

THE MAST

Pacific Lutheran University



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Photo by Ted Charles

Senior Marit Barkve and junior Mariah Duffy strike a sultry pose in the V-Day production of the Vagina Monologues. The Monologues are annual here at PLU and nationally, and promote the international cause of the V-Day Organization.

'V' is for Vagina

PLU students promote an international cause

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Shrieking, moaning, and ecstatic writhing filled the stage of Eastvold on the evening of Feb. 12, and will continue to do so tonight and tomorrow night. In their production of The Vagina Monologues, PLU's women, clad in red and black, took the stage to talk candidly about relationships, sex, and, as the title suggests, their vaginas. These performances are sponsored by PLU's Women's Center, as well as the university's debut club, V-Day PLU.

The Vagina Monologues are part of a feminist movement that has spread across the world in the last ten years. The original writer and performer of The Vagina Monologues, Eve Ensler,

was inspired to produce The Monologues after interviewing more than 200 women about their sex lives in 1996. The show has helped to enable a much needed candid discourse among both women and men regarding the issues of women's rights and violence against women.

"I feel really lucky to be representing women on stage," said sophomore Emma Kane, a performer in PLU's production of Monologues. "Nothing like this has ever happened in my life, but I am proud to bring the issue of violence against women to the stage, as well as the forefront of people's minds."

The frank sexual nature of the Monologues has, in the past ten years since the original performance, helped to bring these issues into the open and out of the realm of taboo.

V-Day International is

an organization that was established to help prevent and raise awareness about worldwide mistreatment of women. The organization describes itself as "an organized response against violence toward women...[and] a fierce, wild, unstoppable movement and community" (V-Day.org). The Vagina Monologues is performed in accordance with the International V-Day campaign.

Each year, V-Day International focuses on a specific disadvantaged group of women. This year, for its 11th production of The Vagina Monologues, the organization is turning its focus on disadvantaged women in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). DRC has been called the worst

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Honest Recruiting

PLU uses the honest word to attract athletes

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As a Division III program, Pacific Lutheran University athletic department has a small budget. In 2008, Division III schools were allocated \$19,525,000 by the NCAA, while Division I schools received \$420,379,675, according to a report issued by NCAA.org.

This lack of funds makes it hard for PLU athletes to enjoy the simple pleasures that Division I athletes receive, such as free gear, state of the art facilities and scholarships. But one thing the lack of money doesn't affect is PLU's ability to recruit, using honesty and integrity as two of its biggest tools.

"Loyalty is a two-way street," PLU Recruiting Liaison and men's basketball Head Coach Steve Dickerson said. "We do not over recruit and we do not run people out of our program who may not be as good as we thought."

In 2007, these tools brought PLU's volleyball team one of the best players that has ever graced the Names Family Court, Beth Hanna.

Hanna, a current sophomore nursing major from Clackamas, Ore., has started ever since her first year as a Lute. On top of starting, Hannah was named the American Volleyball Coaches Association Freshman of the Year, became the first PLU volleyball player to earn AVCA Division III First Team All-America recognition, and earned a number of other awards.

But before Hanna was able to grace PLU with her powerful six foot frame, and outstanding talent and leadership, she was heavily recruited by schools all around the region ranging from Division I to III.

"I wanted to stay close to home and have fun while I played in college, so I told the [Division I] schools I wasn't interested early on," Hanna said. "But schools like Northwest Nazarene sent a lot of letters even after I said I wasn't interested anymore."

While fighting off intense and unwanted recruiting from other schools, Hanna sent her interest towards PLU.

"Once I notified [coach] Kevin [Aoki] I was interested in PLU, he started coming to my tournaments," Hanna said. "Afterward tournaments, we would email back and forth then he started sending me letters that said I played well."

When Hanna came to visit PLU during her senior year of high school, Aoki treated her with respect and gave her the best overall PLU experience.

"While most coaches want to spend most of their time with you, I only spent a little bit of time with [coach Aoki]," Hanna said. "He wanted me to spend more time looking around the school and with the team to give me a better all around look."

