

THE MAST

Pacific Lutheran University



SANTA SURPRISE
STUDENT SUBMITTED
COMIC IDEAS COME TO
LIFE
PAGE 4

LUTE SHOOT OUT
PLU HOSTS LUTHERAN
INVITATIONAL
PAGE 12



DECEMBER 5, 2008

www.plu.edu/~mast

VOLUME LXXXIX NO. 11



Photo by Ted Charles

Sophomore Erika Meyer admires one of the many decorative stars on the Red Square Christmas tree. The tree was part of the annual tradition Wednesday, when Campus Ministry hosted the Red Square Lighting Ceremony. The tree was illuminated, along with the rose window, the garland hanging from Eastvold Chapel, and the cross in front of the U.C.

Lighting up PLU

An 11-year tradition continues in Red Square

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President Loren Anderson once again lit up the Christmas decorations in Pacific Lutheran University's Red Square Wednesday, Dec. 3. An 11-year tradition, "Light Up Red Square," has become an event in which students, faculty and staff alike participate.

"I am a Christmas junkie, and I like everything about Christmas, especially the lights," President Anderson said.

Adorning Eastvold Chapel is a garland and a wreath. Across the chapel sits the Christmas tree—which is 10 feet taller than last year—as well as the star on the top of Harstad Hall. A cross between the UC and Red Square

illuminates the night.

All the decor were illuminated, along with a 1,000 watt bulb shining through the Rosette in Eastvold and floodlights up-lighting the trees surrounding Red Square.

The Christmas tree, donated for the eighth year by alumnus David Pile, is trimmed with 156 golden stars.

These stars are inscribed with the names of the deceased who were near and dear to the PLU community. The idea, started by the Rev. Nancy Connor, raised money to benefit two charities: Compass Center and Miracle Ranch Children's Home.

PLU alumna Pastor Kristy Daniels runs the church program of the Compass Center in Seattle. The Compass Center is a homeless shelter, and the donations will go towards socks for its residents.

Miracle Ranch Children's Home is an orphanage located in Tecate, Mexico and will also be receiving socks.

The festivities included the decorations, carolers, free cookies and apple cider.

The tradition originally started to spruce up Red Square for the Christmas concerts held in Eastvold Auditorium.

"It has become such a part of the PLU November-December tradition that students actually look forward to it," the Rev. Dennis Sepper said.

The tradition needed to be maintained, regardless of whether the concert was in Eastvold Auditorium or not.

Campus Ministry Program Specialist Kyle Franklin said that the ceremony "brings a spirit of Christmas and the holidays that you don't get as a college student."

'Le livre est complet'

Professor publishes book on French feminism

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Professor Rebecca Wilkin, assistant professor of French in PLU's Department of Languages and Literature, published a new book at the beginning of November.

This book, entitled "Women, Imagination and the Search for Truth in Early Modern France" explores the legacy of Cartesianism for women, reevaluating prior held notions concerning women's roles in rational thought, skepticism and the quest for truth. Wilkin's book traces two main strands of thought, namely the strands of skepticism and rationalism, focusing on how these strands related to woman and feminism during the time of the Renaissance.

The book and its subject matter stemmed from a previous study Wilkin's found she wanted to complete.

"I wrote my dissertation on the history of ideas and imaginations concerning women," Wilkin said.

But she soon realized that there were more inherent ideas within her dissertation that needed exploration.

"The route of the book is my own dissatisfaction with my dissertation," Wilkin said. "It's about the payoffs of close reading. It's not just about a better understanding of text but about being strategic in finding support of an ethical stance, such as feminism."

Wilkin's book is a great opportunity for scholars of all sorts to explore the ideas of Cartesianism in respect to feminism. It offers an in depth look at the writings of previous authors, approaching their works from a new, fresh perspective.

"Feminist philosophers, and I include students as well as professors, would be interested in my book," Wilkin said.

Because of her book's subject matter, it is likely to interest a far wider range of scholars as well. Anyone from French scholars to scholars interested in topics such as torture and witchcraft would find it significant.

"I was really very lucky," Wilkin said, whose book was immediately accepted for publication after her publisher had reviewed only the first chapter. "It is easier to write with encouragement than with fear."

Wilkin loves receiving feedback on her writing. Her book will soon be available in libraries throughout the country.

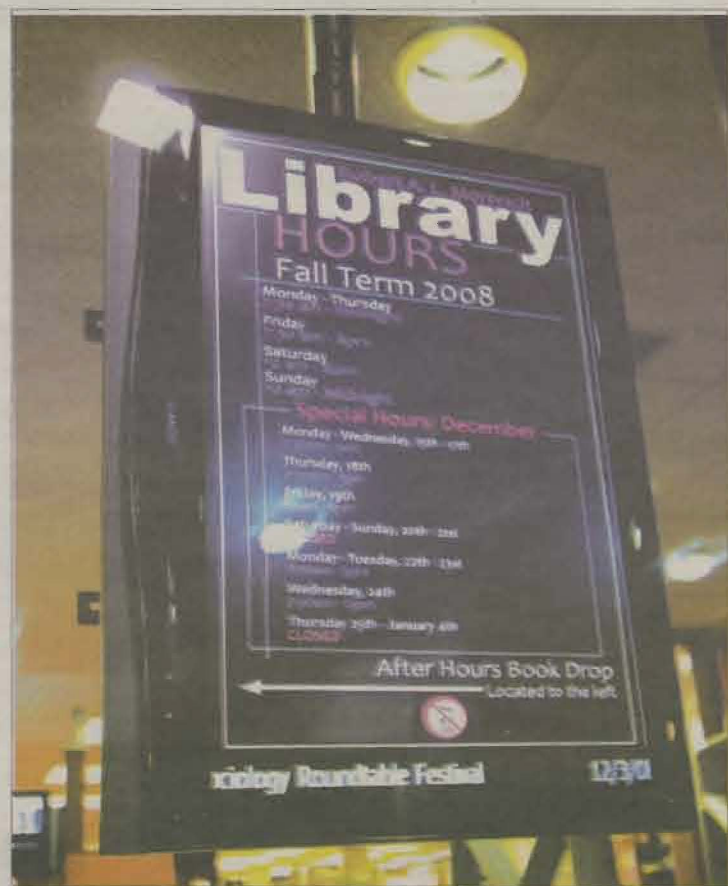


Photo by Ted Charles

One of two new digital screens displayed at the front entry doors of the Mortvendt Library. The library purchased these screens to inform students about hours and events occurring in the library. Story on page 3.

STATE, NATION and WORLD BRIEFINGS

Local to Global

Mumbai gunman promised cash for family



AP Photo by Ajay Shah

An unidentified wailing relative, center, of Sandeep Unnikrishnan, a National Security Guards officer, who died fighting gunmen inside the landmark Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai, is being consoled by others during his funeral in Bangalore, India, Saturday, Nov. 29. Indian commandos killed the last remaining gunman holed up at the luxury Mumbai hotel Saturday, ending a 60-hour rampage through India's financial capital by suspected Islamic militants that rocked the nation.

Ramola Talwar Badam
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MUMBAI, India (AP) — The only gunman captured during the terror attack on Mumbai says he was promised that his impoverished family would get \$1,250 if he died fighting for militant Islam, security officials said Wednesday.

The captive, 21-year-old Ajmal Amir Kasab, is from Faridkot village in the Punjab region of Pakistan, according to the two Indian officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss details gleaned during a week of interrogation.

Kasab was arrested hours after the three-day rampage began the night of Nov. 26. Photographs of the young man walking calmly through Mumbai's main train station — assault rifle in hand — have made him a symbol of the attacks that killed 171 people, including 26 foreigners.

India has blamed the banned Pakistan-based extremist group Lashkar-e-Taiba for the carnage. But in an interview on CNN's "Larry King Live," Pakistan's president, Asif Ali Zardari, expressed skepticism that the man in custody is a Pakistani citizen.

According to the Indian security officials, Kasab was a day laborer, like one of his brothers, before joining

Lashkar. He recounted being told that if he was "shaheed" — or "martyred" — his family would receive 100,000 Pakistani rupees, or about \$1,250, they said.

Kasab said that he and the nine gunmen killed during the attack were hand-picked for the Mumbai rampage after intensive Lashkar training, the officials said.

He told police that after landing by boat in Mumbai, the attackers split into two-man teams. Kasab and another gunman, Ismail Khan, took a taxi from the waterfront to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, where they killed 54 people before fleeing. They planted a bomb under the driver's seat of their taxi that exploded later, apparently so it would divert police during the attacks.

Kasab also said the team brought in bombs to be placed outside the entrances of the two luxury hotels that were attacked — timed to explode four hours and 57 minutes after they were set — and were intended to kill the police that the militants believed would surround the buildings.

Two bombs outside the Taj Mahal hotel were defused by police. A third bomb, at the Oberoi hotel, was set off by police in a controlled explosion.

Kasab also said the gunmen took amphetamines to stay alert during the attacks, the security officials said.

Estranged relative charged in Hudson family deaths

AP News Now
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO (AP) — Jennifer Hudson's estranged brother-in-law has been charged with three counts of first-degree murder in the shooting deaths of three family members.

Cook County state's attorney's office spokeswoman Tandra Simonton says prosecutors handed down formal charges against William Balfour on Tuesday in the deaths of Hudson's mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew.

Balfour had been in custody

on a parole violation since the bodies of Hudson's mother, Darnell Hudson Donerson, and brother, Jason Hudson, were discovered in their home Oct. 24.

Seven-year-old Julian King's body was found in a sport utility vehicle three days later.

All three had been shot to death.

Police took Balfour into custody the same day the adults' bodies were found. After 48 hours he was taken to prison on a parole violation. Police arrested him on a warrant in the deaths Monday.

Weather woman to award winner

KCNS News Producer Andriana Fletcher receives broadcast award

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Sophomore KCNS News Producer Andriana Fletcher said she had no intention of becoming a communication major when she entered Pacific Lutheran University in the fall of 2007. Now, a little more than a year later she is the recipient of a Broadcast Education Association Scholarship. She was awarded the Harold E. Fellows Scholarship for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Fletcher discovered she wanted to be a communication major after taking Professor Joanne Lisosky's "Media in the World" class and volunteering at PLU's student-run news television station, KCNS.

At KCNS she started out as a weather person and discovered she loved being in front of the camera.

"Seeing how everything worked and how it came together was very exciting," Fletcher said.

