

THE MAST

Pacific Lutheran University

ON AIR

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NEW NEEB CENTER
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FEBRUARY 27, 2009

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New financial opportunities

National bill promises positive financial increases for eligible college students

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PLU is seeing positive results in response to the \$789 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed on Feb. 17 by President Barack Obama. \$507 billion is allocated to spending programs while \$282 billion will provide tax relief. Other than energy programs and "Other," the Education and Training category of the Stimulus Package receives the smallest amount of funding, amounting to \$53 billion. Despite this, funding for college students will become more readily available.

There are two provisions of the Act which explicitly provide aid to higher education institutions. Firstly, \$17 billion in additional funding has been provided for the Pell Grant Program. The new maximum amount students are eligible for is \$5,250; last year it was \$4,731. The second provision is a 25 percent overall increase in the Federal Work Study Program. All other specific provisions were eliminated from previous, rejected versions of the Act.

At PLU, approximately 1,000 of our 3,400 students are eligible for Pell Grants and 25 percent of those students are eligible for the maximum amount. The Financial Aid Office estimates that PLU

students will be eligible for \$150,000 more in Pell Grants than previous years. PLU should also be able to offer \$40 to \$50,000 dollars more in Federal Work Study funds.

Washington D.C. politicians had worried that investing in higher education would not help stimulate the economy. Leaders of such institutions, such as PLU President Loren Anderson, lobbied for such funding.

"If you can give a student an extra \$500 that helps them either go to college or stay in college. First of all, that is one person that isn't out there looking for a job," Anderson said. "It's keeping the colleges and universities full, so they can employ faculty and staff. And it is preparing students for the long-term future. Investments in financial aid do stimulate the economy."

PLU has the potential to receive more money from the Stimulus Package. Grant programs, such as the National Institute for Health and the National



AP Photo by Gerald Herbert
President Barack Obama, accompanied by House Financial Services Committee Chairman Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., left, and Senate Banking Committee Chairman Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., makes comments in the Diplomatic Reception Room of the White House, Wednesday.

Science Foundation also received funds from the Act. Each of these organizations bequeaths money to higher education institutions.

"We may be in a position to get support through those grant programs," Anderson said.

Though PLU will not receive any state funding, \$800 million of the \$1 billion allocated to Washington State is being distributed to K-12 education and to public colleges and universities.

This is not a cause for concern. PLU's endowment, although hit, is in a fairly secure position. As of last summer, the endowment, which Anderson likens to "a savings account" for universities,

totaled approximately \$75 million. Currently, it stands at \$58 million. Even though this is a 23 percent decrease, the real difference is that \$600,000 less is spent by the university. PLU places five percent of the endowment into the budget each year.

Anderson believes the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will stimulate the economy, eventually.

"I think the question is whether or not it is going to slow the decline or whether or not it is powerful enough to actually reverse the direction things are headed. Whether it is large enough. Whether this is enough of a stimulus to turn," Anderson said.

Tuition rises:

PLU tuition rises 4.9 percent for next year

**Comprehensive Cost of PLU
2005-2010**



Graphic by Maren Anderson

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Amid a global financial crisis, the financial challenge of sending students to a private university becomes more daunting. During their January meeting, the PLU Board of Regents approved a 4.9 percent combined tuition, room and meal increase for the 2009-2010 school year.

Last week, President Loren Anderson sent an e-mail informing all PLU families of the \$1,700 tuition increase for next year, the smallest increase in the last seven years.

"Everyone would prefer to have no increase at all. But the fact is that providing a first rate university education continues to become more expensive each year," Anderson said.

Anderson cited three main reasons for the increase in his e-mail to parents, "we will not waiver in our commitment to give all students, regardless of financial need, the opportunity to succeed at PLU. Second, we will do all that is necessary to maintain the excellence of our faculty and staff. Third, we simply will not cut corners on academic quality."

Senior Ben Resare echoes Anderson's perspective that preserving quality education requires a tuition increase at PLU this year.

"I think in our turbulent economic times, we are blessed that the tuition increase is only 4.9 percent while that is a fraction of what other

**see Tuition
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STATE, NATION and WORLD BRIEFINGS

Local to Global



AP Photo by Charles Dharapak

Commerce Secretary-designate, former Washington Gov. Gary Locke looks on as President Barack Obama announces his nomination, Wednesday, Feb. 25, in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington.

Obama chooses Locke to run Commerce Department

Liz Sidoti
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Barack Obama introduced former Washington Gov. Gary Locke as his nominee for Commerce secretary Wednesday, trying a third time to fill a key Cabinet post for a country in recession.

"I'm sure it's not lost on anyone that we've tried this a couple of times. But I'm a big believer in keeping at something until you get it right. And Gary is the right man for this job," Obama said, standing with the fellow Democrat in the Indian Treaty Room at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building near the White House.

The president's two top earlier choices for the post dropped out—one a Democrat facing questions about a donor and the other a Republican who had a change of heart about working for a president from the opposite party—well before the Senate had a chance to confirm them.

Obama praised Locke, a Chinese-American, as a man who shares his vision for turning around the moribund

economy, and as someone who is committed to doing what it takes to keep the American dream alive.

"Gary will be a trusted voice in my Cabinet, a tireless advocate for our economic competitiveness and an influential ambassador to American industry who will help us do everything we can, especially now, to promote our industry around the globe," Obama said.

"I'm grateful he's agreed to leave one Washington for another," the president added.

In turn, Locke said he was committed to making the sprawling agency an "active and integral partner" in advancing Obama's economic agenda, as the agency nurtures innovation, expands global markets, protects ocean fisheries and fosters growth.

"The Department of Commerce can and will help create the jobs and the economic vitality our nation needs," Locke said.

If confirmed by the Senate, Locke would assume control of a large agency with a broad portfolio that includes overseeing many aspects of international trade, oceans policy and the 2010 Census.

Government says 'mass layoffs' soared in January

Christopher S. Rugaber
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Employers took a large ax to their payrolls in January, the government said Wednesday, and the cuts are likely to get worse over the next few months.

The Labor Department reported that mass layoffs, or job cuts of 50 or more by a single employer, increased to 2,227 in January, up almost 50 percent from the same month last year. More than 235,000 workers were fired in last month's cuts.

January was a bad month for the labor market. Companies from a wide range of sectors announced tens of thousands of layoffs, including Home Depot Inc., Boeing Co., Pfizer Inc. and Caterpillar Inc.

Not all of those cuts were reflected in the government's mass layoffs report, which counts actual firings as reported by laid-off workers seeking unemployment benefits. Many of the layoffs announced in January will take place over time, meaning that the department's mass layoff figures will likely keep increasing.

Library hours accommodate

New library hours extend study opportunities for students

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The Pacific Lutheran University's Mortvedt Library staff has heard the cries of students looking for places to study after midnight. As of Sunday, Feb. 22, the library will be open Sundays through Thursdays until 1 a.m. For security reasons a valid PLU ID will be required to get into the library after 9 p.m.

"We've wanted to do this for a while," Library Technical services employee Fran Rasmus said.

Rasmus also stressed another point: after midnight limited service will be offered. Students will have to plan accordingly by checking out needed books for late night study sessions before midnight.

For off-campus and lower-campus students

heading home from the library during the late hours, extra Campus Safety escorts will be provided. Announcements will be made at 12:30 a.m. in the library to make sure all students have arranged for escorts if necessary.

"We're trying to provide services, but be safe as well," Rasmus said.

These new hours are operating on a trial basis and the library staff will be keeping a head count of all students who swipe into the library during these times.

Two new services are also being offered during the new hours. There are two new group-study spaces on the third floor with internet access and laptop locks are available for students who want to keep their computers safe while searching for books or using the restrooms. If you have any questions about the new hours or the new services visit the Mortvedt Library's help desk or call 253.535.7507.

Family functions

Family Math Night raises awareness about Mathlete Coaching Program, involves family problem solving

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Mathematics and families filled the University Center CK Wednesday night when Pacific Lutheran hosted the Mathlete Coaching Program's Family Math Night. This event was to raise awareness about the goals of the Mathlete Coaching Program, and to make parents an integral part of a necessary math community in the educational process.

"Tonight is a wonderful example of the community we have become," Professor of Mathematics Bryan Dorner said. "It warms my heart to see you all this evening."

He addressed the room of 150-200 students, parents and teachers who were given a math problem earlier in the night to solve. Prior to this challenge, a slide show was shown to highlight key problem solving strategies so parents could later assist their Mathlete competitors at home.

Dorner and his wife Celine, also a PLU mathematics professor, started planning for this program five years ago. The Mathlete Coaching Program is an effort by PLU students and faculty to train middle school Mathletes for the annual Math Olympiad on May 2. This is a mathematics competition that is held at multiple regional venues, and there are many local sites such as one at Thompson Elementary

in Spanaway, Wash. This is in collaboration with Tacoma/South Puget Sound MESA.

Students from grades 5-8 are placed in groups of three to four students and are coached by PLU mathematics students. Districts that participate are the Bethel School District, Franklin Pierce School District and Tacoma Public Schools.

