes or in business won't get you a zero, it'll get you jail time.

Parents, start becoming more involved in your students' academic lives. Many high school students may cheat because of the intense pressure they feel to get into good colleges. Help them with their applications and test preparations and do not be afraid to confront children whose grades are slipping.

As for students, I haven't forgotten about you: start valuing your own work and learn to accept the grades you earn.

I know cheating is easy and can lead to better grades. And it's true that some habits are hard to break.

But unlike some habits, a history of cheating can prevent students from attending college, or landing that dream job.

The cheating habit must be broken by collectively deciding to value ethics and integrity over dishonesty and apathy.

Let's not cheat our future just so we can get a better grade now. It's not worth it.

We all remember the kids who cheated in high school and the ingenious ways they got away with their acts.

The Pythagorean Theorem scribbled on the hand. A peek over another classmate's shoulder. And for the technologically savvy, the surreptitious use of calculators to solve all those impossible trigonometry problems.

However wrong or bad we thought those kids were, a new study from the Josephson Institute finds that 64 percent of high school students admit cheating on at least one test during the past year.

Before you conclude the news could not get any worse, consider more than 90 percent of the nearly 30,000 students surveyed reported being "satisfied" with their personal ethics.

America, we have a problem. Blame it on poor parenting, apathetic teachers or the pressures of getting good grades, but regardless, a major issue remains: these cheating students represent the future leaders of our nation, yet almost all of them see no problem peeking over shoulders or having answers written on their desk.

And how are we going to shake the familiar business model of stealing and manipulating when the same study found that one-third of our country's high school students admit swiping something from a store over the past year?

Students who cheat on exams and steal with no remorse could grow up to be CEOs who have no problem with

Tea Anyone?

Paul S. Edwards
MAST OP/ED COLUMNIST
paul.s.edwards@plu.edu

The PLU College Republicans should organize a Tea Party protest on campus.

April 15, tax day, thousands of ordinary citizens joined forces with the conservative movement to protest President Barack Obama's outrageous expansion of the size and scope of the federal government. Between 4,000 and 5,000 people descended on the Washington state capitol in Olympia, and crowds of both smaller and greater sizes did likewise in more than 500 cities nationwide, to make their voices heard.

This started out with only a handful of people, most prominently that of talk radio host Rush Limbaugh, who said of Obama, "I hope he fails."

First tepidly, then with increasing confidence, conservatives, disillusioned centrists and even some liberals joined the fray. By the time the deadline for filing tax returns was upon us, the Tax Day TEA (Taxed Enough Already) Party Movement had swelled to thousands.

Let us make one thing clear: Obama's administration has sought the most colossal, expensive and duplicitous expansion of federal power since the Great Depression. They promised to cut taxes on 95 percent of all U.S. citizens, but that if you earned \$250,000 per year or less, there would be no tax increase. So, how about all of you students who smoke? Have you noticed that the price of cigarettes has increased?

The Obama Administration also swore up and down that the bailout of automakers was not an underhanded attempt to take over the auto industry. But now that General Motors (or is it Government Motors?) is preparing for bankruptcy, the federal government has said that they would declare their \$15 billion stake as "equity" in the company, establishing them as permanent owners. This is worth protesting, especially when the opportunity exists to speak to many young students who will vote in the 2010 election.

Don't forget PLU conservatives, how regularly the dominant ideology on campus organized some form of demonstration in opposition to the values of our nation. Whether it was planting white ribbon memorials for all of those who died in the Iraq War or turning Obama into a celebrity centerfold, there was and will continue to be a direct assault against liberty and prosperity in a desperate attempt to preserve the Democrats' grip on power.

Remember how often the left picketed with signs slandering former President George W. Bush, called U.S. troops "baby-killers," and compared them to the Nazis. Now is the time for the College Republicans to raise awareness of this enormous threat to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

And, in the meantime, do your own Internet search and look up the Tea Party Movement. Events regularly occur in the greater Seattle-Tacoma area, and now is the time for our young, conservative generation to rise up and speak out to preserve our nation and our way of life.

Approaching the axis of indifference

Adam Cathcart
MAST FACULTY COLUMNIST
cathcaaj@plu.edu

Since the end of World War II, United States presidents, diplomats and military planners have had to face off with a North Korean regime resistant to the charms of the U.S. culture and the force of U.S. might. This past week, North Korea (formally known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or DPRK) fired a ballistic missile over Japan in spite of the manifest disapproval of virtually all the world community—with the exception of Iran. The test appeared to fail, with the Taepodong-2 missile unable to break into outer space.