She has since moved up

from her position as a weather person to KCNS producer. She applied to the position and was appointed by the general manager Ryan Ceresola. Her job requires her to direct, write news stories, assign stories, come up with story ideas, run behind the scenes equipment and make sure everything runs smoothly.

"The best part about the job is just being a part of the news, reporting it and telling people what is going on," Fletcher said.

It was Lisosky who informed Fletcher of the BEA Scholarship.

"She told me about it Oct. 6 and I had to turn it in by Oct. 10," Fletcher said. "I had to include a copy of my transcript, three letters of recommendation, tell about media experience I had and write about my plans for the future were."

The time crunch obviously didn't take away from Fletcher's application, because she was one of only four students chosen nationwide to receive this award.

"It is an honor to be selected as



Fletcher

one of those students: I am very excited to have been awarded this scholarship since it gives PLU recognition as well," Fletcher said.

Fletcher will be representing PLU student media at the 2009 BEA Convention, which will take place April 22-25 in Las Vegas, Nev., where she will also receive her award.

"I like writing news stories but I really would like to be a reporter or anchor," Fletcher said.

Considering how talented and hardworking Fletcher has already proven herself to be, this seems like a realistic possibility.

Memoirs of a turkey

Students and staff reminisce about Thanksgiving on campus

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Most Pacific Lutheran University students were at home relaxing and enjoying time with their families this Thanksgiving. But back on campus the Dining and Culinary Services staff, along with some administrative and faculty volunteers, were hard at work making a special Thanksgiving for those who couldn't make it home for the holiday.

Director of Dining and Culinary Services Erin McGinnis said she enjoyed planning this dinner. "It's just me at home and I love to cook for Thanksgiving," McGinnis said. "So, I wanted a way to bring Thanksgiving to everyone [who was] left on campus."

With our struggling economy, and so many people looking for things to be thankful for, staff members wanted to create a nice place for students to celebrate with friends and eat a

traditional Thanksgiving meal.

Dining and Culinary Services other reasoning for holding the dinner seems to fit right into the PLU attitude of being a global citizen.

"This is a fun way to share a tradition with other cultures," McGinnis said.

The international student population at PLU especially needed a place to spend the holiday. Turkey, ham and all the trimmings were served up on linens and china in the U.C. from (FIND OUT TIME) on Thanksgiving evening.

The U.C. looked colorfully festive. Gathered around the tables, 30-40 students from the Scandinavian countries, Trinidad and Tobago and China came to celebrate this U.S. tradition.

"Turkey was delicious and university staff was so nice. The atmosphere was warm that gave me a feeling that I came back home," Chinese student Jie Wang said. "My friends and I are really appreciated PLU have us such a chance to experience traditional American thanksgiving dinner."

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Theater showcases award-winning show

Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize winning show "Skin of Our Teeth" to be performed

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Next week the PLU Theater department will present Thornton Wilder's 1943 Pulitzer Prize winning play the "Skin of Our Teeth." The show follows the tribulations of the Antrobus family, a typical U.S. family surviving and dealing with the events during and following the apocalypse. The play is an absurdist style comedy.

"The show is about their survival paralleling the survival of the human race," the director of the play Kristina Corbitt said.

Corbitt said that she was drawn to the script after seeing a production of the show at the Intiman Theatre in Seattle. She said she was initially skeptical of whether the show could be done at PLU. When another student who saw the show suggested PLU should perform a show like "Skin of Our Teeth" Corbitt's initial response was "Could we do this at PLU? I think trying to get the set together would make our heads explode."

"I'm known for doing the impossible and taking on a challenge," Corbitt said. "The challenge of the technical side of things really appealed to me."

The challenge was the show required massive technical elements necessary to make the show work. The front door

needs to be flown in, the set needs to be broken apart and fall into pieces, complex lighting effects, realistic thunder and lightning on stage and puppets makes "Skin of our Teeth" a very technically difficult show.

"In our production meetings, which we've been having for a couple of months now, I've started out by saying 'I'm going to be asking for a lot,'" Corbitt said. "Thank god that theater is a collaborative process. The people that I have with me are making this possible"

All this has been made possible despite the incredibly short gestation period for a show of its size - a cast of 20 rehearsing for roughly four weeks.

"I've tried to keep this process well managed and keeping a smart timeline," Corbitt said. She described the process as "fun and challenging."

When asked why people should come see "Skin of Our Teeth" Corbitt simply responds, "It's an adventure you will never forget. It'll make you laugh and maybe even cry a little bit."

Performance dates for the show are Dec. 11, 12, 13 at 8 p.m. with a matinee on Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. Also, there will be a preview showing on Dec. 10 for \$2. Tickets are \$7 for general admission and \$4 for PLU students and faculty. Tickets are available at the door, or can be reserved at the campus concierge.

AIDS awareness campaign: PLU honors the 20th annual World AIDS Day, taking part in ending the epidemic

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Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise. Monday, Dec. 1, marked the 20th annual World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day was founded in 1988 by The Foundation for AIDS Research (FAR), which has spent the last 20 years trying to end the world wide AIDS epidemic.

This year the campaign, themed "leadership," was bigger than ever. The idea was to get the message out to the leaders of the world and to make them see that AIDS cannot simply be brushed under the rug.

The Pierce County AIDS Foundation, Campus Ministry and PLU Students for Peace organized the World AIDS Day

event Monday on campus.

Students made their voices heard. Red ribbons were visible on students' backpacks and their lapels. Red Starbucks coffee cups also filled the garbage cans around campus. The Starbucks Red campaign is just one of the many organizations trying to raise awareness of AIDS. The company offered to donate 5 cents to the Global Fund to Save Lives from every one of its exclusive Starbucks Red beverages sold.

Junior Mariah Duffy is a volunteer at the Pierce County AIDS Foundation in downtown Tacoma. Duffy got involved with this project in order to increase awareness of AIDS on the PLU campus.

"I was in charge of brainstorming possible events for the day and other ways of

increasing AIDS awareness around campus," Duffy said. "Besides advertising around campus, I also brought the awareness to the Garfield Bookstore, which was kind enough to allow us some space to display some AIDS statistics and awareness ribbons."

Although the celebration was small, it was enough to spark an interest and bring awareness to campus.

"I think that for most students, our tabling and HIV testing was the only exposure they had to World AIDS Day," Duffy said. "I think it was good we had something, but I'd love to have a bigger event next year that involves more people and teaches more about how much AIDS affects the global population."

"I think it is amazing we

were able to provide free HIV testing, thanks to some other volunteers who gave their time and resources to make it possible."

The AIDS facts posted in the University Center were an attempt to shock the PLU community into realizing the enormity of the situation.

Some facts included the following: one in four people has AIDS and doesn't know it, 2.5 million children are affected by the disease, approximately half of all people infected with AIDS will die before they are 35 years old and 95 percent of people infected are living in developing nations. Most students involved with the campaign don't think that this event and these statistics are enough.

"I don't think people realize

what an impact it has on a global scale or even a local one," Duffy said. "This may be due to the 'Lute-dome' syndrome, but I think as global citizens, we all should obligate ourselves in educating ourselves about this disease."

But on the bright side, Duffy feels like this campaign was a step forward for PLU and its involvement in the AIDS epidemic.

"Perhaps there may be a motivated group of students who would want to start a group or club that dedicates itself to advocacy and awareness on campus," Duffy said. "I'm sure the PLU Diversity Off Campus would be delighted at the idea and be more than helpful in helping it get launched."

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Library enters digital age

New informational screens purchased for use in library

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Global economic decline has caused spending on the PLU campus to slow down. It would be easy to point the fickle finger of frugality at the Mortvedt Library for purchasing two new digital signs for its lobby, but administrators insist that the purchase will actually save money.

The old plastic tile and alphabet soup letters that used to show the library's hours have been replaced with a flashy new digital screen. Another new digital display resides inside the library's lobby and "shows the hours of the different departments housed within the library," said Fran Lane Rasmus the Senior Director for Library and Information Services. She also remarked that there is a lot going on within the library's walls that people either don't know about or can't find. These events, classes and workshops will be displayed on the sign.

"I think they're helpful for students who don't know their way around the library," junior and library employee Kalessa Hamilton said.

The two digital displays cost roughly \$1,200 each Rasmus said. She also said this cost is significantly less than the cost of a full renovation

of the library. Rasmus believes the library needed a facelift but she knew there wasn't enough money for a U.C.-style renovation.

"We're not going to be able to throw six figures at any one thing but there are a lot of small ways we can improve [the library]," Rasmus said.

Layne Nordgren, the Director of Instructional Technologies and Library Systems said the jumbo video screens save money.

"The inside [screen] gets turned off at night," he said.

This saves both money and energy. Nordgren added that the signs were less expensive because PLU facilities workers installed them compared to outside installation sources.

The video signs offer more than just convenience, they also offer PLU students added security. The colossal displays have the ability to show campus safety alerts.

"If there were to be some emergency on campus [the signs] will connect in with the emergency text messaging system and show the alerts," Rasmus said.

Senior Whitney Grimm said he agrees that the signs would be helpful in this way. Grimm also noted that she believes the jumbo signs to be "in a good spot since there is so much traffic [in the library]."

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From the editor

No regrets No excuses

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In the Nov. 21 issue of The Mast, we included the f-word in the Lutelife spread entitled, "Poetry Corner."

This was not the first time we have dealt with profanity in the paper.

Jessica Ritchie's editorial in the first issue of The Mast (9/26/2008) "Five reasons: I'm leaving the country if McCain wins" included the s-word.

This particular s-word inspired a heated debate during our weekly editorial board meeting. We spoke at length about what language we would consider appropriate in our paper.

As a staff, we decided that this year we would not include profane language to be printed on the news pages in our paper. We agreed that there was a distinction between using profanity to inspire a reaction versus newsworthiness. And we decided that the newsworthiness of our paper would only be enhanced if we did not use offensive language.

We decided this based on the temperature of our community, the community that we live in daily. That's our job. As a staff, we have made this decision for this year.

Now you might wonder how the f-word crept in to the center spread last week.

On production night, Lutelife editor Sarah Kehoe brought her pages to the attention of all of the editors. Here she wanted to print a poem written by Jacob Harksen entitled "Pornographic" that contained the f-word. She knew that this directly violated the policy we instated at the beginning of the year.

However, she was adamant about her desire to publish the artistic expression Harksen hoped to communicate with the use of the f-word in his poem.

After a lengthy discussion where each editor reviewed the poem, the majority of the staff felt comfortable allowing the f-word to be a part of this section. We agreed that this use of the f-word fell under a different category of speech than our previous policy referred to. We chose to respect the artistic expression.