"The opportunity to make a real difference for kids is very rewarding," Bryan Dorner said. "Many students that participate want to be future teachers and it is a great way to explore vocation."

Intel has supported the event with over \$70,000 in grants over several years of the program, which has helped with transportation costs, registration and other costs.

"It is good to see the kids having fun doing math," senior math major Melissa Knittel said. "They get really excited when they get the right answer and it is good to see."

Over the years the program has been successful at integrating PLU students into the greater community outside the Lute Dome.



Photo by Ted Charles

Jose Monterroso, a Mathlete competitor, and his mother Elisa Monterroso register for Family Math Night. Parents received the opportunity to learn the problem solving strategies that can help them guide their child's learning.

"Sometimes we can get stuck in a bubble on campus," junior mathematics and elementary education major Emily Reimer said. "It is good to get out and work with kids in the surrounding community."

Last year, 11 of the 33 teams medaled at the competition. Mathletes also specifically target schools with high percentages of free or reduced lunches.

"This year our school list includes Sheridan Elementary, which has a majority Hispanic population and Jason Lee which has a majority African American student population," Celine Dorner said.

It is not too late to volunteer.

"We can always use more people," Celine Dorner said. "Students can go with another coach to see how it works."

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From PLU to the Met

PLU alumnus Noah Baetge takes opera contest by storm

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"I think I could die happy," new celebrity singer Noah Baetge said after arriving back from the Grand Finals concert where he performed on the Metropolitan Opera stage (MET) in New York on Feb. 22.

The 28-year-old tenor from Kent, Wash. was one of eight singers including three other tenors to perform with the MET orchestra broadcast nationally on the MET Opera radio network.

Baetge graduated from Pacific Lutheran University with a bachelor in vocal performance in December 2008 and is currently thinking about the Master's program. In 2006, Baetge also competed in the Metropolitan Opera National Council (MONC) auditions and made it to regionals where he received the MONC Competition First Honorable Mention award.

After the district auditions, where Baetge was awarded \$750 and celebrated as the audience's choice giving him another \$250, he moved on with seven others from the Seattle district to the Northwest Regional in Seattle. There, they competed against the best singers from 45 other districts in 16 regions, which included Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and Western Canada.

Baetge won first place at the regional giving him a \$4,000 prize, an additional \$800 from the MONC and the trip to the semi-finals in New York.

District Director for Washington and Alaska Katherine Smith was amazed at hearing Baetge at the Regional level and could not be more proud of him.

"He was wonderful. There was no question in my mind that he would win," Smith said.

For the semi-finals, Baetge competed with 23 of the best singers from the other regional performances around the United States.

Each contestant gave the judges a list of their five choice songs and the judges picked two for each to sing. The six to seven judges for the semi-finals and finals were never the same.

It came to eight finalists chosen for the Grand Finals Concert with the MET Orchestra and Baetge was one of them. Each singer picked out two songs together

with Maestro Patrick Sommers. They had one day for rehearsal with the orchestra and then a quick run-through the morning of the concert.

Baetge's starting piece was an Italian arias followed by a French arias. When it came time to perform, Baetge who rarely gets nervous, felt something new.

"It was like an electricity in the air, almost an amazing tension that was released when we were finally able to sing on the stage," Baetge said.

Baetge was alone on the top stage with the Maestro in front of him and the MET orchestra in the pit. Trying to keep an eye on the Maestro while moving across the stage is difficult and "one of the downsides to opera, but we've had lots of practice singing without having to look at him the whole time," Baetge said.

Although, he was not in the top four finalists, he received \$5,000 as a runner-up, massive publicity and an incredible story to tell about his experience.

"It doesn't matter if you win, except getting more money; all the agents are there, everyone who is important in the world is there and can hear you and often hire," Smith said.

The Metropolitan Opera House is an enormous building with five levels and several elevators.

"It's very gorgeous, gaudy, without being gaudy. It had the gold trimming and red, plush velvet seats, very ornate," Baetge said.

Baetge flew his family and girlfriend up to see the Grand Finals concert. Sister Heather Baetge, 27, was blown away by the MET house and her brother's chance to be on the stage.

"The MET was amazing, I was so impressed and I was so proud to be there and to hear him," Heather said.

Smith expects Baetge's career to change after this experience in New York. For Baetge, it took some time to comprehend exactly where he was.

"It's weird because you know all these famous people sang on this stage and I didn't realize it until after when I was waiting to take the elevator," Baetge said.

The Metropolitan Opera House is one of the most prestigious opera foundations existing since 1883. Baetge was able to work with several of its teachers and singers to improve his skill and learn more about the



Baetge

business of opera and their future. All eight competitors were packed with things to do and were allowed the day before their concert as their only day off.

Scheduled activities included one-on-one coaching with the Maestro and the House Director Peter McClintock, discussions about topics including how to deal with difficult cast members and what it's like being in the opera in terms of relationships as well as how to keep traditional opera, like Mozart, in mind while performing a more modern piece.

As part of his practice, Baetge was able to work with McClintock accompanied with a pianist on his specific songs, perfecting the areas that needed help.

"He would ask: what are you thinking? Do you think there needs to be a hand gesture right here?" Baetge said. "Which was great, it's nice to be able to get that last little bit to bring it all together and make sure it flows."

To see a complete list of Baetge's previous accomplishments or for more information about his upcoming performances visit his website at www.noahbaetge.com.

Can't get enough
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online at
plu.edu/~mast

Tuition
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universities are raising by," Resare said.

Senior ASPLU vice president Amy Spieker understands that increasing tuition also supports the student experience at PLU.

"We've already had to cut so much from the operating budget that the money for student activities has to come from somewhere," Spieker said.

However small the increase may be, \$1,700 still influences student and family budgets.

"I think it's a bummer, as a student, that tuition is going up. I know all the savings accounts and everything are going down," first-year Claire Plourde said. "I think it will make it harder for students."

Plourde recognizes that PLU

students will feel an impact by this increase, but it doesn't diminish her enthusiasm for her education.

"PLU and my education are worth it," Plourde said. "It's kind of out of my hands, but I'm willing to hang in there."

While students are experiencing the pros and cons of this economic period, PLU has implemented cost-saving measures across the university budgets that emphasize financial aid for students. Anderson believes the next priority in the budget process will be to focus on increasing faculty and staff benefit programs and salaries.

Anderson's e-mail mentioned many of the projects the university is working on to ensure that quality education is maintained. Raising funds for an endowed chair in Holocaust Studies, the unveiling of the Martin J. Neeb KPLU building and the nuclear magnetic resonance

spectrometer are three items he mentioned that demonstrate the continued development of PLU even during times of economic hardship.

In the last month, the Office of Development and University Relations launched a new campaign called Project Access. Development officers have committed to raise an extra \$1 million to give 300 students a \$3,500 QClub scholarship.

"Hopefully, this will enable PLU to once again realize two goals—student access and outstanding quality," Anderson said.

To curb the worries of continuing students and families, the Office of Financial Aid will be hosting Financial Aid Days, Apr. 1-3 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the University Center. Families who have billing questions or issues with their financial aid packages are encouraged to attend.

TODAY, February 27
Chapel with Melannie Cunningham
10:20am/Lagerquist

Carnival
Themed Dinner in the UC starting at 4:30pm
Parade and Fire Artists in Red Square at 7pm
Carnival Event starts at 7:30pm/Lagerquist

Black & Gold Dance
9:30pm/the Cave

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i
heart black
history
events during the month of february

From the editor

Crying, sweating, bleeding, journalism-style

Maren Anderson
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A tattered, mysterious light gray Alphaville album cover has been sitting on the large conference table in The Mast office for months. It was picked out of the KCCR free record box in the lower level of the UC, then found a new home all alone on our table.

For weeks it has been the centerpiece of our weekly editorial board meetings without much significance until Monday night when it became the launching pad for our rejuvenated vow to be a relevant and important news source for this campus.

As a staff, we know we underperformed in last week's issue. We succumbed to the all-too-human pressure of the stress of a new semester. Consequently, we failed to serve our community, a community that trusts us to tell its stories.

But Monday, when we assembled ourselves around the table like a normal week, nothing was normal. We needed a change in perspective. We needed to realize that the newspaper we produced five days before did not meet our standards or the standards for our community.

A picture of angst and anxiety on the faces of all the editors matched that album cover for the first few minutes of the conversation. A couple of editors asked, "Can you give us specific examples?"

When we provided examples of misspelled names, design errors, weak news judgment and inappropriate editorializing, we all realized the system was somehow broken. We all realized we had not produced a perfect product.

But that's not our goal.

The Mast is a learning lab for the real world practice of journalism. Frankly, not all professional papers are perfect either, so it might be an unrealistic standard to set.

After the initial panic, each of our editors erased their gray looks of anxiety and replaced them with resolved, learned looks of serious commitment.

Instead of harsh defensiveness, the staff together accepted the challenge and the call to refocus ourselves and to serve up the PLU community a new and improved Mast.

It was a learning moment for each of us.

Sometimes as a second semester senior, I like to think that I have figured this college business out. But, this Monday night the message was reinforced that the learning is far from over.