For a new administration in Washington D.C. intent on opening channels of diplomatic dialogue, reducing burdens on the military and engaging in demonstrations of U.S. "soft power," North Korea presents an intractable dilemma. From the U.S. perspective, this is not a good time to be putting little (but dangerous) North Korea on the front burner of foreign policy, even within the east Asian region.

In spite of universal agreement to the bromide that the U.S.-China relationship is "the most important bilateral relationship of the 21 century," Obama has yet to appoint an ambassador to the People's Republic of China. South Korean public opinion toward the U.S. is still raw over economic issues such as beef imports and has longstanding reasons for not trusting any U.S. administration to take South Korean interests to heart.

Japan, the target of so many North Korean provocations, feels bullied and needs to have its voice heard in Washington D.C. Meanwhile, Obama needs to prevent Nancy Pelosi from running off to India with Tibet's Dalai Lama, maintain stability in the Taiwan Strait, and coordinate with China so we can keep borrowing money from its prodigious foreign reserves and prevent the next Great Depression.

Prior to Kim Jong Il's stroke last fall, it seemed that the table was being set for a grand reconciliation between North Korea and the United States. After years of internal struggle between hard-liners and engagement strategists, the U.S. chose engagement and gave North Korea an opportunity to host the New York Philharmonic in February 2008.

North Korea seemed to be interested in using its nuclear program as a radioactive entry card into bilateral discussions with the U.S., which would result in North Korea reducing its dependence on Chinese oil and food aid, guarantees of political stability, DPRK sovereignty, diplomatic recognition and the replacing of the armistice (the cease-fire which ended the Korean War), with some sort of mutual non-aggression treaty. Above all, the foremost goal of any action taken under Jong-Il seemed to be the enhancement of the wounded prestige of his regime and the prolongation of its life.

It seems that one function of the recent missile launch was to quell internal doubts in North Korea about the health of the leader, the ability of the Workers' Party and the Korean People's Army to engage in vigorous action, and to remind the people who is in charge. (The March 17 arrest and forthcoming trial of two U.S. journalists for trespassing illegally on North Korea's northern frontier with China fulfills the same purpose externally.) The missile launch has put North Korea back on the president's desk. Given the intensity of the current global whirlwind, one can only hope that Obama's Korea portfolio remains manageable.

Sidewalk Talk

How do you celebrate Earth Day?



By not buying bottled water, turning off the lights and thinking about ways to make the earth better.

Cyndi Ford
first-year



I don't.

Greg Fredlund
sophomore



I go out and plant a tree. I haven't done it yet, but I usually do at home.

Sean Andrascik
first-year



I take extra steps to recycle or pick up trash. It's a day to do something extra.

Cambra Isom
junior



I leave the lights and the water on and drive to school in my H2.

Jake Hinton
junior

Letters to the editor

PLU needs timely warnings of sexual assaults on campus

Let's face it. We live in a world where sexual assault and rape are prevalent in our society. Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (2009) said, "College age women are four times more likely to be sexually assaulted." Like all campuses in our nation, Pacific Lutheran University is not immune to these acts of violence. Federal law requires that universities receiving federal funds publically disclose incidents of crime on campus.

During the 2007-2008 academic year two sexual assaults were recorded. Unfortunately, that is a grossly misleading statistic that does not reflect the reality of rape and sexual assault perpetrated in our community. Furthermore, our campus community was not, and continues to not be readily informed of similar incidents.

When sexual assault cases hit the media, they are stories of sensational acts of rape, usually committed by a weapon-clad stranger. Without minimizing the severity of these attacks, in reality, 80 percent of sexual assaults are committed by someone that the victim already knows.

Though most stories of sexual violence do not make the headlines of The Mast, many of us are aware of their circumstances. Most of us have seen friends and strangers intoxicated at a party, too drunk to walk. You may have raised your eyebrows at a friend's overly "protective" partner, or felt pressured or taken aback yourself by an unexpected, unwanted advance. The reality is: we all may know a friend, classmate or co-worker here at PLU who has been affected by sexual assaults at PLU or at some point in his or her life.

Despite this fact, victims and those who care about them still exist in a "culture of silence" where these events go unrecognized or unreported. These stories should also be in the news. Acquaintance rapes need to

be taken seriously and elevated to the level of awareness and severity that we treat stranger rapes.