"He also never bad mouthed other schools like other coaches do. He was more genuine than many other coaches."

Though PLU coaches are able to visit in-state athletes and players from Oregon, PLU's budget does not allow them to travel out of state.

"Out of state players are recruited with the help of alumni and friends in the student-athletes area," Dickerson said. "We watch game film on them, talk to their coaches and encourage them to visit our campus."

In the case of sophomore men's basketball player, the culmination of PLU's recruiting style and alumni is what put them in black and gold.

"One of my trainers, Bruce Haroldson, was the coach her for 17 years," the Arizona native MacTaggart said. "I wanted to go to a bigger school to get some scholarship money, but he told me to send a tape [to PLU] and it worked out."

MacTaggart said he was blown away by the honesty that coach Dickerson gave him.

"He had no bias towards me coming here," MacTaggart said. "I wanted to get into criminal justice. He told me we don't have that here, so if another school had that program and the opportunity to play basketball, I don't see why you wouldn't go do that."

In times of an economic recession, athletic programs around the country are having to cut teams. Hanna and MacTaggart are examples of how PLU still has the ability to recruit student-athletes using honesty, integrity and loyalty without breaking the bank.



Hanna

STATE, NATION and WORLD BRIEFINGS

Local to Global

President seeks grass-roots support for stimulus



AP Photo by Lawrence Jackson
President Barack Obama boards Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington Feb. 7. The First Family was preparing to fly to Camp David for their first visit and overnight stay.

Mark S. Smith
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama faces a barrage of questions on his plans to reinvigorate the economy with a massive stimulus bill and additional billions in bailout money for the financial markets.

Two trips Monday to cities hurting under the economic meltdown and a prime-time news conference show that Obama and his advisers are worried about a looming Senate vote on the stimulus bill, which failed to gather meaningful Republican support during rare weekend debate. The question-and-answer sessions with citizens and later with news reporters will allow Obama to appeal directly for grass-roots backing of his plans.

The \$827 billion Senate version of the plan was expected to pass the Senate

on Tuesday. However, it must be reconciled with the House version, which totaled \$820 billion in spending and tax cuts. With Senate and House negotiators preparing to deal, Obama is likely to push for a bill on his desk for his signature by mid-month.

To focus on the stimulus bill, the Obama administration postponed to Tuesday the unveiling of the second part of the \$700 billion bailout of the financial industry. Instead, Obama focused on campaigning for the stimulus bill with his trips to areas hit hard by the economic crisis.

The House and Senate bills overlap in many ways, but the Senate bill has a greater emphasis on tax cuts, while the House bill devotes more money to states, local governments and schools. The differences are likely to mean difficult negotiations when House and Senate conferees meet later in the week to try to reconcile the two measures.

How badly has A-Rod's marketing value been hurt?

Ronald Blum
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — Alex Rodriguez's image transformed in a three-day span, costing himself millions of dollars in future endorsements.

Marc Ganis, president of the consulting company Sports Corp. Ltd., said Rodriguez will be viewed differently by fans and sponsors as his home-run total climbs from 553 and nears Barry Bonds' mark of 762.

The A-Rod brand has been tainted.

"He is going to have a cloud over him, particularly as he approaches the home run record, where before this revelation, he was considered the anti-Bonds, the guy who was going to get the greatest record in all of sports back into the hands of a clean athlete," Ganis said Tuesday.

Baseball's highest-paid and

perhaps most-talented player, Rodriguez said Monday that he used banned drugs from 2001-2003 while playing for Texas. The admission came two days after Sports Illustrated reported that his name was among 104 players on a list seized by federal agents five years ago.



AP Photo courtesy of ESPN
In this video frame grab, Alex Rodriguez is interviewed by ESPN's Peter Gammons on Feb. 9. Rodriguez admitted during the interview that he used performance-enhancing drugs.

Book tour hits Garfield

Authors Kyle Minor and Kathleen Rooney revisit PLU to promote novels at Garfield Book Company

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Have you ever wanted to get inside the mind of your favorite author and see his/her inspirations? Ask him/her questions? Ever wanted to just meet an author and pick his/her brain a little?