College is not about knowing. Rather, it is about trying and challenging and occasionally failing. It's about finding a question that generates such internal passion that one is inspired to pursue it until one finds another question.

Learning is a journey, an adventure and a challenge that can never be achieved through a good grade or a pat on the back. Unfortunately, or fortunately, we will never be done learning.

We are students first. However, I think the definition of student needs to be expanded outside of the classroom. We are in college learning how to be professional students of life.

I wish that each of us could devote 40 professional hours a week to reporting, compiling, designing and laying out The Mast.

However, we've accepted the responsibility this community has placed on us and this week I have learned that responsibility is not about perfection, rather about passion and learning.

Monday night our staff came together to learn from the experience of last week's issue with an amazing attitude of solidarity.

At first I wanted to apologize for last week's issue. But not any more. Last week's imperfections wound up becoming incredibly important for our learning as a team.

At the end of our meeting Monday, we placed the Alphaville album in the middle of the editorial board table as if it was our mascot, placed our collective hands on it and led a cheer: "Let's Go Mast!"



Comic by Aubrey Lange

Hipsters unite

U.S. pop culture consumes identity



In the ever-expanding lexicon of cultural stereotypes that are piled upon the meta-consciousness of the U.S., today's use of the term 'hipster' is simultaneously the most obtrusive and most opaque of them all. Like any stereotype, the hipster is a receptacle, an assonate image possessing a vague ethos that is necessary, just like every other single phrase judgment one can think of, for the U.S. cultural economy to function.

The U.S. cultural economy is the buying and selling of societal archetypes as manifested by real people. The Jonas Brothers, for example, are people who have been constructed to represent a style, a type, a way of being that is then sold to and consumed by the public. Although they sell what can commonly be seen as a false image, it is an image that is still desirable enough to the public for it to be marketed on a mass scale.

So we are brought to the central thesis of our U.S. culture. It is one that we might silently acknowledge, but it is a doubtful one that we often realize its de facto implications. All of the false and vague archetypes that we have heard or have found within the cultural din of our society, from the hipster to the jock to the princess, are necessary for

our society to survive. They have become necessary because they have been effective. The Super Bowl ads that choose archetypes to attach to a product choose those archetypes because there is some innate association that the consumer bloc has with that simulacrum. If we no longer accept them, our advertising is no longer effective and thus our economy, the way it is structured, will no longer operate.

Let us examine a couple phenomena that are at the forefront of our cultural economy: Facebook and Katy Perry.

We can regurgitate all the tired arguments both for and against Facebook. It connects us, it places us in boxes; it is fun, it is socially dangerous; it creates community across geography and culture, it destroys 'real' human connection. But one essential and undeniable fact about Facebook is that it relies on the natural human obsession with image. Every picture and every description facilitates a specific image. These images now are used to the benefit of advertising companies. We are directly supplying the archetypes that are used to make us consume.

Katy Perry is exploiting U.S. archetypes to make catchy, edgy tunes. No matter if we identify with the girl-who-makes-out-with-girls-at-parties-to-make-her-boyfriend-jealous stereotype or not, the popularity of Perry's work engrains it as something true. We consume it—we validate it.

The implication of this cultural development is that as U.S. consumers we are only these

stereotypes. If the stereotypes, like the one in Katy Perry's song, is made successful, it is made real. What else can we use as litmus to judge what a real person is? We may claim that each individual, past the image he or she touts, is simply a person and thus something separate from the theoretical cliché he or she may be boxed into. However as long as we function within our economy this viewpoint is impossible. It is an odd and undoubtedly queasy fact to confront. Most likely it will be rejected prima facie, but that will only increase its validity.

There is no one to blame and nowhere to turn for an immediate cure. It isn't even necessarily a bad development in our western human condition, given our modern collective thought processes. We could not function today if we could not organize people into the archetypes we consume in our culture. Because culture is now mostly nationalized, even internationalized, our consumption is very similar across the board. We can only think in terms of what we know and if what we know are these archetypes, these truisms, these are the things we become.

Our cultural economy expands and contracts based upon how much we buy into the archetypes we are supposed to consume. Our sorry paradox as westerners is that we need some things: food, clothing, furniture. In buying these things we are often accepting a paradigm of glibness that we don't necessarily desire to perpetuate. Maybe we need more opaque terms for people. Maybe we need more hipsters.

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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.

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Secondhand stories

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This past weekend I took a long walk up Seattle's Dearborn Avenue, encountering errant alcoholics, homeless people in their shopping carts, shards of sunlight and football fans with sandpapered hands. As is often the case when seeking out new information, my goal was amorphous, almost cavernous, and, almost like those nearby crack addicts, I felt the nervousness of pre-acquisition jitters of a good book. Fortunately my dilemma was solved as a sepulcher of learning appeared in the guise of a Goodwill store. Why Goodwill? Because within its vast horde of bronzed lamps, random CDs and piles of lost stories lay several shelves of books. Something interesting was sure to spring into my hand.

Sure, I didn't need any books. My home and office were already glutted with partially-read DS 777s and partially-gnawed-upon Dewey Decimal counterparts. The very thought of taking on further ballast from silent stacks - being tethered by yet another barcode - or scrawling a few more pages of notes in some lost notebook about the Cold War in Asia simply did not appeal. I needed something more contemporary, something...Clintonian.

I had grazed upon the chaff of internet news, and was wholly unsatisfied. On the day after Hillary Clinton's visit to China, the Beijing's central Xinhua.net had confirmed its own irrelevance via breathless and stomach-churning accolades for its own saintly (though admittedly adorable) Premier, Wen Jiabao. Some solid European reporting on China offered relief, but was fifteen clicks and a library card away. And thus my sojourns commenced into the maze of the Goodwill stacks, a task risking irrelevance, fraught with the uncertainties of the poorly sorted and self-published conspiracy theories with which the cash economy of book markets in the US are so often barnacled.

The hazards of this endeavor became immediately clear as I nearly tripped over an older gentleman who was methodically culling the stacks of all things FDR, capitalizing on the boom of literature on busting economies. Perhaps he was wheeling off with all of Arthur Schlesinger's work to feed hungry minds at a working group of unemployed historians? A Christian numerologist's 1987 book entitled "Gorbechev! The Arrival of the Anti-Christ?" tempted me for a moment, as did a self-published "Islamic Threat Report" from spring 2002 hot with translations of the Israeli right-wing press and adorned with a graphic conflation of Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden. Culling through the printed detritus of wars in Central Asia and devilish foes, I became momentarily lost within the twinges of a distinctly Anglo-American nostalgia. However, the true delights of my foray into the livre d'occasion quickly became apparent when something fat and golden began to call: "My Life," it breathed and the hefty tome of Bill Clinton's memoir (Knopf, 2004) pressed into my palms.

Like most memoirs, Bill Clinton's book is a study in self-defense, a poorly-ordered jumble of

experiences lent coherence only by the author's prominence and ambition. Nine hundred and fifty seven pages of prose with nary a footnote in sight. Clearly the president was too busy unburdening his busy mind and making speeches after January 2001 to be bothered, say, to visit the archives to consult the 10,000 pages of his wife's schedules, research his funding to Iraqis in exile in London or reprint amusing letters from deranged constituents. Only the index existed to bridge the gap between the author's shrewd obfuscations and my desired understanding of what the man had done (and how perhaps his capable spouse had helped him) with regard to the People's Republic of China.

Clinton's two terms had witnessed great changes in China itself and more than a few unpredictable Sino-U.S. dustups. China's entry into the World Trade Organization is touted as a great achievement and Clinton's 1998 visit to the PRC is touted as an amazing display of the fruits of democracy. Here Clinton enters a broad stream of American politicians who travel to China with a few perishable platitudes about free markets and religion and come home spouting nonsense. Obviously, Clinton has never ridden in a taxi in China's northeastern rust-belt unemployment meccas, for there he would hear, see and choke upon the stories of how China, urged on by U.S. consumers, has jettisoned its comprehensive system of total employment and cradle-to-grave social services for the unforgiving edges of disaster capitalism.

In some ways, Clinton's memoir hails from a bygone era. It is stacked high with pre-Terror War heresies, ignorant of the "Surge," littered with finite military actions and stacked high with legislative achievements. Talk about antiquated: not even once does Clinton deploy

the terms "smoking gun" "mushroom cloud" or "uranium from Africa." Hello Mr. President? Don't I have paranoia that it is your job to feed? Further confirming its old-school pedigree, Clinton's entire book was drafted without the benefit of anything other than a couple hundred yellow legal pads and fountain pens. How

students today will assemble their memoirs in 2050 without reference to the happily narcissistic, scandalously ubiquitous, and data-voracious tool known as "Facebook" is a question that Clinton's amazingly productive Luddite tendencies call into question.

Finally, Clinton's memoir brings us to an axiom of U.S.-China relations in the era of Hillary: the relationship between the U.S. and the PRC is fundamentally strong, but it has yet to be challenged in a period of supreme economic stress. Issues of human rights, concerns about Taiwan, all add stress to this relationship. And all it takes is a few errant cruise missiles to empty China's college campuses in anti-United States protests.