As students, we were not aware of the extent of victimization on our and other college campuses until interning with the Voices Against Violence (VAV) program and volunteering with the Sexual Assault

Peer Education Team (SAPET). It has been a bittersweet experience; though it has been shocking to understand what is happening amongst our peers, we are proud to lend a voice to this silent crime and dedicated to share our knowledge and experience with

80 percent of sexual assaults are committed by someone that the victim already knows

Skylar Cole & Melissa Koch

the PLU community.

Despite the VAV and SAPET programs' extensive programming and resources, sexual assaults are still rarely acknowledged at PLU. We acknowledge that sexual assault is a sensitive and uncomfortable issue. However, these attacks will persist and the VAV program will continually be challenged to encourage the community to take ownership of our problem, empower victims and hold perpetrators accountable if the PLU community is not informed of these incidents.

Therefore, we believe that PLU should be notified when an acquaintance rape is reported to campus authorities. Similar to the timely warnings sent via e-mail about physical assaults near campus, these reports maintain anonymity to avoid causing harm to the perpetrator or embarrassment to the victim while raising awareness to the danger. The point is not to name names, but to highlight the prevalence of these incidences on our campus. We want to reverse the stigma of sexual assault being a silent issue and make it loud and bold. We want to empower victims to have the courage to report and fight for their rights to be freed from victimization. We want to make it clear to

perpetrators that our community acknowledges and will not tolerate their actions. We want to know.

Now, we want to know how you feel about it. Find us tomorrow at LollaPLUza on Garfield Street from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or in the University Center during lunch time all next week to have your voice heard by the Women's Center and administrators on this important issue.

Melissa Koch
VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE
SOCIAL WORK INTERN

Skylar Cole
SEXUAL ASSAULT PEER EDUCATION TEAM MEMBER
sapet@plu.edu

If you or someone you know have been sexually assaulted

visit www.plu.edu/~voices

contact Jennifer Warwick
Voices Against Violence
Program Coordinator

253-538-6303
warwicjl@plu.edu

Have an opinion?

Send a letter to the editor

mast@plu.edu

Graffiti threatens drag show, PLU responds

Dear editors-in-chief of the Mast,

We are writing you today with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. As the Pacific Lutheran University community was made aware last Friday, the words "I am going to kill tonight someone is going to Die tonight" were scrawled near the entrance of The Cave. Although the threat was not specifically targeted toward Harmony, but because of this threatening speech, the semi-annual drag show "April Showers" was moved from its normal venue of The Cave to the Regency Room. Despite the upset, despite the change of scenery, despite the technical issues—so many people pulled together to make our show happen. From top-level administrators to student workers, we wanted to express to our whole community our gratefulness and our love.

One of the queens, a professional social worker, remarked that there is no community like PLU, and we agree. We are floored that, we as a community, even when times could have turned dark, came together to raise \$632 for the Rainbow Center of Pierce County. While it is important to be entertained, students, faculty and staff of PLU understand that what we do as drag performers surpasses entertainment. By

helping in big and small ways, all of you were social activists that night—all of you were partners in the struggle for equality and social change.

To the staff of Student Involvement and Leadership who watched over us, made sure we were taken care of; to the kings and queens who performed, despite the danger; to the police officer who stood outside of the regency room, making sure no harm came our way; to the Campus Safety officers who gave escorts to our performers and guests while in the University Center; and to all of the anonymous faces who gave above and beyond expectations—our success is your success, our triumph is your triumph. Continue to do fabulous things PLU. We now know that you have got it in you.

Fabulously Yours,

Cate "Gunner" Erin
Dmitry "Domi D'Amour"
Mikheyev
Jake "Coco Puff" Paikai
CO-LEADERS OF HARMONY
harmony@plu.edu

Lockdown not an overzealous reaction for keeping students safe

I am writing in response to the article last week regarding the lock down of campus. The tone of the article suggests that PLU and Campus Safety overreacted to the circumstances that drove the decision to initiate a lock down of campus. I disagree.

The reality is that Campus Safety received a report from the Pierce County Sheriff Department (PCSD) that a shooting had taken place near campus and the suspect may be headed towards campus. That presented a potential threat to the PLU community, so the decision was made to carry out a lock down of campus as a preventative security measure.

Within 30 minutes of the initial report to Campus Safety, they were notified by PCSD that there did not appear to be a threat to PLU, the lock down was reversed, and the campus began returning to normal operations.

Had the "bad guy" turned out to be a "real" threat, The Mast article probably would not have cast doubt on Campus Safety's decision. In fact, had this situation caused real harm to the PLU community, PLU would have been expected to carry out a lock down.