We decided these center pages were different. We wanted the content of those pages to reflect the content that one might find in Saxifrage, our sister publication. As a staff, we wanted to promote Saxifrage's "A River & Sound Review" program and student artists.

The two editors of Saxifrage are also editors at The Mast and that relationship is incredibly important to uphold and maintain.

This artistically-presented spread also represents the great relationship between media outlets at PLU. As aspiring media literate students, the relationships between media organizations help support and encourage each other's activities.

All of the decisions made at The Mast are labored over extensively by our staff. We do not take decisions like the use of questionable language lightly because we strive to produce the best product.

In all of our decisions, we consider all of the different perspectives. And we often have disagreements among our staff that we must address and reconcile before we decide on a policy.

We do not take the language debate lightly because the paper that is printed every Friday reflects our news, our skills and the values of our community.

The editors who preceded us may have made different decisions. Future editors may also make different decisions.

Of course, we invite you to tell us when you think we've overstepped our boundaries.

But in the end, we feel confident in our decisions because we feel we are the best arbitrators of our community. We are proud of the work we have produced in the last ten issues of the paper and look forward to another semester.



Aaron Mosher and Dan Case came up with this crazy comic idea. Give them a high five for the lutz.
Comic by Aubrey Lange

Universal hypocrisy



Kanye West came out with a new album last week called "808's and Heartbreak." In it he breaks from the form that made him famous: well produced hip-hop. West sings practically the whole album. There is not a little artistic recognition that West deserves for this permutation on his musical persona. First he took a large risk with his whole fan base by essentially forgoing the rapping style that made him famous. Also, he created an ambient work that spoke to his current personal traumas.

Last month Pacific Lutheran University programmed two new screens in the library; one to show the library's hours, and the other to list services offered. This investment, most obviously intended to give the University a slick, desirable and competitive look, was inevitable and entirely predictable. Maybe the intent of those screens is to usher the student body into the 21st century age of ignorance. But when this and other developmental projects are placed in relief with the multiple areas, in which the University is lacking, it becomes evident that this University needs to reconsider its current practices of monetary discretion.

To begin with, PLU has an abhorrently puny and ashamedly thin library collection. From the DVD's (Must Love Dogs but no Annie Hall? Mona Lisa Smile but no Lady from Shanghai?) to the criticism (in many fields, including literature, language and history, one his hard pressed to find theory that dates post-1980), our library is lacking in seminal works that are intrinsic to a good University. PLU's fallback is inter-library loan. But this is a poor excuse, both because it is a delayed service (taking sometimes a week or more to get a

book) and because we have resources that could be put to better use than they are (those new-age screens). There is no need to adumbrate the many reasons those screens are superfluous, awkward and essentially silly.

The sorry state of the school's library is not where the sidewalk ends. We are in the second year of our ambitious new University Center. In another attempt by the Board of Regents to usher this campus into the 21st century, the new UC is a piece of strip-mall sheet rocked wonder. A glorious investment, to be sure, if it wasn't for the fact that other areas of this University are lacking in quality. Most assuredly, on the whole the caliber of guest speakers has been not a little bit disappointing recently. From the dud Feminist Religion Professor from Loyola University to the inarticulate military expert speaking on torture, there have been more rocks than gems. If PLU thinks it can pass some of these speakers off on the student body, it is mistaken. There are large contingents of intelligent people at this school.

PLU professes to be dedicated to the hearts and minds of the students it educates. No doubt, it is a small liberal arts university that possesses an even smaller (\$70 million) endowment. There needs to be incentives to attract students. What is doubtful is the hypocrisy of a school that preaches education, sustainability and global awareness, but funds facades, hedonism and quick fixes.

These renovations and developments, along with the plans for a stadium and new sports complex, are all ways in which PLU is diligently trying to attract a larger student body. Granted, this is a private university that necessarily lives and dies by the tuition of its students and the donations of its alumni and community. However, in order to have a thriving university that adheres to its mission and grows in thought and deed, development on the intellectual side of the school is far more important than development of what is ultimately facade. PLU should follow Kanye West's lead and invest in the intellectual infrastructure that is true to the core values of the school, not to the hedonistic, simulacra-obsessed whims of its fans.

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The Mast Staff 2008-2009

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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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Without the holiday barrier of Thanksgiving to stop the flow of festivity, Christmas comes remarkably early in the United Kingdom. Post-Halloween, no-smiling cardboard turkeys grace the windows of London. Without Dia de Gluttony, it is straight to Christmas, whether Londoners are ready or not.

Being a small town girl, I have never experienced the all-out glory of a big city Christmas. Though I do enjoy the Baz Luhrmann "Moulin Rouge" style lights throughout the London streets, I think by the time the big day actually arrives I may commit Christmas-tune-induced murder. The first of November seems a little early to hear the first public playing of "All I want for Christmas is you."

Post-Halloween, the stands throughout London's tourist areas trade their normal tit and tat for all things St. Nick. Union Jack top hats are swapped for flashing Santa Claus hats, attracting only the most fashionable of tourists. Only the truly fashion-conscious match their fanny packs to their Santa Claus hats or reindeer antlers.

Consumer havens like Bond Street and Sloane Square become light shows for the big spenders. Oxford Circus seems to take on a real big top as Santa Claus makes appearances throughout town.

Children line up in true Mary Poppins form at London's premier department stores for a photo opportunity with the big man himself. And no, I don't mean Prime Minister Gordon Brown. If one looks closely they can see sidelined parents grimace as their children ask for bicycles and ponies despite the cascading economy, or "credit crunch" as it is popularly referred to by the British press.

Luckily, London offers festival fun for all ages. For fans of butt bruises and head bumps, outdoor ice-skating rinks are a popular option throughout the city. Landmarks like the Tower of London and the Natural History Museum become immaculate backdrops for Ice Capades

wannabees, causing skaters across London to wonder, "What would Brian Boitano do?"

Hyde Park becomes a snowless Winter Wonderland with the largest outdoor ice rink in the capital, a Ferris wheel and enough Christmas munchies to gorge oneself for the entire holiday season.

Although I find myself craving fudge and sugar cookies every time I hear the jingling of sleigh bells, the British have some holiday snacks of their own. Mince pies with mulled wine are a sign of the start of the season. Slightly terrifying but strangely tasty, traditional Christmas pudding is far from the pudding stateside. Instead, the very solid dish is like a cannonball made of dried fruit, nuts, and loaded with alcohol. Separately, I enjoy all the main ingredients but together, served in this flaming concoction, I am not so sure. This one is a tradition I will not be bringing home to Tacoma, Wash.

The festivities are not limited to British culture either. The multi-cultural metropolis of London offers a wide variety of Christmas markets. Shopping can work up quite an appetite. The German market is a perfect place to sample some sausage while purchasing some interesting gifts. Nothing says Christmas like currywurst and sauerkraut.

The London pre-Christmas buildup ends with the dramatic lighting of the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree. Every year Norway gives London a giant tree as a thank you for help during the Second World War. Usually around 70 feet tall, this tree proves that when it comes to tannenbaum, size matters.

Despite the cold and the wind, Londoners line up for festive outdoor holiday "fun." Unfortunately, venturing into said festivities leaves me feeling like Harrison Ford frozen in carbonate. Personally, when frigid cold sets in, all I want to do is curl up with a warm blanket, some hot chocolate and a good movie. Londoners on the other hand seem to enjoy the cruel abuse of a winter fair.

For the holidays in London, there is no better movie than "Love Actually." A favorite of women everywhere, I too, actually, do love this movie. Sure, Hugh Grant is his normal bumbling British self, and yes, it is possibly one of the cheesiest movies ever made, but for the holidays there is nothing quite like it.

As cheesy as it is, I am with Billy Mack all the way; "I feel it in my fingers. I feel it in my toes. Christmas is all around me. Come on and let it snow."

Letter to the editor Club sports deserve respect too

If you've ever taken a walk out to East Campus you might have passed by the club sports' practice field, on the southeast corner of 121 St. and Park Ave. It's quite a facility. There's almost as much grass on it as dirt, it's almost big enough to make a whole ultimate frisbee field and it's almost free of broken glass.

This is the home of Pacific Lutheran University's club sports: men and women's ultimate frisbee and men and women's lacrosse. Four teams, one field - if you can even call it that.

PLU club sports are not allowed to practice on Foss Field. The reason cited by the Athletic Department is that the East Campus field is available for club teams to use and that Foss Field is for public student use. Frisbee and lacrosse are allowed to use Foss Field for pickup games, but they must share the field with others who want to use it. Coaches are not allowed to be present. This rule is supposed to be extended to varsity sports for similar reasons.

As a member of the frisbee team for the last three years, we have followed this rule. We either run to Gonyea Park or drive to Spanaway Park to find a decent field for practice (the lacrosse team is apparently more intense and actually uses the East Campus field). It's inconvenient but since the Athletic Department seems unwilling to negotiate, we'll respect their rules.

You can imagine my surprise to find the entire PLU football team conducting practice on Foss field three weeks ago.

I want to be clear that I have no problem with the PLU football team. I am always impressed with our football team, the effort they put in on the field, in the community and the incredible character and humility of the players and coaches-which is rarely associated with college football programs.

I was told three weeks ago that the football team limited their practice space to half of Foss Field so that an ongoing pickup soccer game would be able to continue. I believe that this is indicative of the excellent attitude and character of our team and coaches.

My problem lies with the Athletic Department and their failure to enforce their rules without favoritism. Since there is a rule-prohibiting club and varsity sports from using Foss Field as a practice facility, it needs to be enforced fairly and equally.

The ultimate frisbee coach Jason Schafer alerted the Athletic Department of the football team's practicing on Foss Field. Craig McCord, the member of the Athletic Department in charge of club sports, said he would look into the issue. As of today, Schafer has yet to hear back from McCord. The frisbee team hears the message loud and clear, club sports are not a legitimate part of the athletic community.

Why not allow club sports to practice on Foss Field? Frisbee and lacrosse practices will not monopolize every hour of every day for use of the field. If football and soccer can each have their own individual fields and occasionally use Foss Field as well, why can't club sports have two fields to split between four teams?

When the Athletic Department unfairly enforces its policies and then blatantly ignores our inquiries into the issue, we, as club sports, feel like we are a blemish on PLU athletics and are shunned to the East Campus field. We aren't asking for much. All we would like is a decent field on campus, which will allow us the chance to put in the effort and hard work that other sports do. All we would like is to make practices more accessible for all student athletes on club teams. Most of all, we would like to feel like a respected part of the athletic community at PLU.