About a year after Bill Clinton dialogued with Beijing University students in 1998 and had a public debate with Jiang Zemin, Clinton was roundly denounced for bombing the Chinese embassy in Belgrade. But today Hillary Clinton might well be able to forge the kind of cooperative U.S.-China relationship focused on common environmental and economic challenges which she advocated so clearly on her recent trip to Beijing. After all, if the United States and China start talking trade war, we will all be shopping at Goodwill soon.

"Clearly the president was too busy unburdening his busy mind and making speeches after January 2001 to be bothered..."
 Adam Cathcart



ASPLU informs you about the issues

Megan Buchholz
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Live music, skate shows, friends, great food, games and activities, community involvement and festivities excitement. All things that sound like fun separately but imagine all of these things together in one huge event. Get ready because April 25, Lolla"PLU"za will hit Pacific Lutheran University.

Lolla"PLU"za is a music festival so large we will have to shut down Garfield Street.

Want to know who the live performing artist will be? Keep an eye out on March 2 for the announcement of the headlining band. Opening acts include New Faces, The Lonely Forest and Dyme.

In the last three weeks, ASPLU will be seeing changes with the election of the new ASPLU president and vice president. It is important that the student body be informed and pay attention to the views and perspectives of all the candidates as well as vote for the candidate you think would best serve ASPLU. Here are the important dates coming up in the executive elections:

- March 2 - Meet the Candidates in the Cave at 9 p.m.
- March 4-5 - ASPLU Primary Election - vote online at www.plu.edu/~asplu or in the University Commons
- March 10 - Final debate in the Cave at 7 p.m.
- March 11-12 - General election - vote online at www.plu.edu/~asplu or in the UC.



Amanda Peterson
 MAST COLUMNIST
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Three fellow Pacific Lutheran students and I got the opportunity to volunteer for the 2009 South Sound Sustainability Expo Saturday morning. Our mode of transport? The bus of course. Pierce Transit buses run on compressed natural gas instead of diesel to be specific. Though the ride was a little longer than expected, we all arrived at University of Puget Sound ready to see what the day held for us. With bright green volunteer T-shirts (an appropriate color choice, I must say), we were sent off into the crowds of people and booths to mingle, answer questions and have fun.

The first place I stopped was Pierce Transit's display where I competed with a muscular Mr. Recycle superhero for an umbrella. Beating the superhero and winning the umbrella seemed neat at the time. However, it became even more appealing after my umbrella broke in the rain this week. I know what you're thinking, but give me a break, I'm from Tennessee.

After getting free light bulbs, shower timers and a plethora of information on how to save money while saving energy, I headed over to a table to talk about TAGRO, short for "Tacoma Grow." If you've never heard about this soil product before, you are in for a surprise. It is made from "a blend of wastewater byproducts called biosolids and other weed-free gardening components" that travels from the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant in Tacoma to yards and gardens all over the area. This is very local and sustainable if I do say so myself, however odd it may seem at first. After thought-provoking conversations about the campaign for a Sustainable Fort Lewis, as well as various volunteer opportunities with Cascade Land Conservancy to clean up our watershed, the time came for the expo to close.

As I made my way through the crowds to leave, I passed children and adults alike proudly bearing "Bite me. I'm organic," stickers which brought a smile to my face. This expo reminded me that sustainability doesn't always have to be serious, though I hope it will play an ever increasing role on our campus, in the homes of those in the greater Tacoma community and in the actions of our legislature and government officials.

Sidewalk Talk

How do you feel about tuition increasing 4.9 percent for next year?



I don't think it's fair.

Andriana Fletcher
 sophomore



I'm a senior.

Mycah Uehling
 senior



I'm not happy because it decreases my chance of studying abroad.

Alex Smith
 first-year



That will be another loan for me.

Erika Meyer
 sophomore



Last year there was a higher increase. With the economy I expected it to go up, so I am happy.

Luke Terwilliger
 sophomore

Eastvold to Neeb:

Andrew Croft
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Since November 1966, KPLU has been broadcasting out of Eastvold Auditorium--right in the heart of Pacific Lutheran University's campus. In KPLU's beginning, their audience mainly consisted of who resided on or near PLU's campus, considering the station broadcasted with only 10 watts behind it.

Since the 60's, the stations wattage has increase to over 100,000 and they have gained an audience of 250,000 listeners throughout Western Washington, lower British Columbia and Northern Oregon.

With the increase in popularity, there has been an increase in staff as well. Unfortunately, there has been no increase in space over KPLU's 43 years of broadcasting.

Luckily for KPLU, they will be moving to a more spacious and accommodating place to broadcast, the Martin J. Neeb center.

No more sitting at desks with CD's and records surrounding you to a point of claustrophobia. No more needing to broadcast while standing up because the only area for any chair space is at the receptionist's desk.

With only a week left until KPLU starts the move into their new building, the studios and offices are still under

construction, but the building has already begun to broadcast its own story.

Piles of sawdust build up while maintenance workers put the finishing touches on the light-brown wood desks.

All the chairs are piled up in the open area of the second floor, waiting to be picked by the producers, reporters and disc jockeys.

Orange storage boxes are stacked on top of each other, some so high they lean more than that tower in Pisa.

The halls are empty, waiting for the hustle and bustle of top news stories, only to be calmed by the soothing sounds of jazz.

Newly installed on air lights await for their first show so they can illuminate the studio.

Wires hang out of the walls, waiting to be plugged into new sound boards and microphones and broadcast to a quarter of a million fans.

A finished receptionist's desk sits and waits under the track lighting of the lobby to introduce listeners, donors and others to the new building.

While we wait for the new studio to open, PLU students are still able to enjoy their favorite KPLU programming on 88.5 FM.



The outer exterior of the Martin J. Neeb Center on the corner of 125th and Park Ave. The Neeb Center had its official opening on February 27, 2009. The Office of University Relations Development occupies the third floor. The Office of University Relations Development, which was located on the second floor, but will not plan to start broadcasting from the Neeb center for three months.



Dave Meyer, famous voice of KPLU, doing a live broadcast in the KPLU studios in Eastvold Auditorium. KPLU's studio space in Eastvold is so small, Meyer has to stand up sometimes to do his broadcasts.



DJ Kevin Kniestedt surfing the web during his broadcast. Kniestedt is pushed up against the computer because of how small the new studio's in the Neeb Center have more than just this small window. The Neeb studio's have a window that faces towards Park Avenue.

KPLU's transformational upgrade through photos



g and ribbon cutting ceremony on Feb. 13. The Neeb center was primarily built for KPLU, but the Office of University
her side of Pacific Ave., began moving into the offices on Monday. KPLU will begin moving into the offices this week.

With the new KPLU studio's in the Neeb Center still being developed, the only hardware to be installed are the new on-air signs. The new signs are state of the art and will give DJ's a flashy way to show everyone when they are on the air.



and antiquated the studio's in KPLU are. The
main hallway and another window that faces

Nick Francis, another KPLU disc jockey, sits in his office and searches the Internet. Francis is surrounded by massive quantities of CD's, records and other documents that clutter the KPLU offices in Eastvold.

Cartoon opens eyes to racism

Racist imagery in cartoon reflects need for self-examination

Queerfully Yours



Jake K.M.
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The New York Post published a comic by Sean Delonas Feb. 18 depicting two white police officers shooting a gorilla, saying, "They'll have to find someone else to write the next stimulus bill." The dancing primate took three bullet wounds to the chest and then eventually fell backward, to the ground, suspended forever in newsprint. The image is crowned by a slack, simian jaw, its tongue protruding limp and ineffective.

The portrayal of President Obama as a gorilla is obviously and reprehensibly racist. I don't have to show you 1960s footage of Disney's "Scrub Me Mama with a Boogie Beat" (<http://tinyurl.com/racist-cartoon>), rife with black folks, arms as long as chimpanzees, swinging to the song stylings of a high-yellow Lena Horne for you to understand the historical depiction of blacks as apes. I also don't have to show you other representations of blacks as animals in other cartoons (<http://tinyurl.com/racist-cartoon2>), such as the Harlem-jazz singing crows in "Dumbo," who "ain't nevah seen no elephant fly."

These are things we already know. These are images we've learned from. Our president is black. We're living in a post-racist society, after all.

But I'm calling your bluff, U.S. Hate is at it again. Look at this cartoon. <http://tinyurl.com/delonas-image>. The New York Post has since issued an apology, but the fact remains.

Now, I did enjoy those morphed pictures that smashed together images of apes and dear, old, departed George W. Those who think that Delonas's cartoon was not a jab at Obama aren't listening to logic. This cartoon appeared in the New York Post as the ink was drying on the stimulus plan written by the president. There



AP Photo by Craig Ruttle

New York State Senator Eric Adams stands in front of the New York Post building holding a cartoon that ran in the Post Wednesday, Feb. 18 in New York. A cartoon that some have interpreted as comparing President Obama to a violent chimpanzee gunned down by police drew outrage from civil rights leaders and elected officials who said it echoed racist stereotypes of blacks as monkeys.

is a difference however, between representing a white president as a chimp and a black president as a chimp.