The thing is that by the time we know whether there is a real threat, it may often be too late, so

responding swiftly as a precaution is the best action that PLU can take to reduce the potential of danger for the PLU community.

For more information about PLU emergency procedures, please see the emergency preparedness website, www.plu.edu/emergency or contact me at 253.538.6042.

Jennifer Wamboldt
EMERGENCY PROGRAMS
MANAGER
wamboljm@plu.edu

For more information on
PLU's emergency procedures
visit
<http://www.plu.edu/emergency>

Lutes SPORTS SCHEDULE

Crew

PLU hosts Meyer/Lamberth Cup, Saturday, April 25, 9:15 a.m. American Lake

Track and Field

PLU at Northwest Conference Championships April 24-25, Forest Grove, Ore.

Baseball

UPS at PLU: Saturday, April 25, noon
UPS at PLU: Sunday, April 26, noon

Softball

UPS at PLU: Saturday, April 25, noon
PLU at UPS: Sunday, April 26, noon

Golf:

UPS at Northwest Conference Championships: Saturday, April 24, 1 p.m. Men: Blue River, Ore. Women: Yakima, Wash.

Lutes punish lowly Missionaries

Northwest Conference title still a possibility for PLU baseball

Carrie Draeger
MAST COPY EDITOR
draegecl@plu.edu

Pacific Lutheran University's men's baseball team hit its way into second place in the Northwest Conference this weekend with a series sweep of Whitman.

The Lutes beat the Missionaries 17-4, 16-6, 29-14 and 8-3.

"We didn't play our best baseball," said senior first baseman Jordan Post. "[But] we'll gladly take the four wins."

The Lutes committed 11 errors on the weekend and Lute pitchers issued 14 walks and hit three batsmen.

"We are capable of playing a lot better," Post said.

Head Coach Geoff Loomis said that despite the errors, it was a good weekend for the Lutes.

"We won all four games at the opponent's field,

which is never easy to do," Loomis said.

On Sunday, the Lutes rolled back-to-back ten-run victories led by the three-hit performances of Post, senior Matt Akridge, sophomore Ryan Aratani and senior Kris Hansen in the first game.

In the second game, PLU capitalized on 15 walks from Whitman pitchers and the six solid innings of starting pitcher senior Trey Watt.

The Lute's third baseman junior Ben Shively had two RBIs on the day to give him 44 on the season, which passes the PLU single-season record set by David Fox in the 2006 season at 43.

Loomis is not surprised by Shively's achievement, who hits in the nine-hole for the Lutes.

"We have several guys on the verge of breaking individual and career records this year," Loomis said.

The Lutes have already set team single-season records in the categories of runs scored (370), RBIs (338) and home runs (38).

"We have a very balanced lineup, which has been why it has been difficult for teams to contain our run output," Loomis said.

That balanced line up destroyed the Missionaries in two games Saturday.

Shively finished the second game 6-for-7 with five runs scored and nine RBIs.

In the day game sophomore starter Scott Wall threw six strong innings to get the win.

Shively and Akridge both had three runs and two RBIs while sophomore Josh Takayoshi chipped in two hits.

The four wins gave the Lutes a 23-5 conference record, boosting them into second place over the Linfield Wildcats (21-7). PLU is just one game back in the win and loss column of conference leading George Fox (24-4).

The Wildcats and the Bruins face off this weekend in a four-game series that will most likely decide what team will win the Northwest Crown, while the Lutes host cross-town rival University of Puget Sound.

"We'd love Linfield to beat George Fox four times," Post said. "[But] we've just have to take care of ourselves."

If the Lutes beat the Loggers four times, the Wildcats will need to beat the Bruins at least twice for the Lutes to win the conference.

Post said he is confident that the Lutes will defeat the Loggers four times this weekend.

"These guys [UPS] are playing well," Post said.

The two teams square up at noon Saturday and Sunday at PLU.



Post



411 Garfield Street
Open 7 Days a Week
11 a.m. - 11 p.m.
We do takeout

PLU Student and Faculty:
15% Off entire bill anytime with
this coupon

Reyna's Mexican Restaurant

Interested in...

Writing?
Editing?
Photography?
Design?
Business?
Sales?
Learning?

Apply to be on staff at
The Mast
2009-2010

Look for details in next week's issue

Love Carefully



Annual check-ups, birth control, emergency contraception, early abortion, HPV vaccine, testing for pregnancy and STIs, education and treatment.

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest
www.ppgnw.org
800.230.PLAN

In Tacoma, on the north side of MLKing JR. Way between S. 8th and S. 9th Streets.