Sunday, Feb. 8 at 4:30 p.m. the Pacific Lutheran student body had the opportunity to do just that at the Garfield Book Company. Authors Kyle Minor and Kathleen Rooney hosted a book signing and reading as part of the "Live Nude Girl in the Devil's Territory Tour." The combination of the titles of the two authors' current works "sounded good" for the title of the tour, in Rooney's words.

Rooney, a former visiting professor of creative writing at PLU in the 06-07 year, and Minor, a visiting professor at the University of Toledo, wanted to get their works out and known.

"It's just an indie, shoestring budget kind of tour," Rooney said. The team has traveled from coast to coast stopping in bookstores and bars along the way. Traveling together, in Rooney's opinion, provides a better outlet for these two authors to work together. Both said that this tour seemed the best way to get the word out about their books and accomplishments.

"If we were out on tour by ourselves we wouldn't be able to go as far or do as much," Minor said.

"I really enjoy meeting people on the road," Rooney

said.

The authors are very proud of their accomplishments.

"I run a small publishing company with my best friend Abigail Beckel, called Rose Metal Press," Rooney said.

He then talked about publishing a book of stories he felt particularly proud of.

"Most publishers are interested in novels, so this was particularly gratifying to have this published," Minor said.

For further information on book signings and readings, check out the events on Garfield Book Company.com throughout the spring semester. Don't forget to check out "Live Nude Girl" by Kathleen Rooney and "In The Devil's Territory" by Kyle Minor, available at the Garfield Book Company.

Lutes debate abroad

Two PLU students compete in international debate competition

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Pacific Lutheran's debate team stormed University College Cork in Ireland on Dec. 27-Jan. 4 for the 2009 World Universities Debating Championships. In a competition that is already difficult in the United States, PLU went abroad to stretch its cultural debating skills, going head to head with 300 plus debate teams from colleges and universities around the globe.

The Lutes did well for their first international competition in recent memory. But they were outmatched by teams that had a stronger hold on some of the topics that were debated.

"There were teams that were in the countries of the current news that had an advantage," Melissa Franke, debate team advisor and communication professor said.

In Aug. 2008, Franke entered PLU into the tournament.

"I tried to get the team entered as soon as I could, but the 300 initial spots filled up in 15 minutes," Franke said. "We were lucky enough to be placed on the waitlist, but we weren't guaranteed a spot in."

In Oct. 2008, Franke was contacted by one of the representatives of the WUDC and informed that PLU was placed on the final list of 308 teams. However, PLU could only bring one team, which consists of two people.

"After I found out we were accepted to the tournament, I had the debate team members apply for the two spots," Franke said.

After the applications were submitted and processed, junior Kelly Ryan and senior Nicolette Paso emerged as the two finalists who would represent the PLU debate team in Ireland.

"Nicolette and my debating format fit well together," Ryan said.

With the team set, Paso and Ryan had two months to prepare for the debate. Unfortunately,

they would not know their topics until 20 minutes before each debate.

"Most of the topics are chosen from the Economist, so we use that as a base of study," Franke said. "We also looked at topics that have been used in the past to try and predict what will be used."

Before they knew it, the Lutes were on their way to Ireland to face some of the toughest colleges and universities debate teams around the world.

In the first two days of the debate, the Lute debaters held their own while debating a style that was just as foreign to them as the land they were on.

"In the WUDC, we used a British Parliament style of debate," Franke said. "The United States style of debate is more technical in nature. It focuses more on the meaning of words and exact terms."

"British Parliament style focuses more on broader knowledge of events," Ryan said.

"It is also much slower than the U.S."

On top of a new style of debating, Paso and Ryan were faced with a broad array of topics. However, the pair of Lutes were able to handle most of the topics that were presented.

"Another thing that helped us out was most of the topics related back to the U.S.," Ryan said. "We always hear that the U.S. is a powerhouse, but they honestly have an impact in a lot of the countries we debated."