Don't get angry, now. I didn't make the rules. This is just the way it is. To represent former president George W. Bush as an ape is to editorialize his ineptitude, his bungling and his clumsy leadership of our country. When Delonas depicted Obama as a gorilla, he invoked the centuries of systematic animalization of African slaves. He wasn't editorializing or blaming Obama for leading the country astray. This isn't about economics. Delonas was saying, "see this inept, bungling, clumsy leader—he's this way because he's black. He can't help it. They're just born that way." Delonas calls our president, and all others like him inept simians.

I'm not looking for political correctness from U.S. citizens. I'm looking for responsible, ethical decision-making. If you're unhappy with the way Obama is running our country, submit a letter in writing. Write a letter to the editor. Draw a cartoon that depicts

him burning up a stack of neatly printed bills, or the imaginary money not yet printed that we're using to rescue or failing economy. Do not, however, think that it is acceptable to continue antiquated, passé, portrayals. It's just in poor taste.

Wake up. We are nowhere near post-racism, post-feminism, post-class, post-anything. There is so much more work left to do. Until we live in a more equitable society, artists, writers, journalists—all of us—need to agree that slant-eyed Asians eating bowls of rice, Jews with shylock noses counting coins and pounds of flesh, ape-like blacks eating fried chicken and watermelon, big-breasted, gun-toting Palins and the brunt of Jeff Foxworthy jokes are just not acceptable, newsworthy items of discussion. Take these cheap images off the table. Make a better choice. Dissent without being bigots. I know you can.

Come on, say it: Yes we can.



AP Photo

Australia's Cut Copy is one of a kind

Album takes refined sound to new heights

Ben Tully
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Oceania has got it goin' on. Last year saw two albums sure to be remembered for decades to come. First was New Zealand's Flight of the Conchords eponymous full-length debut, a perfect iPod companion to the acoustic folk duo's hilarious hit TV show. And in Australia, Melbourne's Cut Copy released an absolute gem with "In Ghost Colours."

Cut Copy is the rebellious child of the Bee Gees and The Cure that came of age in the 21st century. Cut Copy often ran away from home and found solace visiting uncle Brian Eno. It also spent many hours with a German mentor named Kraftwerk. Of course, when there was nothing to do at home, the child cranked up the boom box with house music. Put that all together and you get "In Ghost Colours."

Every once in a while an undeniably poppy album will come along that even the biggest indie snobs can't help but love. This three-piece group, fronted by disc jockey Dan Whitford, pulls pieces from every corner of its musical vocabulary to make a cohesive electro-pop statement.

If there is one word to describe this album, it is addictive. Like a drug, this record has the potential to make you shake your legs and/or arms unknowingly. Of course, there are no negative side effects here and these movements are more rhythmic than spastic. "In Ghost Colours" sets you down in the middle of a Sydney club and as "Feel the Love" begins the disco ball spins. Cut Copy is a wonderful hybrid of synthetic and real. This isn't just three studio jocks; it's actually a band. But they certainly do have fun with all the electronic bells and whistles they can find.

★ AlbumReview
★ In Ghost Colours (2008)
★ Cut Copy
★ Modular

Not just a clubber's dream come true, "In Ghost Colours" is tastefully crafted. Of the 15 tracks, four are instrumental segues that provide an incredible sense of continuity for the entire 50 minute running time. The pacing here is fantastic. Listening to "In Ghost Colours" is like riding a roller coaster. Just after being exhausted by the adrenaline rush of a song like "Lights and Music," you find yourself relaxing on the slower, more scenic "We Fight Like Diamonds" only to build back up again to the pulsing, reverberant atmosphere of "Unforgettable Season."

Even the individual songs themselves have impeccable pacing. Take "Nobody Lost, Nobody Found" for example. It begins with a tight groove courtesy of drums, electric guitar, an arpeggiating keyboard and the funkier bass below the equator. Instantly hooked by this luscious combination, you continue bobbing your head until the chorus arrives. In this glorious moment, you can't help but show off your best dance moves to the person next to you, who unfortunately isn't wearing headphones and looks at you like you've just escaped from a mental hospital.

If someone described this album just by listing off the genres it sounds most like, I probably wouldn't want to hear it. Techno? No thanks. Disco? The genre that stuck a knife in 70s rock and roll generally isn't for me. Post punk? Yeah, some of it's okay but a lot of it's pretty bleak. From the moment I listened to this album, I fell in love with it and the more I hear it, the better it gets. So much for predicting an opinion based on genre profiling. "In Ghost Colours" is a perfect example of why you don't judge a book by its cover. With this album, the land down under has given the whole world a "dance that will last forever."

You got your Predator in my Jane Austen

Rocket Pictures shoots for the surreal



Filmmakers often turn to the melding of genres, universes and cinematic styles when a medium grows stale. Directors like Quentin Tarantino and Terry Gilliam are known for their beautifully mish-mashed projects, crafted like delicious casseroles of cinema with a little bit of everything: spaghetti westerns, kung-fu films, science fiction stories and pulp gumshoe flicks are all thrown in a pot and left to simmer.

But nobody could have anticipated the newest film being produced by Sir Elton John's Rocket Pictures. It just might be the most mind-blowingly unique premise in a long while.

The film is called "Pride and Predator" and it will be loosely based on the iconic Jane Austen novel "Pride and Prejudice." "But wait," you say, "didn't they just do an adaptation of that book in 2005? With Keira Knightley?" And you'd be correct in asking, of course. However, that particular adaptation didn't include a Predator as its primary antagonist.

Yes, that's right. "Pride and Predator" will feature a Predator, that monstrous alien being that saw its debut in 1987's "Predator," wreaking havoc on Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy.

Yeah, I didn't believe it at first either. But the film is definitely happening, slated tentatively for a 2011 release with well-respected short film director Will Clark at the helm.

"It felt like a fresh and funny way to blow apart the done-to-death Jane Austen genre by literally dropping this alien into the middle of a costume drama, where he stalks and slashes to horrific effect," producer David Furnish said in an interview with Variety magazine.

"Predator" is one of my favorite action

films of all time. I love every minute of it—from the epic one-liners ("I ain't got time to bleed," Jesse Ventura growls) to the sheer genius of the titular creature itself. "Predator" is just awesome from start to finish. Then "Predator 2" came along and fell flat. It wasn't fun anymore. It was cheesy and dumb. And let's not even acknowledge the existence of "Alien vs. Predator" and its sequel.

Maybe being dropped in Victorian England is just what our ugly friend needs. Let's think about it: the Predator chieftain *did* hand Danny Glover a flintlock pistol in "Predator 2." Based on the franchise's mythology, Predators have been hunting humans for hundreds of years. Why shouldn't one show up on the Bennet's doorstep looking for blood?

Of course there's a multitude of reasons why "Pride and Predator" is a bad idea, the chief one being the bastardization of literature. Next would be injecting brutal violence into a story of pure non-violence. Third would be the sheer absurdity of it. I'm willing to concede that the very premise of the film is silly, but I'm also intrigued and somewhat excited to see what such an off-the-cuff premise will bring to the theater.

Let's be honest. Predators have fought Arnold Schwarzenegger. They've fought Danny Glover. They've been pitted against Aliens, Batman, 1930s-era mob bosses, Tarzan and the Terminator. It was really only a matter of time before Predator and Jane Austen were thrown into the melting pot together. At the most, I expect a fun and unique popcorn flick, something I wouldn't mind slapping \$9 down for at the megaplex.