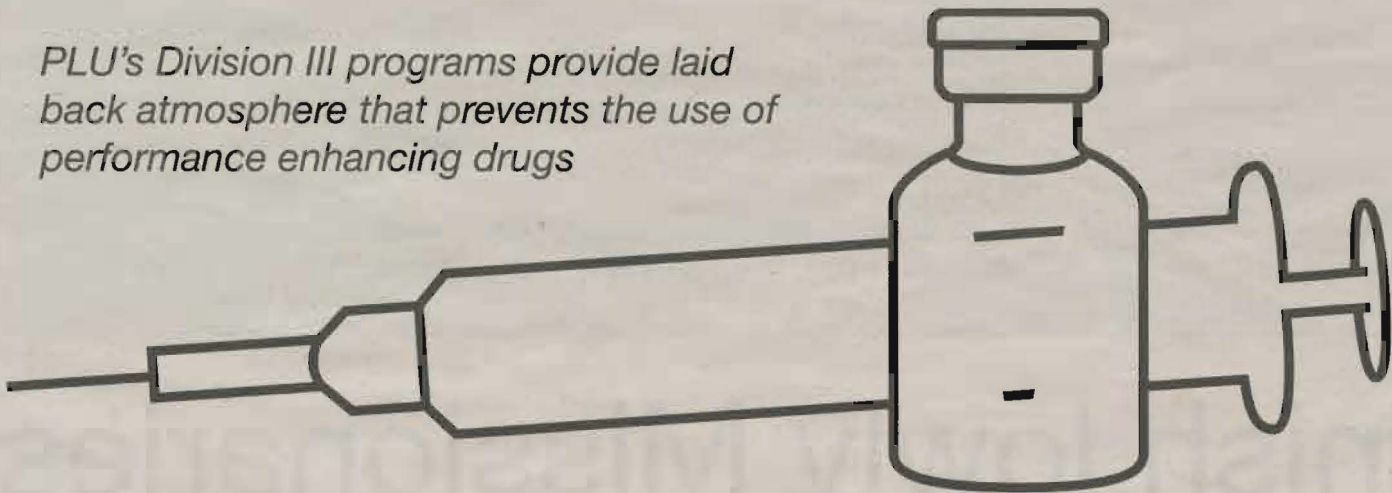


Ask if you qualify for reduced fee services. We'll bill most major insurance companies.

Planned Parenthood is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. © 2009 Planned Parenthood of Western Washington

No pressure, no steroids

PLU's Division III programs provide laid back atmosphere that prevents the use of performance enhancing drugs



PLU Sports Column



Tyler
Scott

scottt@plu.edu

In a society that praises measurable success and idolizes star athletes, the pressure to use performance-enhancing drugs can be unbearable. It should come as no surprise that athletes in various sports have succumbed to the demands to excel and as a result turn toward artificial enhancement.

But we're different; it will never happen to us.

In the comfort of the Lutedome, seemingly insulated from the dangers of the world around us, do we have the same emphasis on achievement in the arena of competitive sports as the outside world? Are we innocent to the juiced-up ways of the outside world? Or, are we merely naively turning our back to potential problems in our own backyard?

Pacific Lutheran's head athletic trainer Gary Nicholson said that the key to the issue of artificial enhancement in sports is pressure. With each progressive level

of competition the push is to continually move up to the next step.

Nicholson said that this type of pressure is not an issue at Pacific Lutheran University.

"We don't have that desire for athletes to be bigger, better, stronger to get to the pros," Nicholson said.

In a Division III environment, PLU does not have the luxury of athletic scholarships. The appeal to students in the recruiting process relies exclusively on the university itself. Academics, community atmosphere, athletic facilities and coaching staffs serve as the pull for student-athletes.

Because of the small-school environment and level of competition, very few athletes move on to the proverbial "next level" after leaving PLU. Athletes who don the black and gold in competition do so out of a love for the sport and a desire to compete.

"It's not something I worry about," Nicholson said about PLU athletes using performance-enhancing drugs. "There's not that pressure to make it to that upper level."

As a tool of comparison, Nicholson related the difference between the atmosphere at PLU and that at a Division I school or even the professional ranks. At the D-I level, almost every athlete

believes he or she can make it to the next level and play professionally. Perhaps a syringe of steroids can bridge the gap between collegiate stud and multi-million dollar professional superstar.