Andy Guinn
senior

Accurate reporting necessary in issues of student conduct

I would like to address the confusion detailed in the "Code of Conduct Confusion" story published (11/21/2008) in The Mast. Knowing that many students trust The Mast as a source of information about our university, I am worried that several erroneous pieces of information were presented as facts in last week's issue.

First, the reporter writes, "An individual is considered guilty until proven innocent, as the PLU standards state." According to the Student Conduct Procedures, a decision regarding responsibility for violating University policy is not made until a Review Board hears from every student involved and reviews the Incident Report.

Second, the writer expresses concern about the university including, in an

Incident Report, all students who are present in a room while an alleged violation is occurring. All students who are present, even if they are not residents of the room, are documented on the Incident Report. In a Review Meeting, each student has the opportunity to explain his/her involvement or lack of involvement in the alleged violation.

Third, quoted students blame Campus Safety for enforcing an "association policy." First, there is no "association policy" and second, Campus Safety is not to blame.

Fourth, the author writes, "some students see problems with associating everyone who could be involved with the violation, writing them up and not allowing one person to take the blame." This is exactly the goal of PLU's Student

Conduct Policies and Procedures: to not allow one student to "take the blame" for the behavior of many.

Finally, the article concludes with a reference to "this and other Campus Safety policies" when in fact, all of the information referred to in the article is found in the PLU Student Code of Conduct and Procedures.

As you can see, the article printed in last week's issue of The Mast has misrepresented the work and goals of the University through its Student Conduct System. I encourage students to chat with me if there are questions or concerns still to be addressed.

Allison Stephens
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CONDUCT,
LEADERSHIP AND ORIENTATION

Editor's Note:

This publication takes every step possible to assure that we report accurate stories that inform our campus. We are dedicated to finding the truth. In this case, we should have taken further steps to make sure these mistakes were avoided.

Despite our efforts to fully report on the PLU conduct system, mistakes were printed and not properly researched. We appreciate the feedback. We have taken this opportunity for our staff and reporters to improve their journalism skills. We will do our best to make sure this type of mistake does not happen in the future. In fact we plan to publish a full story on PLU's code of conduct policies in the spring semester.

Sidewalk Talk

What is the biggest change you want to see at PLU?



I would like to see more sustainability- especially on upper campus. Or more parking.
Kelsey Smith
senior



I think PLU should do a better job of connecting sports teams with the rest of campus.
Jeff Danforth
senior



More integrated clubs- if there were more clubs that worked together...
Katie Pickett
senior



There were many resources at PLU I didn't know about- I think they should be better advertised.
Cassie Gilbert
sophomore



The library should be open later...
Tommy Begalka
sophomore

AP Photo by Sayyid Azim

In this Aug. 26, 2006 file photo Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., right, claps hands with his grandmother, Sarah Hussein Obama, at his father's house in Nyongoma Kogelo village in western Kenya.



Obama's Roots

The President-elect's relatives tell of beatings and abuse during British colonization of Kenya

BEN MCINTYRE
SPECIAL TO THE MAST

Barack Obama's grandfather was imprisoned and brutally tortured by the British during the violent struggle for Kenyan independence, according to the Kenyan family of the U.S. President-elect.

Hussein Onyango Obama, Mr Obama's paternal grandfather, became involved in the Kenyan independence movement while working as a cook for a British army officer after the war. He was arrested in 1949 and jailed for two years in a high-security prison where, his family claims, he was subjected to horrific violence to extract information about the growing insurgency.

"The African wardens were instructed by the white soldiers to whip him every morning and evening till he confessed," said Sarah Onyango, Hussein Onyango's third wife, the woman Mr Obama refers to as "Granny Sarah".

Sarah Onyango, 87, described how "white soldiers" visited the prison every

two to three days to carry out "disciplinary action" on the inmates suspected of subversive activities.

"He said they would sometimes squeeze his testicles with parallel metallic rods. They also pierced his nails and buttocks with a sharp pin, with his hands and legs tied together with his head facing down," she said. The alleged torture was said to have left Hussein Onyango permanently scarred, and bitterly anti-British. "That was the time we realised that the British were actually not friends but, instead, enemies," Sarah Onyango said. "My husband had worked so diligently for them, only to be arrested and detained."

President-elect Obama refers briefly to his grandfather's imprisonment in his best-selling memoir, *Dreams from My Father*, but states that his grandfather was "found innocent" and held only for "more than six months".

Hussein Onyango served with the British Army in Burma during World War II and, like many army veterans, he returned to Africa hoping to win greater

freedoms from colonial rule. Although a member of the Luo tribe from western Kenya, he sympathised with the Kikuyu Central Association, the organisation leading an independence movement that would evolve into the bloody uprising known as the Mau Mau rebellion.

"He did not like the way British soldiers and colonialists were treating Africans, especially members of the Kikuyu Central Association, who at the time were believed to be secretly taking oaths which included promises to kill the white settlers and colonialists," Sarah Onyango said.

In his book, President-elect Obama implies that his grandfather was not directly involved in the anticolonial agitation, but his grandmother said that her husband had supplied information to the insurgents. "His job as cook to a British army officer made him a useful informer for the secret oath-taking movement which would later form the Mau Mau rebellion," she said. The Mau Mau used oaths as part of their initiation ceremony.

Hussein Onyango was probably tried in a magistrates' court on charges of political sedition or membership of a banned organisation, but the records do not survive because all such documentation was routinely destroyed in British colonies after 6 years.

"To arrest a Luo ex-soldier, who must have been a senior figure in the community, is pretty serious. They must have had some damn good evidence," said Professor David Anderson, director of the African Studies Centre at the

University of Oxford and an authority on the Mau Mau rebellion.

The British responded to the Mau Mau uprising with draconian violence: more than 12,000 rebels were killed, most of them Kikuyu, but some historians believe that the overall death toll may have been more than 50,000. In total, just 32 European settlers were killed.

According to his widow, Hussein Onyango was denounced to the authorities by his white employer, who sacked him on suspicion of consorting with "troublemakers". He may also have been the victim of a feud with an African neighbour who worked in the district commissioner's office. Mr Onyango, notoriously outspoken, appears to have accused this official of corruption.

According to Sarah Onyango, her husband was arrested by two soldiers, and taken to Kamiti prison, the national maximum-security prison outside Nairobi.

"This was like a death camp because some detainees died while being tortured," Mrs Onyango said. "We were not allowed to see him, not even taking him food."

She said her husband was told that he would be killed or maimed if he refused to reveal what he knew of the insurgency, and was beaten repeatedly until he promised "never to rejoin any groupings opposed to the white man's rule". Even after he had confessed, and renounced the insurgency, the physical abuse allegedly continued.

Some of Hussein Onyango's fellow

Tacoma family rejoices, reflects on historic election

Nate Hulings
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Astrik Price, 22, spent election night anxiously watching television at her Tacoma, Wash. home. Her BlackBerry buzzed with friends updating her on all the latest polling numbers as she waited.

Her father, Lee Mitchell, was in a different room but shared his daughter's butterflies. His wife, Ethel Price, soon returned from work with her two nephews and niece.

Then they waited. As states began to fill in red and blue, cautious optimism filled the Price-Mitchell residence.

Jaquan, Jalondre and Marisha, ages 7, 5 and 4 respectively, ran to Astrik every time she let out a scream of anger or excitement.

"How many points does he need now?" Astrik recalls Jaquan asking.

Then it happened. They heard the words: Barack Obama will be your next President of the United States of America.

And like countless other black families across the country, the Price-Mitchell's shed tears that were centuries in the making.

The Price-Mitchell family is part of the black minority that makes up 13 percent of the U.S. population. That percentage is nearly identical in the Tacoma area, where the family has lived for the past 17 years. According to CNN exit polls, blacks delivered overwhelmingly for President-elect Obama, with 95 percent of their vote.

Amongst the screams and hugs, each member of the Price-Mitchell family began to realize that being black in U.S. would never have the same meaning.

Racism takes new form

The Price-Mitchell family also sees the election of Sen. Obama as a huge step in the right direction for race relations. Steps that began in an enslaved South, that marched through the streets of Birmingham, Ala. and now stand at the steps of the White House.

Mitch remembers when being black meant subservience to whites. But now he says Sen. Obama's election provides motivation to blacks and all other races to claim their stake in politics and power.

"We have a new generation with fresh ideas and



Far right, Ethel Price-Mitchell helps her nephew Jalondre Price, 5, with his homework as his sister Marisha Price, 4, helps him spell his name. The family spent the night of the election watching television and celebrating Barack Obama's victory.

fresh concepts," Mitch said. The "old guard" of powerful white men is waning, Mitch added.

But those days of the "old guard" and shattered dreams still remain fresh in Mitch's mind.

His generation saw the assassination of civil rights leader and peace advocate Martin Luther King Jr. The death dashed the hope of progress and equality and Mitch soon found himself resigned to the fact he may never see a black president.

However, King's dream was fulfilled through Sen. Obama's election, Mitch said. The content of one's character finally trumped skin color.

As the former slave state of Virginia turned blue on Election Day, all Mitch could think about was how far this country has come.

"It was amazing to see the most racist people in the country decide to do something not because of the candidate's skin," Mitch said.

Racist whites were not the only demographic that kept previous generations from progressing beyond skin color, Ethel said. Personally, the 55-year-old's daughter Astrik was the key to unlocking her own hesitations about other races.

"I came out of it along time ago once Astrik had friends of all races, color, creeds," Ethel said. "That brought me out of racism a long time ago. I don't see color; I just see people."

Seeing her daughter's generation place less importance on race is a "breath of fresh air," Ethel added.

However, fresh air is occasionally polluted.

Multiple death threats toward Sen. Obama during his campaign for presidency instilled old feelings of fear and uncertainty in the black community.

"People that don't like blacks are going to be just as open about their bigotry," Mitch said.

Bigotry that gestures a gun-shaped hand towards Astrik's Sen. Obama T-shirt.

Bigotry that Mitch says, "pretends to be your friend but would not even let you clean out their doghouse."

Bigotry that keeps the black community on edge despite the historic success of this election.