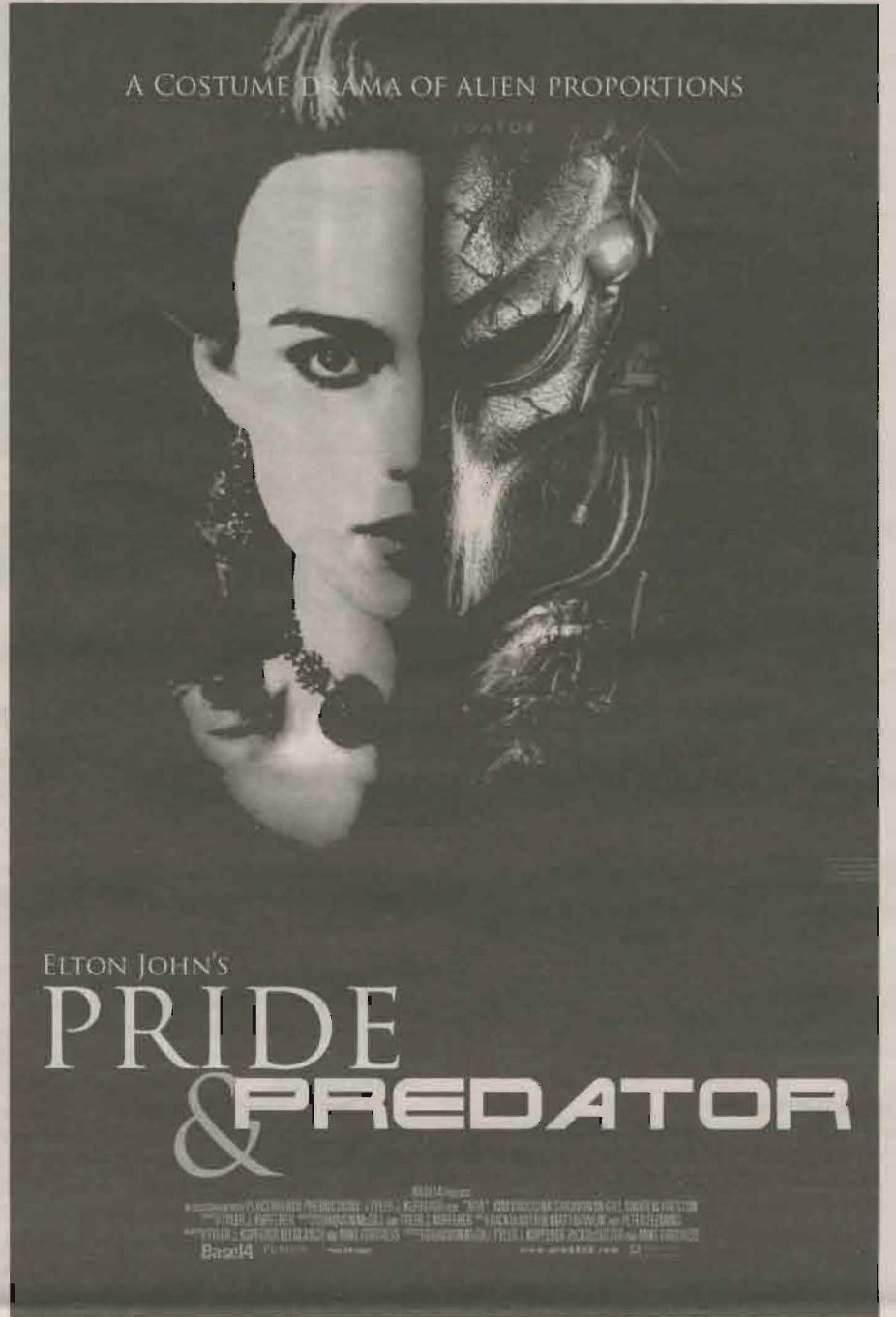


Photo illustration by Jake K.M. Paikai

SUBMIT
to the will of Saxifrage
TODAY is your last day to submit to Saxifrage! We're accepting poetry, prose, artwork, photography and more until midnight Feb. 27. Head to www.plu.edu/~saxifrage for more information.
THE DEADLINE IS TONIGHT!

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I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG (PG-13)
Fri-Sun: 3:15
Mon-Wed: 8:30
Thurs: 3:15

THE WRESTLER (R)
Fri-Sun: 1:00, 3:45, 6:20, 8:50
Mon-Wed: 3:45, 6:20, 8:50
Thurs: 1:00, 3:45, 6:20, 8:50

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
Fri-Thurs: 1:20, 4:00, 6:35, 9:05

DOUBT (PG-13)
Fri-Sun: 12:45, 6:00, 8:30
Mon-Wed: 3:15, 6:00
Thurs: 12:45, 6:00, 8:30

'Noble' effort pays off

Bird releases quirky album

Kolby Harvey
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- ★ Album Review
- ★ Noble Beast (2009)
- ★ Andrew Bird
- ☆ Fat Possum Records

Who else in popular music today save Andrew Bird writes lines about "Proto-Sanskrit Minoans to Porto-centric Lisboaans?" Bird's trademark mix of nerdy academia and dreamy abstraction is in full form on his newest album "Noble Beast." A far cry from 2007's icy and apocalyptic "Armchair Apocrypha," Bird's latest is smoother and almost pastoral.

Taking on warm Latin influences, "Beast" is catchier than "Apocrypha" if neither as varied nor as epically whimsical as his 2005 opus, "Andrew Bird and the Mysterious Production of Eggs," wherein he discussed subject matter as diverse as the future apocalypse, binary code and basic chemistry.

Science as a theme is never far from Bird's imagination, but in "Noble Beast" he graduates from chemistry to biology. Forsaking anti-matter for amoebas, "Beast" plays like a zoology textbook, covering everything from sea anemones to insect swarms to radiolarians (marine protozoan with filamentous pseudopodia).

The album as a whole buzzes on a vaguely political frequency. In "Tenuousness," Bird comments on the lack of worldly awareness pervading the U.S., asking "and who would want to know this/click, click, click." Later, he tells us "love of hate acts as an axis/so procreate and pay your taxes." In "Oh No" Bird dubs us "the harmless sociopaths" who, deep in their calcium mines, are oblivious to their surroundings. All we need do is "squint [our] eyes and no one dies."

Perhaps the most intriguing track on "Beast" (and also Bird's biggest departure from his two



previous albums) is the Radiohead-inspired "Not a Robot, But a Ghost." If the title alone does not spark your curiosity, listen to the first 45 seconds of the song—Bird is firing all cylinders here. He speeds things up, underscoring his tremulous warbling with swinging drumbeats and clinking spoons.

Unfortunately, for all it achieves, "Noble Beast" ultimately has a slight air of been there, done that. Despite giving us some fantastic, stand-out tracks like "Not a Robot, But a Ghost," I feel that Bird could have pushed things further. At times, he seems to be resting on his laurels and some of the album suffers for it. However, as I said before, nobody writes like Bird and his mix of violin, guitar, smooth vocals and ethereal whistling is just as infectious as ever. I'm just waiting for him to blow me away again like he did back in 2005.

Lutes

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Baseball

PLU at Linfield: Saturday, Feb. 28, 11 a.m.

PLU at Linfield: Sunday, Mar. 1, 11 a.m.

Track and Field

PLU hosts PLU Spring Open: PLU Track, Saturday, Feb. 28, 9 a.m.

Softball

Linfield at PLU: Sunday, Mar. 1, noon

Women's Tennis

PLU at Whitman: Friday, Feb. 27, 4 p.m.

PLU at Whitworth: Saturday, Feb. 28, noon

Men's Tennis

Whitworth at PLU: Saturday, Feb. 28, 10 a.m.

Let's play the blame game

There are plenty of fingers to point when dealing with the MLB steroid issue



Sports Column

Tyler
Scott

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I confess. It is my fault.

As the steroid scandal of Major League Baseball claims yet another all-time great, national media members have been calling for accountability. Commissioner Bud Selig has denounced any blame in the situation. So who will step up and take the fall?

A recent ESPN.com SportsNation poll asked the question, "Who do you blame most for the steroid mess in baseball?" The five possible choices included the players who took steroids to the players union, the commissioner's office, the indifferent media and the players who knew what was happening but chose not to speak out.

Of the nearly 300,000 votes cast in the unscientific poll, 46 percent believed the players who "cheated" were to blame. Beware the hypocrisy of the common fan.

It is time the fans accepted responsibility for their actions. We did this. We created the steroid push.

It all began with the politically incorrect, yet universally accepted notion that "chicks dig the long ball." Baseball fans dig the long ball.

Today people are talking about how this scandal can take down baseball and ruin the hallowed records of the U.S. pastime. This is pure fallacy; steroids saved baseball.

During the 1998 home run race between Sammy Sosa and Mark McGuire, the national media fawned over how this event could save baseball after the dreaded 1994-95 players' strike that cancelled the 1994 World Series and inspired many fans to say they would never support the game again.

The immense offensive output of the late 1990s and early 2000s brought baseball back to the public eye. We mock McGuire for refusing to lie to congress like so many other players have done. Yet, barely one decade has passed since we praised him for his joyful demeanor and record-breaking power.

In any competitive arena, people will pursue an edge in the field of play. Everyone wants the best. Team owners want to hire the best and fans want to see the best.

So, five years after testing began the media and fans have climbed atop high horses and criticized those dirty rotten scoundrels who would dare cheat us by doing everything it took to live up to our expectations and earn our affections.

By not testing for performance-enhancing steroids earlier, Major League Baseball chose to be entirely complicit as players grew stronger and home run

totals reached astronomical highs.

By coming out in droves and cheering our "heroes," the fans did everything they could to encourage the push for bigger, stronger and faster.

By offering enormous contracts, the team owners rewarded everyone who took part in the offensive explosion. With the larger contracts came loftier expectations.

After Alex Rodriguez confessed to taking steroids to try to live up to his contract during his time with the Texas Rangers, Rangers owner Tom Hicks claimed that he felt "personally betrayed" by Rodriguez. This might be the single most arrogant and self-righteous statement I have ever heard.

Hicks profited immensely from Rodriguez's production. Whether Rodriguez was honestly trying to live up to the contract or merely set records, his choice helped the Texas Rangers. For Hicks to say that Rodriguez betrayed him by doing all that he could to live up to the largest contract in the history of sports is insincere and outrageous.

The same holds true for all other players who took performance-enhancing drugs before MLB began to test officially in 2004. It is not our place to judge, because we encouraged it in every possible way.