Athletic Director Laurie Turner credited the coaching staffs and the PLU mission statement with creating a positive environment for fair competition. She explained that there is too much at risk for too little reward at this level for athletes or coaches to engage in the use of banned substances.

"It is such a taboo in our profession," Turner said. "I don't see that as being an issue with our coaches and our mission statement."

Since Division III schools do not utilize athletics as big-time financial resources for the university, little money can be spared for testing programs at each individual institution. The NCAA tests randomly at the national level only. Turner states that the NCAA recently conducted a pilot program study of Division III schools to determine if more testing was needed.

Turner explained that the study discovered that most failed tests came as a result of either supplements that contained a banned substance the player was unaware of or the use of street drugs. A positive test for steroids nets an athlete

a one-year ban with a zero-tolerance policy.

Nicholson echoed the results of the test in saying that the only legitimate drug issue he has encountered at PLU comes in the use of street drugs or alcohol. Athletes sign substance abuse forms, but drugs and alcohol can still present a problem at the small college level of competition.

After working at PLU for more than 35 years, Nicholson has witnessed the progression of drug use in athletics. Perhaps 20 years ago, athletes would occasionally return much bigger and stronger after working out over the summer, but as the rigors of the season wore on they would work their way back to a normal physique.

More recently, Nicholson says there has not been anyone suspected of using any sort of performance-enhancing drugs. If there ever was, the athlete would be referred to the team doctor and the doctor and athletic director would determine whether an individual test would be necessary.

From both perspectives, the pressure simply does not exist for athletes at this university to use banned substances. A visit to virtually any PLU team's practice reveals a laid-back atmosphere and a departure from the stereotypical Division I demand to succeed-or-else.

Perhaps someday an injured football player will turn to steroids on his own in a quest to get back on the field. By all accounts, this will not be encouraged or even tolerated by the coaching staffs or athletic department.

PLU is by no means a safe haven from all the dangers of the world. However, by most accounts it is immune to the pressures of higher-level athletic competition. Student-athletes at PLU are just that: students who love to compete in athletics.

So while we cannot say that it will *never* happen to us, we *are* different, which is just another reason why PLU athletics are so refreshing to sports fans who have been disillusioned by dishonesty and cheating in the world of sports.

The Matrix

is looking for submissions
for our final issue of the year on...

Culture & Identity

Everyone has a voice, an experience, a piece of the conversation

Anything Qualifies

Submissions due by May 8th

Send submissions and Questions to:

Matrix@plu.edu

Lutes take second

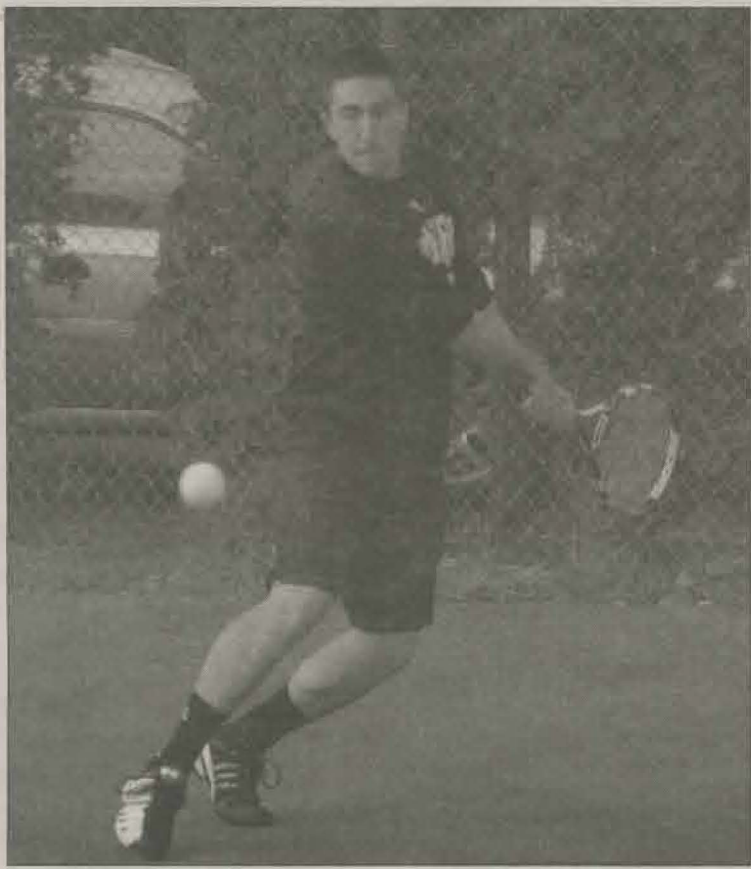


Photo by Collin Guildner

Junior Kevin Floyd prepares to hit a backhand shot during a match this season for the Lutes. PLU will complete its season this weekend in Ojai, Calif.