PLU WEBNEWS

FOR THE REST OF THIS STORY GO TO:

<http://pluweb.wordpress.com/2008/11/21/preview-tacoma-black-family-celebrates-reflects-on-historic-moment/>

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Malik Obama, the older brother of Barack Obama, holds an undated photo of Barack, Malik and an unidentified friend while sitting in his Slaya, Kenya, shop.

inmates were beaten to death with clubs, according to Sarah Onyango. "In fact, my late husband was lucky to have left the prison alive without any serious bodily harm, save for the permanent scars from beatings and torture, which remained on his body till he died."

During President-elect Obama's first visit to Kenya in 1988, his grandmother recalled the growing resentment against white colonial rule in Kenya, with rallies and mounting violence that would explode

into full-scale rebellion in 1952. "Most of this activity centered on Kikuyuland," she told him, "but the Luo, too, were oppressed, a main source of forced labour. Men in our area began to join the Kikuyu in demonstrations... many men were detained, some never to be seen again."

The British colonial authorities began a sustained campaign to quell the Mau Mau uprising, establishing numerous detention camps that some historians describe as "Kenya's Gulag" where inmates were

frequently abused.

At the height of the rebellion, an estimated 71,000 Kenyans were held in prison camps. The vast majority were never convicted. Letters smuggled out of the camps complained of systematic brutality by wardens and guards. Harvard historian Caroline Elkins, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her exposé of British atrocities during the Mau Mau uprising, said in her book, *Britain's Gulag: The Brutal End of Empire in Kenya* (2005), there were reports of sexual violence and mutilation using "castration pliers."

"This was an instrument devised to crush the men's testicles," Elkins said. "Other detainees also described castration pliers, along with other methods of beating and mutilating men's testicles."

Several hundred letters from camp inmates survive in the Kenyan National Archives, "chronicling camp conditions, forced labour, torture, starvation and murder", according to Elkins. One white policeman, Duncan McPherson, told Barbara Castle, the former MP, that conditions in some detention camps were "worse, far worse, than anything I experienced in my four and a half years as a prisoner of the Japanese".

Hussein Onyango was 56 when he was arrested, and he emerged from imprisonment prematurely aged and deeply embittered. In his memoir, President-elect Obama described his grandfather's shocking physical state: "When he returned to Alego he was very thin and dirty. He had difficulty walking, and his head was full of lice." For some time, he was too traumatised to speak about his experiences. Sarah Onyango told her grandson: "From that day on, I

saw that he was now an old man."

Understandably, Hussein Onyango held a lifelong grudge against the British for the way he had been treated, yet he was doubtful that the independence movement would succeed.

"How can the African defeat the white man," he told his son, "when he cannot even make his own bicycle?"

Barack Obama Sr, Hussein Onyango's son and the President-elect's father, seems to have inherited his father's attitudes towards the colonial power. He was also arrested, for attending a meeting in Nairobi of the Kenya African National Union (Kanu), the organisation spearheading the independence movement. Sarah Onyango told President-elect Obama that his father, unlike her husband, had been held only for a short time in the white man's prison: "Because he was not a leader in Kanu, Barack was released after a few days."

Hussein Onyango was a victim of the fight for Kenyan independence, but his son became a direct beneficiary of that movement. In 1960, Barack Obama Sr travelled on a scholarship to the University of Hawaii, as part of a program (sponsored by John F. Kennedy) to train young Kenyans to rule their own country.

Sarah Onyango said that the combative spirit shown by her husband during Kenya's bloody independence struggle has passed down through the generations to the future president.

"This family lineage has all along been made up of fighters," she said. "Barack Obama is fighting using his brain, like his father, while his grandfather fought physically with [oppressors]."

Making your holiday count

Reality doesn't follow reality television



Queerfully Yours

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This past Thanksgiving break, between paper writing and excessive eating, I couldn't help but be captivated by a marathon of the TV show "Keeping up with the Kardashians."

The reality show features a group of rich, exotically-tanned women from southern California and their crazed antics—getting dates for sister Khloe, naked pictures of mom Kris, the sleazy calendars of middle sister Kim and dealing with the possibly-cheating-boyfriend of eldest sister Kourtney (I too am starting to notice a trend). While this marathon didn't include a holiday-celebration episode, I couldn't help but wonder what a Kardashian Christmas or Kholiday special would look like in comparison to my own not-so-standard December festivities.

Like many of my peers who live off campus, cable television is a luxury. Hell, the time to watch cable television is a luxury. The last two weeks of fall semester are spent living in library cubicles, U.C. couches and dorm lounges. It is no wonder, then, by the time we make it home for the holidays, all most of us want to do is to get into our ugly sweaters, eat copiously and watch re-runs of the "Girls Next Door" and "Family Guy." I don't blame you—I am a willing participant. The light waves off of that cathode tube might as well be distilled into a clear liquid and pumped into us intravenously. But, as always, I implore you to go deeper.

This past Thanksgiving (which is really Holiday-Season-Lite™), I couldn't help but wonder about my fellow college students in their own individual houses who were probably propped up, gobbling down some stuffing, while numbing themselves on some of the good ole' boob tube. I wonder, watching these holiday specials how many of your holidays look like the images we get on TV? The excess. Perfectly dressed individuals all gussied up in matching cardigans. Plasticine turkeys, jeweled cranberries and perfect cornucopias of autumn squashes and winter vegetables.

I don't know about the Kardashians, but keeping up with my family is hard to do. In the Trevino-Paikai-Sprinkle clan, the holidays aren't so much about spending money as they are

about rigorous planning and organization. My mom sits outside, smoking, making friends with all the neighbor ladies. They've been sharing recipes for weeks and promise to bring over leftover examples of their exploits. My brothers' roughhouse with each other while my sister shushes them. As a pastry chef, she rolls out three perfect piecrusts despite her anger. Seven people fight over the wishbone and who gets to light the menorah. My dad despises giblet gravy—my mom, sister and I can't live without it. There must be canned cranberries and oyster stuffing. Don't forget Christmas morning Quiche - one Lorraine, two Florentine.

We are all kinds of sizes my family, all shapes and colors. Some of us are Jewish, others Christian, but we all pray together and we all eat together at the same table (although there's plenty of room for overflow in the living room). Sometimes there's just one present to go around for each of us, and some years there are blowouts. But nothing is ever regular, never even keeled, ever easily expected.

Even when I can't help but watch those fake, TV holiday specials, I find them unrepresentative. Not only because my experience of December is so strange and different, but also because I bet your Christmahanukwanzikah doesn't look like a Kardashian Kholiday special either.

The media will tell you what your holiday should look like. If you're white and middle class, expect a holly-jolly snowflake Christmas, claymation specials and all that. Black? You get the movie about the college-aged son who brings his white girlfriend home to a house ruled by a haughty matriarch, peppered by well dressed sisters and naughty, but well meaning, younger brothers played by Nick Cannon. Latino—same story, only replace college-aged son with John Leguizamo and white girlfriend with Debra Messing. In all respects, everyone is equal in getting a cookie cutter version of their own social makeup.

Even the gays are futzing it up. LOGO, the LGBT channel owned by Viacom, launched an ad campaign this thanksgiving called Thanksgiving, where beautiful gays and lesbians sit around giving each others trendy, spendy gifts and eating organic, environmentally-conscious food.

The appeal of watching all of this on TV, I think, is that over time we, U.S. citizens, have tricked ourselves into thinking that the holidays have a certain look, a certain feel and a certain color. The media plays into that and creates the experience of a universal Christmas time, where we think everyone has all of those holiday time certainties of family, food and frivolity. If we value these stories, we should value all stories. That's what makes this season special—valuing what we share with one another.

There is nothing especially wrong with any of these TV stories, or any December story. I merely ask that you accept your story as just as worthy of being told.

Imagine my family being followed around with cameras. A hopping karaoke ball skips like a stone on Hanukkah prayers and Christmas carols. Vitzivanu l'hadlik ner. Hark the herald angel's sing. That'd be something to watch.

Actors meet mixed success in music

Jessica Baldwin
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Phoenix

Recently, Oscar nominated actor Joaquin Phoenix made the shocking announcement that he was quitting acting to focus on his newfound musical career. Many musicians have crossed-over successfully into their acting career: Jennifer Lopez and Mark Wahlberg just to name a few.

However, the actor to musician transition is a different story. The exception is Johnny Depp. He has enjoyed a fairly successful musical career, both in solo efforts and with his band "P." If you've watched many Depp movies, you know he's a solid guitarist. He's been seen playing in movies like "Chocolat" and "Once Upon a Time in Mexico."

Since his days in the short-lived 80s series, "21 Jump Street," he's been in several bands. The most recent features Butthole Surfer vocalist Gibby Haynes and Red Hot Chili Pepper bassist Flea. Depp has also released solo albums. This is one actor who, though I would prefer he did not, could easily quit his acting career for the musical crossover. Though he has no plans to quit acting for music.

I wish I could say the same for actor Keanu Reeves. He has already quit full-time acting for his band, Dogstar. It appears that none of the members of Dogstar, including Reeves, can play their instruments competently.

I wish that the horror stopped there, but front-man Reeves cannot sing to save his life. Let's hope he doesn't plan on doing any musicals any time soon. Dogstar sounds more like 5-year-olds trying to imitate their favorite TV-show band. I give you all this warning: if you have the opportunity to hear Dogstar, run. Run far, far away.

Another actor trying to make a crossover is Russell Crowe with his band 30 Odd Feet of Grunts. Russell is the front man for this soft rock band. They seem to be trying to channel the 1980s hair band ballads. Crowe lives that rock star lifestyle with his drinking and bad boy temper. Although, I'm sure we're all sick of the attitude, his band may in fact be worth it. 30 Odd Feet of Grunts could easily go places. But I wouldn't predict a Phoenix-style announcement out of this actor. He seems to understand he acts better than he sings.

There are countless other actors trying to break into the music scene. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled and possibly your ears closed. Don't expect that a good actor will make a good musician, or that a musician ca. cut it as an actor.

Kanye sheds hip-hop for mediocre album

New release from prolific artist takes on electronica feel



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AlbumReview
808s & Heartbreak (2008)
Kanye West
Electronica/Pop/Lounge/Emo

Kanye West is known for pushing boundaries. Whether musical boundaries on his hip hop albums, fashion boundaries with his trademark shutter shades or social boundaries with his rants at award shows. West has made a habit of expressing himself in whatever way he wants and he continually gets away with it. Why? Well, because he's good at it.

As a big fan of West's first three albums, I was excited when I heard his first single from the "808s & Heartbreak" album, a song entitled "Love Lockdown." I noticed a departure from his usual style, but still found myself bobbing my head to the beat. I even enjoyed the auto-tune and vocoder that are popular with other artists whom I can't stand, like Akon, Sean Kingston or T-Pain.