Defiantly, Selig recently stated that he would not change a thing when asked about the progress made in the controversy. And why should he?

MLB is more profitable now than at any other time in its history and is reportedly bringing in revenues of more than \$6 billion in recent years. As a businessman – and yes, baseball is a business – Selig took the struggling league of the early 1990s and now has it in position to potentially catch the National Football League as the most profitable major sporting league in the United States.

It is time for us to stop pinning all the blame for the steroid controversy on the players. We need to recognize that we did this. The goal of the sport is to cater to fans. We begged and pleaded for more home runs, more offense and more records.

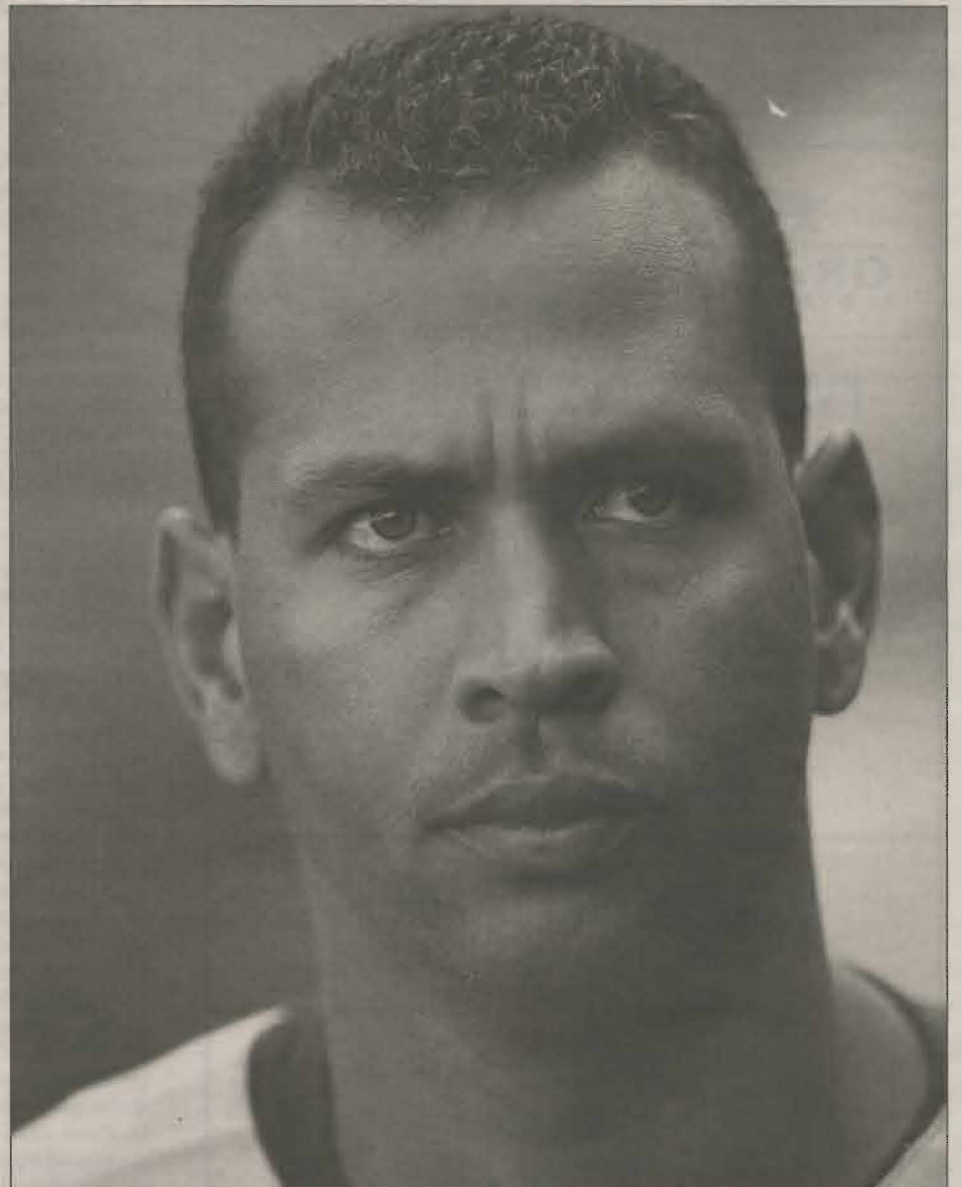
I will be the first to accept responsibility. It is not my place to judge the players who did what any average human being would do in their position, with potentially hundreds of million of dollars, lifelong fame and recognition on the line. I encouraged this and so did you.

To be honest, I feel a little like Selig. Looking back, I would not change a thing. I have cherished all that I have witnessed in baseball over the course of my lifetime. Considering where the league was 14 years ago, I am thankful for whatever it took to save the sport I love.

I confess. It is my fault. But I am not going to apologize and neither should the players who took part.



AP Photo courtesy of ESPN
Former New York Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens appears in court with his lawyers during a hearing regarding the use of steroids in baseball. Since being named in a congressional report regarding the use of steroids, Clemens has adamantly denied using performance-enhancing drugs.



AP Photo courtesy of ESPN
New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez in uniform during a game last season. Rodriguez is just the latest star baseball player to have his name connected with steroids.

Errors hurt Lutes on diamond

PLU returns home this weekend after rough start in non-conference play

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Pacific Lutheran University softball began a new season Saturday with two losses in two games at the Northwest Cup softball tournament.

The Northwest Christian Beacons defeated the Lutes 5-2 in the first game before Concordia University got the better of PLU by a score of 4-2.

The Lutes matched Northwest Christian in the hits column, totaling four apiece, but PLU allowed more errors and unearned base runners than the Beacons which may have led to the Lutes' downfall.

"At the beginning of the season stuff like that always happens," senior Missy Waldron said. "Errors happen

and you just have to bounce back from them."

Northwest tacked on two runs in the first inning after three walks by Lute pitcher junior Rachel Wheeler, an error and a run-scoring base hit. Wheeler managed to get out of the bases loaded jam with minimal damage done on the scoreboard.

The Lutes remained scoreless until the fourth inning when sophomore Stephanie Mullen juiced the ball over the fence for her first home run of the season.

With Northwest's lead cut to one, the Lutes appeared to be fighting for a comeback. PLU's plans, however, fell from view as Northwest scored two more in the bottom of the fourth and once more in the fifth on a solo home run by junior Brittany Robles.

However, PLU didn't give up the fight. They ended the eighth inning with a run after consecutive hits, a single by first-year Stacey Hagensen and a double by first-year Melissa Natwick.

Wheeler took the loss after pitching 3 1/3 innings allowing four runs on three hits, walking four and striking out four.

"We do have a very, very good team," said Waldron. "It all just depends on if we play well."

Lute senior Cathy Kirkevold also struck out two while allowing only one hit and one earned run in relief for Wheeler.

PLU may have met a fielder's downfall after allowing four errors in the Lutes' matchup versus the Concordia University Cavaliers.

"I know we're not making the errors on purpose,"

Hagensen said. "It's hard not to get discouraged."

The Cavaliers found the scoreboard twice in the first inning after a two-run error.

PLU answered right back with a run of its own on a single by Kirkevold in the bottom of the first and a solo home run from Hagensen in the second.

Faulty defense hurt PLU once again after two errors allowed Concordia to score a run in the third and fifth innings.

"It's frustrating," said Hagensen. "But I know all my teammates are working hard."

Concordia took advantage of the Lutes' mistakes by posting a total of four runs on nine hits while PLU managed to scrape two runs on four hits.

Hagensen took the loss allowing four runs, none of which were earned, while walking one and striking out two in the seven innings she pitched.

PLU moved its record to 1-5 after the weekend.

"We've had a rough preseason," said Waldron. "But it has been a good learning experience. Hopefully we got it all out of our system for Linfield this weekend."

Pacific Lutheran looks to defend its home turf for this first time this season Sunday, March 1, against defending Northwest Conference champion Linfield. The doubleheader action starts at noon.



Waldron



Photo Courtesy of Missy Waldron

Junior Karen Henjum talks to the PLU team huddle during a game in California this season. The Lutes went 1-3 on the trip. PLU returned to play in the Northwest Cup Saturday in Oregon, losing two games.