There were several similarities this year to a match two years ago when PLU pulled a huge upset against Whitman. Just like 2007, the Lutes got off to a bit of a slow start. The Lutes had the dominant No. 1 player in junior Joel Trudel like the team had in its conference championships in years past. PLU also lost its two previous meetings to Whitman, like in 2007. However, that still did not equate to the elusive Northwest Conference Championship as the Lutes fell to Whitman 7-2.

"I believed we had a shot going into this weekend, but they've just flat out had our number the last two years," junior Justin Peterson said.

PLU's season as a team is now over. However, some of the higher seeded players still get the opportunity to go to nationals. The Lutes top four players - junior Joel Trudel, junior Michael Manser, junior Kevin Floyd and senior Jamie Crosetto will fly down to southern California for the Ojai Invitational. Joining the singles players will be the top two doubles teams. No. 1 doubles is made up of Trudel and Peterson and the No. 2 team is Manser and first-year Zach Ah Yat.

"After conference, we came home and blew off a little steam from the Whitman loss," Floyd said. "Now we are prepared for this final tournament of the season."

The consistency of the Idaho transfer Trudel did not go unnoticed this year in the conference. In the No. 1 match with Whitman, both players came into the match undefeated as Whitman's No. 1 sat out both previous meetings with the Lutes. The two were virtually playing for the title of conference player of the year. Trudel's winning streak stayed in tact as he won straight sets and captured the 2009 Northwest Conference Player of the Year.

conference final of PLU and Whitman has been a familiar one over the last several years.

Before getting a shot at the Whitman Missionaries, the Lutes had to get through Linfield in a semifinal match. PLU split its season series with Linfield so the Wildcats could not be taken lightly. The Lutes held off Linfield and took care of business 6-2. The win set up the recent annual tradition of a Lute vs. Missionary Northwest Conference Tournament.

Whitman proves too much for Lutes in conference championship

Cale Zimmerman
MAST SPORTS REPORTER
zimmerman@plu.edu

The Pacific Lutheran University men's tennis team had its conference tournament last weekend in Yakima, Wash. The top six teams get an invitation to the playoff, with the top two seeds getting a bye. It was the top two seeds that met each other in the finals. The

Bustin out the bats

PLU softball wins four games over George Fox, Pacific

Brendan Abshier
MAST ONLINE EDITOR
abshieb@plu.edu

Pacific Lutheran University knocked four wins back into its record after sweeping George Fox Saturday and Pacific Sunday gathering 43 total runs.

"I think our offense was definitely way better than normal this weekend," first-year Stacey Hagensen said.

The Lutes ended the game early because of the eight-run mercy rule with the help of two errors leading to seven unearned PLU runs in the fifth.

Wheeler allowed only one unearned run on two hits in the first game while walking one and striking out two.

Game two of the series ended in five innings as well after PLU put up 12 more runs against the Bruins.

"If we play well we can win games," Hagensen said, "It was a good confidence builder to get our moral back up as a team."

PLU jumped to an early lead by scoring four runs in the first and second innings each along with two more in the third.

Hagensen went 3 for 3, including two RBIs while Brown and junior Shelby Johnston each ripped two RBIs of their own.

The Lutes collected 12 hits total in the nightcap.

Hagensen gave up one unearned run on six hits while walking none and fanning two.

PLU brought its bats for more smashing action Sunday defeating Lewis & Clark 10-0 and 11.

Wheeler threw her second complete game in a row after allowing only one hit.

PLU followed its weekend trend by spotting five runs on the score board in the first two innings. The team scored four more times in the sixth with help from a Hagensen homerun to end the game early.

The Lutes drilled 15 hits in the second game, including three by Brown and junior Vanessa Bryant and two each by Hagensen, Liebe and senior Missy Waldron.

Hagensen gained another win after allowing three earned runs on 10 hits while walking two and striking out two. She also slugged her second homer of the day in the fifth inning.

"It's easier throwing when you have a five or six run lead," Hagensen said. "You can be relaxed and there's not as much pressure."

PLU closes the season out next weekend with a four game series against Puget Sound. The Lutes host the Loggers Saturday at noon and then head to the Loggers' home field for Sunday's twinbill at noon.

"Anything less than winning all four this weekend will be disappointing," Hagensen said.