I didn't immediately worry that West was abandoning his signature brand of hip-hop since he has always pushed the envelope with each new release. However, I did start to worry while listening to the rest of the "808s & Heartbreak" album.

West starts the album with the six-minute "Say You Will," featuring a series of beeps and a faint piano part layered under his echoing, auto-tuned vocals. "Say You Will" comes off as an intro track that constantly builds toward something; many artists start albums with intro tracks that lull the listener into a comfort

zone before blowing them away with the second track. The issue with "Say You Will" is that it never awakens the listener. There is no blow-the-listener-away moment. Unfortunately, this trend continues for the first few tracks of the album.

"Welcome to Heartbreak" shows some promise with a decent hook in the chorus, but ultimately it isn't enough to save the track. "Heartless," the album's second single, has the same problem. Even though it is the first moment where we hear West rhyme, I would argue that it isn't single-worthy without a strong hook.

Around the time that the next track "Amazing" starts, the listener knows that this album is not meant to be a hip-hop album (even though it ironically contains a verse from Young Jeezy). If anything, "808s & Heartbreak" should be categorized as a mish-mash of electronica and lounge music.

"Love Lockdown" comes as a breath of African drum-laced fresh air and breaks the monotony of the first four tracks

with a quicker beat that finally shakes the listener. West brings his 'A' game. "Paranoid," with its synth-infused beat is a track that is definitely club worthy and brings a big hook that doesn't tire the ear, even after multiple listens. The next track "Robocop," is an uplifting track, which are few and far between on this album. It brings the creativity that West is known for.

"Street Lights" comes next and is the first ballad on the album that works. It's the track that West couldn't seem to make with the first few songs of "808s & Heartbreak." Also, it is the first track on the album that brings quality lyrics with a quality hook. Over a growing drum beat and harmonies, West croons, "Seems like street lights glowing/Happen to be just like moments passing in front of me."

While "808s & Heartbreak" has some great tracks, they all come on the second half of the album. West loses the listener in the mediocrity of the first four tracks. I will admit that after a few more listens, the first half of the album became more tolerable. But I still find myself waiting for the second half of the album to begin. Even when I listen to the first few tracks intently, the lyrics (which have taken a huge downturn from West's previous albums) leave me wanting more.

While I respect Kanye West for taking a shot at something completely different, I can't say I enjoy it. I know he intended for this album to be a much more personal, emotionally driven album and it shows, but it makes me long for a return to the form that he has promised on his next album. Until then, I think I'll save this album for a day when I'm feeling as deflated as the heart-shaped balloon on the cover.

Video games subject to scorn, shouldn't be

Benefits outweigh detriment

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Many parents think video games are nothing but mischief, murder and mild language. Parents need to understand the benefits of video games and make sure their kids play suitable games. Video games have the potential to make kids smarter. Multiple objectives exist in any game and players must complete these in order to win.

The players focus on all of these objectives and develop a strong series of problem solving techniques. Players understand the rules of each game and figure out how to think tactically. This can help kids' minds much like playing the popular numbers game, Sudoku, or even playing chess.

Imagine that the problem solving skills developed in Sudoku relate to skills learned in video games. A role-playing game aids children in developing the realization of character development. Players take control of their own characters and guide them through a quest or an entire character's life.

The most popular video game of all-time, "The Sims," puts players in the role of controlling the life of a Sim. A Sim is a character that the gamer dresses from head to toe, much like avatars in other role-playing games. The gamer can even choose the Sim's facial features and haircut.

The purpose of "The Sims" is to raise a Sim, build a family and start a career. This helps a person build social structure skills and, even though these virtual characters aren't real people, the gamers still go through a vital-to-life learning process.

Young students need electronic education in a day of e-trade and e-commerce. It creates an added way of learning in addition to books and film. Parents seem unaware of these benefits and unintentionally hinder this advancement. Many parents feel that if

children play too many violent video games, then they will become mass murderers or become disturbed and aggressive. Problems subsist with this misconception.

Children that play violent video games show higher levels of aggression after long exposure to the content. But this statistic also goes for prolonged exposure to violent movies and television. Video games are no more to blame than any other media. Video games come with handy ratings and warnings for parents that let the parents know the game is not suitable for children, much like ratings for films and parental advisory warnings on CDs.

The Entertainment Software Rating Board enforces advertising guidelines and assigns ratings to all video games. Their website, www.esrb.org, helps parents further understand the rating system and how to pick out the correct games for their child's age. A person becomes a legal adult in the United States at age 18. Most violent games have a "mature" rating, advising that the game is not suitable for minors.

To say that video games cause child aggression shows that parents are uneducated about the games or the game's ratings. It also suggests that some parents irresponsibly buy adult products for their children, or trust retailers to abide by the ratings. While most stores will not sell mature-rated video games to children, parents should still remain aware of what their children are playing. Parents need to monitor the content of the games their children are playing along with the amount of time they spend in front of the gaming system.

Video games provide children with important learning skills in an electronically powered age that vary from books to school. This alternative and often-misunderstood approach to learning is vital to a 21st century child's development. Parents, before you criticize the video games for all the wrong doing in society, properly educate yourselves. Video games can be learning tools when utilized effectively and monitored closely.



EA's 'The Sims'

Image courtesy of Electronic Arts

'Project' is key word

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New to the library's DVD collection this year is "Project Canada," a low-budget documentary following four U.S. citizens on a road-trip across the second largest country in the world: Canada.

Amateur filmmaker Jonathan McFarlane, a Canadian citizen who grew up in the States, actually completes his U.S. citizenship requirements during filming. The film's premise follows McFarlane's desire to discover his Canadian roots by leaving everything behind in favor of the road and the great unknown (an intriguing plot for most college students) from Newfoundland on the east coast to British Columbia on the west coast.

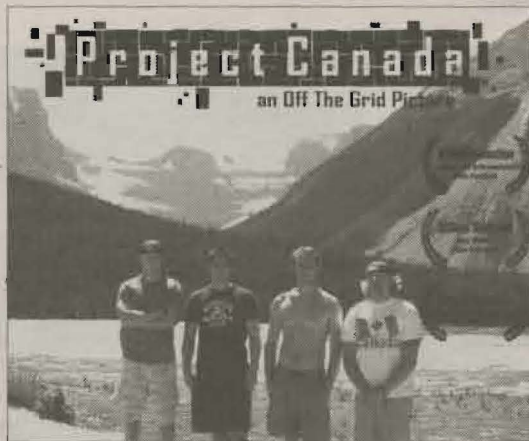
"Project Canada" is appropriately titled. The 17,000-mile, three-month journey feels more like a capstone project than a feature film. This project could use a few more rounds of editing. The movie, which clocks a runtime of over two hours, slows to a crawl at times with redundant gags and interviews. But the raw, unscripted encounters with unique characters adds a visceral touch to an otherwise amateur production.

McFarlane and his companions, all of whom are equipped with cameras, do their best to add colorful recollections to stories. Yet, most of them become guess-you-had-to-be-there-moments that fail to engage the audience. It could be half as long and tell the same story.

McFarlane and crew might not offer the same kind of excitement and hilarity that the "Viva la Bam" crew could on a similar trip, but their genuine sense of curiosity and wanderlust shines during multiple interviews with Canadian citizens along the way. The crew doesn't discover anything groundbreaking or jaw-dropping, but do solicit some insightful answers from their interviewees on what it means to be a Canadian, and creates a unique sense of their national pride.

As the film progresses, so does the cinematography. The amateur crew seems to have taken a "learn on the go" approach, but their learning curve is impressively steep. Experimental angles and appropriately placed

Film Review
Project Canada (2008)
Directed by Jonathan McFarlane
Not Rated, 120 mins



effects appear more as the film goes on and adds professional quality to the second half.

By the time the crew reaches British Columbia, they begin to reflect on what they have learned. This being an appropriate ending for a film based on the discovery of a country's national identity, and for McFarlane, the discovery of his roots.

An all-Canadian list of indie artists headlines the film's soundtrack. Songs by the Sunjet Records Band, The Storyboard, Project Arctic and Brodie Dawson (who is shown in the film) add a road-trippin touch, and a nice tribute to the artists they met along the way.

"Project Canada" is a poor man's version of Anthony Bourdain's "No Reservations," without the exotic food, good writing or scripted comedy. But it does offer an honest portrayal of our neighbors to the north. The intoxicating sensation of exploration has obviously captivated McFarlane and company, no matter how reluctant they were to show it. It becomes more engaging as it goes along. It may not be a cinematic masterpiece, but "Project Canada" could be useful for those of us still searching for capstone ideas.

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Mon/Tues: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

* A discussion will follow Saturday's 4:00pm show

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R)

Fri-Tues: 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:10

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES (PG-13)

Fri-Tues: 1:15, 3:40, 6:15

RELIGULOUS (R)

Fri-Tues: 8:40

2008 CHILDREN'S FILM SERIES

THE SECRET OF ROAN INISH (PG) Fri-Sun: 11:00am

Lutes SPORTS SCHEDULE

Men's Basketball

PLU at St. Martins: Saturday, Dec 13 7 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Evergreen at PLU: Saturday, Dec 13 6 p.m.

Swimming

PLU at College of Idaho, Caldwell Ida:
January 10-11



Let's pick a fight 'song'

PLU Sports Editorial



Tyler
Scott

scotttj@plu.edu

It is time for a rewrite.

On a whim, I searched online for Pacific Lutheran University's fight song. I expected to find nothing. I almost wish that had been the case.

Instead, I uncovered a long-neglected artifact from old Pacific Lutheran College. According to the PLU website, the school has been a university since 1960. This means that what I have discovered, thanks to the wonders of technology, has been ignored for almost 50 years.

Anyone who attends Lute football games can attest to the fact that PLU has claimed "When the Saints Go Marching In" as its fight song. No offense to the classic and storied song, but I believe we can do better.

I may not be the most musically gifted student at PLU, but I have a few ideas to consider when writing a new PLU fight song:

1. Focus on what the school has claimed as its mission. This means constant references to sustainability, diversity, studying abroad and emptying Dining Dollar accounts at mid-semester.

2. Reintroduce a classic rivalry. This works wonderfully with the PLU push for sustainability. After all, what is less sustainable than a Logger? Perhaps a Supersonic, but Clay Bennett and the state government already ensured that we no longer have to worry about them.

3. Reference unnecessary violence and the inferiority of

opponents. But don't forget to follow it up with a discussion of privilege and how we should protest for the equality of our opponents.