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Scorecard

Men's Basketball as of 2/25

Final NWC Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
UPS	16-0	1.000	23-2	.920
Whitworth	12-4	.750	20-5	.800
L&C	10-6	.625	16-9	.640
Linfield	10-6	.625	12-13	.480
Willamette	8-8	.500	12-11	.522
Whitman	5-11	.312	9-16	.360
PLU	4-12	.250	10-15	.400
George Fox	4-12	.250	8-17	.320
Pacific	3-13	.188	9-16	.360

Team Points Per Game Leaders

Josh Dressler - 14.6, Kyle MacTaggart - 11.9, Victor Bull - 11.4, Nick Stackhouse - 10.3, Curtis Trondsen - 8.0

Team Assists Per Game Leaders

Gabe Smith - 3.0, James Conti - 3.2, Tony Polis - 2.8

Team Rebounds Per Game Leaders

Victor Bull - 7.1, Josh Dressler - 4.2, Kyle MacTaggart - 4.0, Nick Stackhouse - 3.6

Team Steals Per Game Leaders

Josh Dressler - 1.6, James Conti - 1.6, Kyle MacTaggart - 1.2

Women's Basketball as of 2/25

Final NWC Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
George Fox	16-0	1.000	25-0	1.000
UPS	11-5	.688	17-8	.680
Whitman	10-6	.625	18-7	.720
Pacific	10-6	.625	11-13	.458
PLU	8-8	.500	14-11	.560
Whitworth	7-9	.438	13-12	.520
L&C	5-11	.312	11-14	.440
Willamette	3-13	.188	4-18	.182
Linfield	2-14	.125	3-22	.120

Team Points Per Game Leaders

Emily Voorhies - 11.8, Amy Spieker - 11.4, Trinity Gibbons - 10.1, Nikki Scott - 7.2, Sara Backstrom - 5.0

Team Assists Per Game Leaders

Nikki Scott - 3.9, Trinity Gibbons - 3.7 Sara Backstrom - 2.0

Team Rebounds Per Game Leaders

Emily Voorhies - 7.4, Trinity Gibbons - 6.2, Melissa Richardson - 4.8

Team Steals Per Game Leaders

Nikki Scott - 2.2, Trinity Gibbons - 1.5, Three Tied - .8

Baseball as of 2/25

NWC Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
Linfield	0-0	.000	3-1	.875
Willamette	0-0	.000	2-1	.857
Pacific	0-0	.000	3-2	.777
PLU	0-0	.000	4-3	.625
George Fox	0-0	.000	3-3	.500
UPS	0-0	.000	2-2	.250
Whitworth	0-0	.000	2-3	.125
Whitman	0-0	.000	1-5	.000
L&C	0-0	.000	0-4	.000

Team Batting Average Leaders (Min 20AB)

Jordan Post - .519, Kris Hansen - .444, Ryan Aratani - .407, Josh Takayoshi - .407

Team Earned Run Average Leaders (Min 10 IP)

Scott Wall - 2.25, Rob Bleecker - 3.46, Trey Watt - 4.38

Team Homerun Leaders

Jordan Post - 3, Four tied - 1

Team RBI Leaders

Jordan Post - 14, Josh Takayoshi - 9, Ryan Artani - 5, Brandon Sales - 5

Softball as of 2/25

NWC Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
Willamette	0-0	.000	2-0	1.000
Pacific	0-0	.000	3-1	.750
George Fox	0-0	.000	1-1	.500
UPS	0-0	.000	2-2	.500
Whitworth	0-0	.000	1-3	.250
PLU	0-0	.000	1-5	.167
L&C	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Linfield	0-0	.000	0-0	.000

Team Batting Average Leaders (Min 20 AB)

Cathy Kirkevold - .333, Stacy Hagensen - .300, Missy Waldron - .267,

Team Earned Run Average Leaders (Min 10 IP)

Stacey Hagensen - 1.15, Rachel Wheeler - 7.88

Team Homerun Leaders

Cathy Kirkevold - 1, Stacey Hagensen - 1,

Team RBI Leaders

Cathy Kirkevold - 5, Eight tied - 1

Lutes demolish Pioneers, Loggers



Photo by Ted Charles

Junior Justin Peterson attempts to run down a shot as his doubles partner first-year Zach Ah Yat watches in anticipation during the Lutes match against Lewis & Clark on Saturday. Team Peterson and Ah Yat lost their match against the Pioneers, but redeemed themselves by taking out the UPS No. 2 doubles team.

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The Lutes played a triple header over the weekend against two conference foes. Managing the Pacific Lutheran University tennis team was like managing an inventory warehouse, as the team was continuously shuttling players between the PLU campus and the University of Puget Sound.

It was by far the best weekend Pacific Lutheran has had this season, sweeping all three matches by a combined score of 22-5 and enjoying the support from the home crowd.

"As little people there was in the crowd, I really fed off their energy," senior James Odan said.

The morning started with a match against Lewis & Clark at 10 a.m. The Pioneers were in it early as they muscled out a win at No. 1 doubles. However, the No. 2 doubles team, sophomore Scott Sheldon and senior Jamie Crosetto, and the No. 3 team, sophomore Ben Fox and senior Alex Eli, both won respectively to give the Lutes the lead for good.

In singles, junior Joel Trudel remained undefeated in conference with a 6-2, 3-6, 1-0 (10-5) victory at No. 1. Other winners in singles were junior Michael Manser at No. 2, Sheldon at No. 3, Eli at No. 4 and James Odan at No. 6. The only blemish in singles was Michael Parretta at No. 5, who lost in a tiebreaker.

"We had no easy matches at the higher numbers," Odan said. "Our depth showed in the lower spots though."

At UPS the match started with a quick win for the No. 1 team, juniors Kevin Floyd and Christ Dew. The No. 2 team, junior Justin Peterson and first-year Zach Ah Yat, overcame their loss earlier in the day with a win over the lowly Loggers. UPS stole a match in No. 3 from Crosetto and junior Brent Smoots (8-6). It would be the only points UPS won during the day.

PLU dominated the singles matches at UPS, sweeping all three points from the Loggers. No. 1 Floyd, and No. 3 Peterson were the only matches that went to three sets.

Ah Yat, Crosetto, Dew and Smoots all won in straight sets, giving the Lutes the 8-1 victory.

The third match of the day was a rematch of the first as Pacific Lutheran hosted the Pioneers in the nightcap of the double header. The lineups changed, but the score remained the same as PLU cruised to a 7-2 win. The Lutes took all three doubles matches with Manser and Trudel at No. 1, Sheldon and senior John de Mars at No. 1 and Eli and Parretta at No. 1.

Lewis & Clark took the No. 1 and No. 6 singles matches. However, the Lutes only needed two wins to clinch the match and they won four. The winners included No. 2 Trudel, No. 3 Dew, No. 3 Sheldon and No. 5 Odan.

The Lutes will attempt to build on their 5-2 conference record against the Whitworth Pirates Saturday by staying together as a team.

"I feel like we still have weaknesses, but team chemistry is our best asset to this team," Odan said.

Weather permitting, the match will be held on PLU's lower campus courts this Saturday at 10 a.m. If it is raining, the match will be moved to the indoor courts at UPS.



Photo by Ted Charles

Junior Michael Parretta hits a shot during PLU's match with Lewis & Clark on Saturday. Parretta was the only Lute to lose a singles match to the Pioneers.

Lutes get offensive in McMinnville

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The Pacific Lutheran men's baseball team exploded on offense this weekend, scoring 40 runs and banging out 48 hits in three wins.

"We knew we were going to be a good offensive team," Head Coach Geoff Loomis said, "but 40 runs is above and beyond what we were expecting."

The Lutes pulled off the three victories by beating Linfield 10-8, Oregon Tech 16-13 and Concordia (Ore.) 14-2 at the Jim Doran Auto Classic Tournament in McMinnville, Ore.

Senior first baseman Jordan Post continued his onslaught on opposing pitchers by going 8-13 for the weekend with eight RBI's and two homeruns.

Big production in the third and sixth innings gave PLU the advantage against the Wildcats, who were unable to score more than two runs an inning against Lute pitching.

"We had two big innings and they didn't get any," Loomis said.

The Wildcats were able to tie the game late in the

contest with two runs in the seventh and one in the eighth, but PLU regained the lead for good in the bottom half of the eighth inning with a two-run homer made by Post.

Senior Trey Watt got the start for the Lutes going 6 1/3 innings while giving up seven runs on eight hits, walking three and striking out six.

The offense continued to roll for the Lutes Saturday against Oregon Tech, out shooting the Owls 16-13 for the win.

"The offense supported the pitching staff (this weekend)," junior starting pitcher Robert Bleecker said.

Bleecker turned in a good enough performance for the win, but was not pleased with his pitching that day.

"It wasn't my best outing," Bleecker said. "I started off pretty hot."

The strong start consisted of giving up only one run in the first five innings. Bleecker then went on to struggle once he got to the sixth inning where he was tagged for four runs. Bleecker was credited for the win.

"We're still a young and untested pitching staff, so we are trying to work into it," Bleecker said.

Loomis was pleased with the starting pitching for the weekend, but said that the relief pitching was "a bit suspect."

"Overall, it was an improvement from last weekend," Loomis said.

Against Linfield, the Lutes collected 19 hits as a team including four from Post, three from Takayoshi and two each from seniors Geoff Gabler, Brandon Sales and Matt Akridge.

The final contest of the weekend for the Lutes was a 14-2 blowout against Concordia. Sophomore Scott Wall pitched his first win of the season.

The Lutes continued to spread out their offensive production, getting eight hits, five runs and seven RBI's from the last four spots in the order.

"It's a matter of balance. We hope that if the top of the order isn't producing, the bottom of the order is," said Loomis.

Sales, senior Ryan Aratani, and senior Ben Shively banged out three hits a piece to lead the Lutes offensive production.

The Lutes travel back to McMinnville, Ore. to take on the Linfield Wildcats in four games on Saturday and Sunday.