ASPLU PRESENTS:
LOLLA-PLU-ZA
april 25
11AM - 5PM
GARFIELD ST.

FEATURING:
Blue Scholars

SPONSORED BY: asplu FARRETT'S

PLU crew hits rough waters



Photo by Ted Charles

The PLU men's eight man boat competes in the NCRC Championships in Lake Stevens, Wash. Saturday. The competition included teams from Western Washington University, University of Puget Sound, Willamette, Humboldt State, Seattle Pacific, and Lewis & Clark. In the men's competition, the Lutes were not able to compile any points and therefore finished last in the combined team score. The PLU women took sixth out of seven teams at the event. The winner of the event on the women's side was NCAA Division II powerhouse Western Washington. Seniors Amber Iverson and Kat Jenkins came into the event as defending champions in the women's pair event, but were unable to take the title for the second year in a row, losing to the Lewis & Clark Pioneers. PLU will row against UPS in the annual Meyer Lamberth Cup on this Saturday at American Lake. The Lutes will then conclude their season during the first weekend in May at the WIRA Championships in Sacramento, Calif.

See more Crew pgs. 8-9

Runaway Lutes

PLU uses home track to prepare for Northwest Conference championships

Amanda Clancy
MAST SPORTS EDITOR
clancyag@plu.edu

Over half of Pacific Lutheran University athletes qualified for Northwest Conference Championships to be held this Friday and Saturday.

Pacific Lutheran's men's and women's track team dominated the competition in the Lute's last home meet this weekend.

On the men's side sophomore Isaac Moog placed first in the 400-meter run, second in the long jump and third in the 200-meter run. Following Moog in the 400-meter run were PLU runners Nick Toves and first-year Barrett Bollen for second and third.

PLU also dominated the men's 800-meter run with first-year Colin Alexander taking second, first-year Orion Bras third, first-year Sean Andrascik fourth and sophomore John Phillips sixth. Additionally, the men's team placed first through fourth in the 400-meter hurdles led by senior Luke Weinbrecht.

Sophomore Connor McNeill placed

third in the hammer, but earned a provisional mark for Nationals in the past meet. Last year was McNeill's first year throwing and wasn't too surprised about his qualification.

"It's been a long process all year and I've worked hard; it just takes time," McNeill said.

PLU relay teams did exceptionally well with both men and women snatching first place in the 400-meter relay. The men also received first and second for their 'A' and 'B' team in the 1,600-meter relay.

Senior Amy Lebrun took the 100-meter run and finished second in the 200-meter run and ran the anchor leg of the Lutes 400-meter relay winning team. Other members of the relay team were first-year Chelsea Putnam, senior Faven Araya and sophomore Lokia Arceneaux. Putnam will be competing at the conference meet in the long jump and Arceneaux in the triple jump.

The meet was the last chance for athletes to qualify for Northwest Conference Championships. Overall, 16 women and 18 men of PLU's track and field team will be preparing for this weekend's meet while the rest are done

for the season.

"There are a few of us seniors who have been here all four years and it's our last chance to leave our mark at PLU," senior Lexie Miller said.

Miller already qualified in an earlier meet for all three of her events: the 3,000-meter steeplechase, the 5,000-meter run and the 400-meter hurdles. Her top event is the steeplechase in which Miller is ranked fourth in the Northwest conference.

Many athletes previously qualified and used this past meet as practice.

"It was more of a speed workout for me and helped give me more confidence," transfer sophomore John Phillips said.

Phillips will be competing at conference in the 1,500-meter run and

has a goal of making the provisional mark for nationals.

Araya and Miller are two of the few women's competitors who have already qualified for nationals in the 400-meter hurdles along with senior Taylor Hacker. Hacker has nothing to worry about as a national qualifier in the hammer. This will be both Araya's and Hacker's third trip to nationals.

"Qualifying early takes a lot of pressure off and you focus on the very end, toward nationals," Hacker said.

Pacific University will host the Conference Championships in Forest Grove, Ore. this Friday and Saturday. After the conference meet, athletes will have two more opportunities to qualify for NCAA Nationals in Marietta, Ohio.



Photo by Ted Charles

Sophomore Isaac Moog does the long jump during the PLU Open this season. The Lute track and field team competed in its second home meet of the season Saturday, hosting the PLU Invitational.

Uni Teriyaki
No MSG!
Unlimited Rice!
when dining in
Open 11 - 9 p.m.
Mon - Sat
Order to Go:
253.539.5000
10% off with this coupon!