4. Laud the bravery of and loyalty of the student body. Of course, the object of our bravery and loyalty remains a question. Are we loyal to our athletic teams? Our professors? Our Lutheran heritage? I will leave that question to Campus Ministry.

5. Adopt an intimidating adjective to describe the mascot. The possibilities are endless: strumming Lutes, swinging Lutes, tuning Lutes, etc. Actually, it seems to me that a lute might be the single least intimidating instrument ever created. Perhaps we should adopt a new musical mascot, one that will strike fear in the hearts of all who dare cross the Pacific Lutheran University Thundering Tubas!

6. Include a couple cheesy "slant" rhymes. You remember slant rhymes from your high school English class, right? Emily Dickinson's forte, the slant rhyme is the rhyme that does not actually rhyme. It just sounds corny and forced. Be sure to include at least two.

7. Write an upbeat melody that can be played at football games by a pep band of about 12 members. Nothing too fancy - Thundering Tubas deserve to be fierce and powerful. By all means *do not* simply use another school's fight song melody. High schools do that. We are not a high school, even if we play football in a high school stadium.

8. Teach the entire student body our new fight song. Fight songs fall flat if only a small portion of the crowd knows the words. Send out a e-mail to the entire student body, with lyrics and an mp3 file included, so students can practice in their residence halls. Make sure you use e-mail and not actual paper, because *that* would be unsustainable.

Now that I have suggested eight simple steps, it is up to the students to produce a masterpiece to last for all time. With our new song memorized, we can taunt those wasteful Loggers at all cross-town rivalry games with our creativity, sustainability and awareness of privilege.

Lutes, you have been charged with a mission. Let the rewriting begin.

Current PLU fight song

PLC your students hail thee
As **queen** of all the land
Where students are all
carefree
And for thine **honor** stand
May the **light** be ever
glorious
And always to the end
Reign o'er all victorious
Our alma mater **friend**
Come join our band
We'll give a **cheer** for PLC
Down through the years
We'll sing our song of
victory
Pacific for you
Each **loyal** comrade, **brave**
and **true**
With might and main
Sing this refrain
Forever and forever PLC

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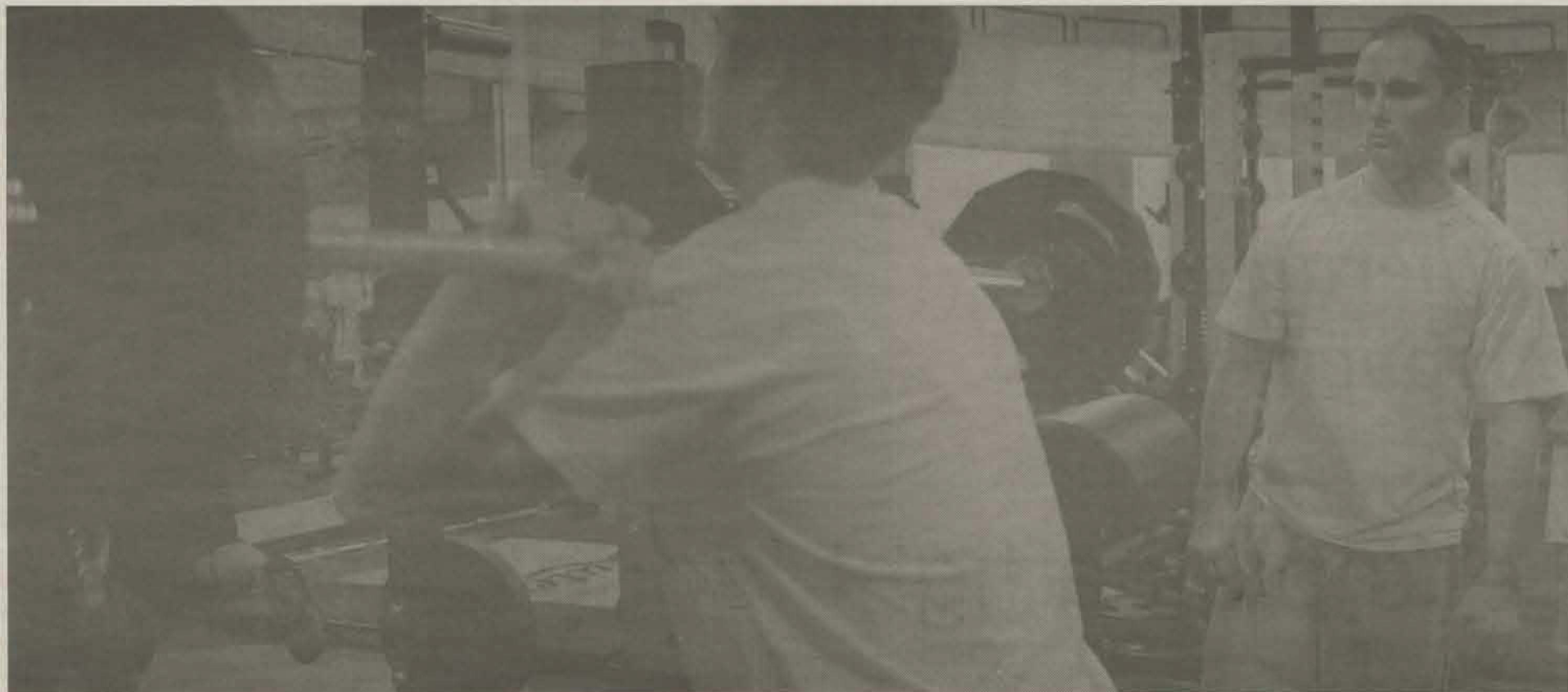
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File photo by Chris Hunt

PLU strength and conditioning coach Chris Wood looks on as a student athlete does bench press workouts. Student athletes spend an average of eight hours on strength and conditioning a week beyond normal games and practices.

Dedication and commitment needed to be student athlete at PLU

Lutes look to gain experiences to help with life after graduation

Collin Guildner
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Glory, passion and love of the game. All reasons to participate in collegiate athletics.

You may see athletes walking around campus, probably in numbers with other teammates. But do you don't know what goes into being a student athlete at Pacific Lutheran University. Student athletes put in hours to participate in an activity that lacks the glory they may receive if they attended a Division I University.

"Many people do not know what it takes to be a student athlete," PLU Athletic Director Laurie Turner said. "It can be a lot of work."

Turner says that there are many things that go into being a student athlete. Not only do student athletes have practices and games they must fit into their schedule of class work and a job, but being a student athlete is also a full time job. Athletes take on responsibilities such as hosting prospective student athletes, organizing team

events, fundraising and community service events. Just because the athletes that attend PLU are not always the most high profile they still have to be dedicated hard-working athletes.

"Students who become Division III athletes often believe it is easier than larger schools," Turner said. "But we still expect to be successful and win games and there is much work that must go into that."

Athletes at PLU can put in as many as twenty hours into their sport per week during season. This includes a recommended eight hours of strength and conditioning per week, said strength and conditioning coach Chris Wood.

Wood said he believes it is important to put in extra time and effort on top of what comes with regular practices and competitions. Before Wood arrived at the PLU athletic department in 2007, there was not much of a conditioning program of which to speak. Often, athletes thinking of becoming collegiate athletes did not understand the importance of conditioning to become successful, Wood said.

"I have to let people know, now you're a college athlete, not high school, it is a year round commitment," Wood said.

The time and commitment required to participate in athletics at PLU are substantial enough that only the dedicated student athletes end up participating.

"The people who come in to work are the ones who want to be there," Wood said. "People who don't want to work are not here. I only see the committed ones."

With all of the time that goes into being a student athlete at PLU, athletes often struggle managing their time. Free time is often rare to non-existent.

"You have to be efficient with your time. Studies go first. It is hard to balance tennis and school together to

be successful," junior tennis captain Kevin Floyd said.

At PLU, teams are often seen as the face of the university. Athletes are sent to different parts of the region and often different parts of the country. They must represent the school in a positive fashion, Turner believes.

"Student athletes are a reflection of our department, they are our ambassadors," Turner said.

Without the glory and scholarship money that could come along with participating in athletics at a larger school, athletes must find other reasons to participate in their sport.

Though being a student athlete at a division III school can pose difficult issues that must be overcome by those who participate in them, Turner believes that there are many benefits to being a student athlete. When athletes leave PLU they are stronger people than when they entered the university.

"College athletics are a vehicle to help impact people for the rest of their lives," Turner said. "They are able to be better leaders for the rest of their lives."

Even though student athletes at PLU are often not looking to move into the pro ranks or looking to make a living off their sport, there are many benefits to being a Division III athlete after receiving a degree. Student athletes leave PLU with valuable experiences that will benefit them for the rest of their lives, said Turner.

"Being a student athlete actually helps you excel at academics and life, it helps you manage your time. It is a mental and physical workout that helps you manage during crunch time," senior tennis player John DeMars said.

Next time you run into an athlete, either on the field or in the classroom, just remember how much time they put into representing PLU.

Scorecard

Men's Basketball as of 5/3

NWC Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
UPS	0-0	.000	5-0	1.000
Whitworth	0-0	.000	4-0	1.000
PLU	0-0	.000	5-1	.833
L&C	0-0	.000	4-1	.800
George Fox	0-0	.000	4-2	.667
Pacific	0-0	.000	2-4	.333
Linfield	0-0	.000	1-3	.250
Whitman	0-0	.000	1-3	.250
Willamette	0-0	.000	1-3	.250

Team Points Per Game Leaders

Josh Dressler - 20.8, Kyle MacTaggart - 13.8, Curtis Trondsen 10.5 - 3, Victor Bull - 10.5, James Conti - 8.0,

Team Assists Per Game Leaders

Gabe Smith - 4.0, James Conti - 2.2, Josh Dressler - 2.2, Gregory Bogdan - 2.2

Team Rebounds Per Game Leaders

Victor Bull - 5.5, Gabe Smith - 5.3, Kyle MacTaggart - 4.7, Curtis Trondsen - 4.2

Team Steals Per Game Leaders

Josh Dressler - 2.3, Kyle Gabe Smith - 1.5, Kyle MacTaggart - 1.3, Victor Bull - 1.2

Women's Basketball as of 5/3

NWC Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
George Fox	0-0	.000	4-0	1.000
Whitman	0-0	.000	4-0	1.000
PLU	0-0	.000	4-1	.800
UPS	0-0	.000	2-2	.500
Whitworth	0-0	.000	3-3	.500
L&C	0-0	.000	2-3	.400
Pacific	0-0	.000	1-3	.250
Willamette	0-0	.000	1-3	.250
Linfield	0-0	.000	0-4	.000

Team Points Per Game Leaders

Emily Voorhies - 13.2, Trinity Gibbons - 10.6, Jen Sorensen - 10.4, Ellise Parr - 7.0, Jordan Westering - 6.2

Team Assists Per Game Leaders

Trinity Gibbons - 3.6, Nikki Scott - 3.4, Sara Backstrom - 3.0

Team Rebounds Per Game Leaders

Emily Voorhies - 6.8, Trinity Gibbons - 6.4, Melissa Richardson - 5.6

Team Steals Per Game Leaders

Nikki Scott - 1.8, Melissa Richardson - 0.6, Meghan Dowling - 0.6

Men's Swimming as of 5/3

NWC Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
UPS	3-0	1.000	3-0	1.000
Whitworth	3-0	1.000	3-0	1.000
Whitman	2-1	.667	2-1	.667
Willamette	1-1	.500	1-1	.500
PLU	1-2	.333	1-2	.333
Pacific	1-2	.333	1-2	.333
L&C	0-2	.000	0-3	.000
Linfield	0-3	.000	1-3	.250

Team Best Times:

50 free: Chase Mesford - 22.75
 100 free: Jay Jones - 48.64
 200 free: Chase Mesford - 1:50.02
 500 free: Chase Mesford - 5:06.44
 100 back: Forrest Crain - 55.92
 100 breast: Jay Jones - 59.62
 100 fly: Alex Limogès - 54.99
 200 IM: Jay Jones - 1:57.74

Women's Swimming as of 5/3

NWC Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
UPS	3-0	1.000	3-0	1.000
Whitworth	3-0	.667	3-0	1.000
L&C	2-0	.667	4-2	.600
Pacific	1-2	.333	2-2	.500
Whitman	1-2	.300	2-2	.500
PLU	1-2	.333	1-2	.333
Willamette	0-2	.111	1-2	.333
Linfield	0-3	.111	1-3	.250

Team Best Times:

50 free: Brittany Wolcott - 26.52
 100 free: Jessie Klauder - 57.01
 200 free: Jessie Klauder - 2:04.28
 500 free: Jessie Klauder - 5:34.52
 100 back: Casey Jackson - 1:03.16
 100 breast: Gina Wittman - 1:13.33
 100 fly: Casey Dorcas - 1:07.05
 200 IM: Casey Dorcas - 2:23.83

PLU hosts Lutheran Invitational

Lutes split with Lutheran school opponents

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Pacific Lutheran's men's basketball team suffered its first loss Friday night during the annual Pacific Northwest Lutheran Invitational Tournament at PLU. But a win Saturday gave the Lutes a 4-1 record to start the season.

The Lutes bounced back Saturday with an 80-60 win over Wittenberg College of Ohio.

PLU trailed early in the first half until sophomore Tony Polis sunk a three-point shot to give the Lutes a 25-24 lead at the 10 minute mark in the first half.

This started a 17-4 scoring run for the Lutes, which ended the first half with 41-28 lead.

The Lutes continued to dominate in the second half leading by as many as 26 with just over four minutes left in the game.

The Lutes were led by sophomore Victor Bull with 21 points, five rebounds and three steals, while senior Josh Dressler added 19 points, five rebounds and six steals.

Dressler and Bull were both given all-tournament team honors for the invitational.

Head Coach Steve Dickerson said he was pleased with the win after the Lutes suffered their first loss of the season Friday night to the Cobbers of Concordia-Moorhead (84-79).

"Losing is not good, but if you learn from it its better," Head Coach Steve Dickerson said.

The Lutes built up a 13-point lead in the first half only to be upstaged by a Cobber comeback in the second half. Concordia-Moorhead took the lead for good with ten minutes left in the game when Ryan Hagemeyer took a pass from Karl Olson to the glass for an easy layup.

Hagemeyer and Erik Lein led the scoring attack for the Cobbers with 16 points apiece while sophomore John Fraase added 14 points and massive 17 rebounds.

The loss ended a 3-game win streak for the Lutes, capped by a 111-78 point victory over Walla Walla College Nov. 25 in the Lute's home opener.

The loss was Walla Walla's ninth of the season.

PLU was led by Dressler who racked-up 26 points and sophomore Kyle McTaggart who added 18.

Dickerson describes his young team as "a work in progress," and said that the Lutes are continually working at being a better team.

"We expect to be in the conference playoffs (this year)," Dickerson said.

Dickerson stated that in order to keep winning the Lutes need to "keep up defensive intensity," rebound more missed shots and keep a strong leadership base from the small core of upperclassmen.

"They automatically need to lead by example [and] they are very good at that," Dickerson said.

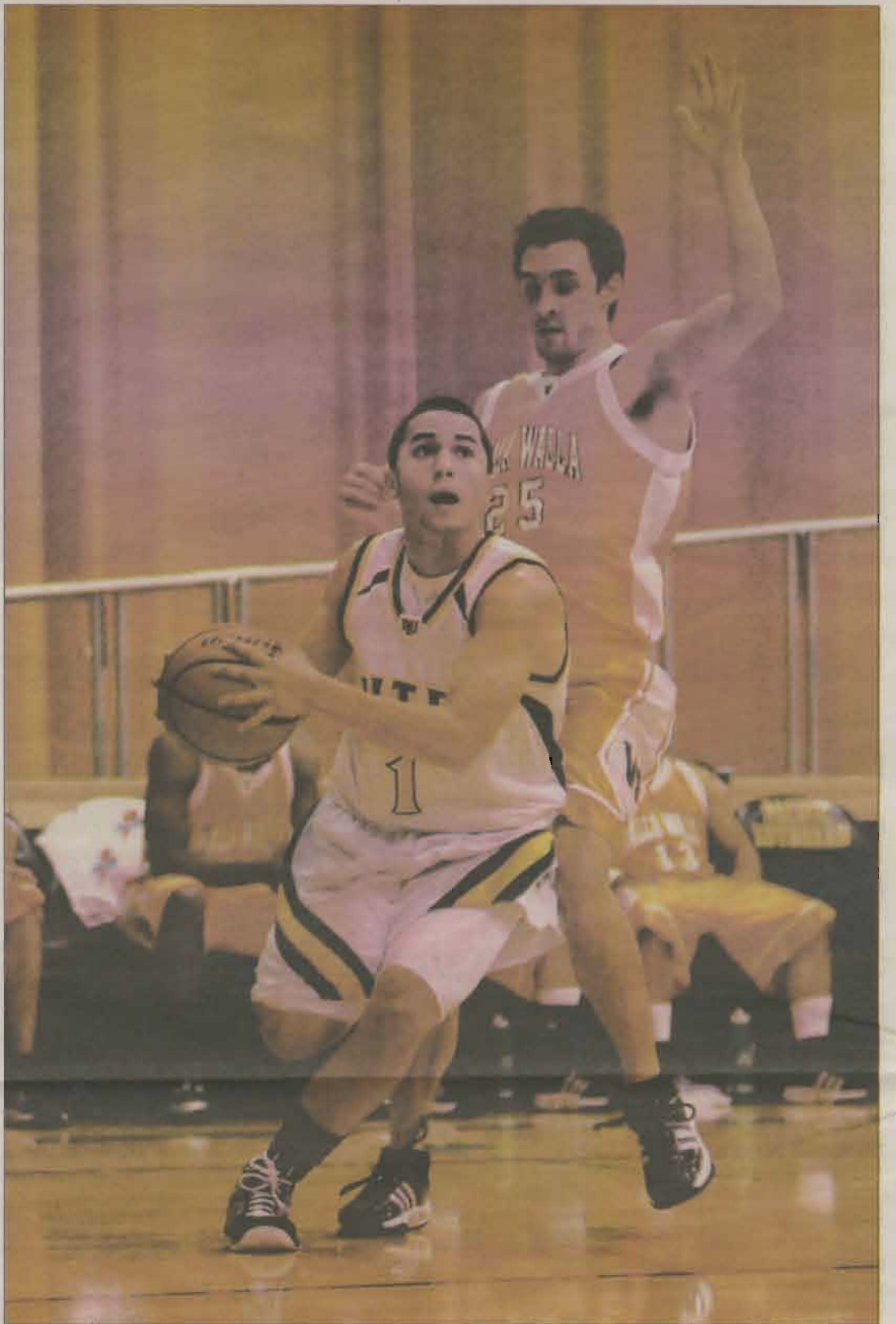


Photo by Ted Charles

First-year James Conti drives past a Walla Walla defender in the Lutes game Nov. 25. The Lutes defeated Walla Walla and split a pair of games at the Lutheran Invitational last weekend.



Photo by Ted Charles

Senior Emily Voorhies attempts a layup in the Lutes game against Northwest on Nov. 22. The Lutes have jumped out to a 4-1 record this season.

Lute women sweep at Invite, move to 4-1

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PLU women's basketball picked up a pair of victories at the Pacific Northwest Lutheran Invitational, last Friday and Saturday in Olson Auditorium. PLU boosted their record to 4-1 as the team captured an easy win over the Finlandia University Lions, (71-41) and a (53-46) win against the Wartburg Knights.

"We really came together as a team and I'm really proud we got those two wins," senior Trinity Gibbons said.

Gibbons led her team scoring 12 points Friday. Sophomore Jordan Westering contributed 10 points and senior Melissa Richardson matched Gibbons for the team high rebounds with six.

Eleven out of the 13 Lutes stepped into the game and scored. Each tallied at least one rebound. PLU maintained dominant ball control as they pushed Finlandia into 28 turnovers, while PLU gave up 11 and attempted 33 shots more than the Lions did.

The next night, junior Jen Sorensen scored a career high with 23 points leading her team to success. Sorensen hit 4-of-9 three-point efforts and was 8-of-15 overall.

"Jen really stepped up individually," Gibbons said.

Almost eight minutes into the second half, Wartburg was ahead by two until Westering made a three-pointer, stealing back the lead for the Lutes 36-35.

The Lutes proceeded to open a 46-36 advantage with Sorensen hitting a three-pointer during what turned into a 13-1 run.

"If it hadn't been for the team I would not have played so well," Sorensen said.

In the last 48 seconds, senior Nikki Scott hit all six of her free throw shots finalizing the win for the Lutes.

PLU will battle its competitors, Saint Martin's, a NCAA Division II school in Lacey, Wash. in a non-conference game on Thursday at 7 p.m.