After two days of competition, the Lutes were in the running for making it into the 32-team Octa Final. However, the Lutes found themselves outmatched on day three of debating.

Even though the Lutes didn't make it past day three, the experience was great.

"We met so many new people," Ryan said. "We were able to hang out with some familiar U.S. teams as well as foster new friendships."

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Neah Bay Experience: *Students share their experience with the Makah Tribe during J-term 2009*

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After a week and a half on campus, the students of the Makah Culture Class, myself included, left for 12 days of immersion on the Makah Reservation.

"The most rewarding thing about Neah Bay was seeing another culture and how its community and family values were more important than material wealth and how happy the people of the culture were because of it. This gave me some hope for humanity," first-year Justin Barth said.

Upon arrival in Neah Bay, Wash., we were given the opportunity to not only work

with members of the Makah community, but were invited into homes for social events, such as a high schooler's birthday party.

During the week we were involved doing volunteer work—everywhere from the local food bank to maintenance at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall. Educational hikes were also an integral part of our routine. We were shown the sites of the original Makah villages and simultaneously given a context to the native way of life.

Megan Randich, a first-year student enjoyed all of the opportunities we were given to learn about Makah culture.

"The people were amazing, the experiences were amazing and the culture was absolutely exquisite," Randich said.

During my stay in Neah Bay,

I learned many different things about Makah culture and my own beliefs. I know that I will dedicate my life to the study of other cultures, as well as how past cultures are alive in the present. My love for archaeology has been rekindled by my experiences at the museum, as well as being combined with a sincere love for nature.

The Makah culture is an example of how diversity should be present in the U.S. The right to whale hunt and use resources in their usual and accustomed grounds is argued by some to be an outdated policy. These are not outdated policies, but examples of how a group of people utilized what little they received from a treaty that took nearly everything from them.



Photos by Ted Charles

Top: Sophomore Tim Borisini and junior Christina Zhao examine a miniature canoe carved by Makah canoe maker Aaron Parker.

Bottom: Makah canoe maker Gary Ray (far right) illustrating the art of making smoke salmon to PLU students. Right to left are Dr. Dave Huelsbeck, first-year Sarah Finley, junior AlyssaMarie Adams, junior Christina Zhao, first-year Alicia Zachary-Erickson, and first-year Hannah Rossio.

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the worst humanitarian crisis on earth at this time, and women in this region are being systematically raped and tortured, with both devastating physical and psychological results. V-Day International is donating all of its proceeds from the campaign to help relief efforts in the Congo, including revenue from The Vagina Monologues. A special monologue from the region has been added to the production of Monologues, in honor of those women.

This is the first year in existence of the PLU branch of V-Day International. V-Day PLU is responsible for producing The Vagina Monologues this year, as well as in the years to come. V-Day PLU is an offshoot of the International program, and works through things such as The Vagina Monologues, as well as other campaign activities, to spread awareness

and prevent violence towards women, especially in the PLU community. V-Day PLU is headed by junior Briana Gedrich, who is the co-director and Theatrical Consultant for Monologues, as well as Senior Caitlyn Zwang, the other Monologues Co-director.

V-Day PLU is an independent program, working actively towards the eradication of women's violence. Both men and women are welcome and encouraged to get involved with V-Day PLU, in order to ensure it's future success as a campus organization. While the content of the show naturally makes for controversy, the large amounts of support for

Tickets are \$5 for students at the Campus Concierge with student ID and \$10 general admission at the door. The show is in Eastvold Chapel tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m.

PLU celebrates black history

A variety of events educate PLU students about black history

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PLU celebrates I Heart Black History Month for the second consecutive year. Kicked off this week with the chocolate social, the programming month offers many avenues for exploring the topic of Black History in a U.S. American context.

Although celebrated during the month of February, IHBHM planning has been in the works since November. Senior student-leader Dmitry Mikheyev says that planning has been enriching, but challenging. "Coordinating the schedules of fifteen or so campus representatives can be rather daunting," senior Dmitry Mikheyev.

In addition to the Diversity Center, IHBHM

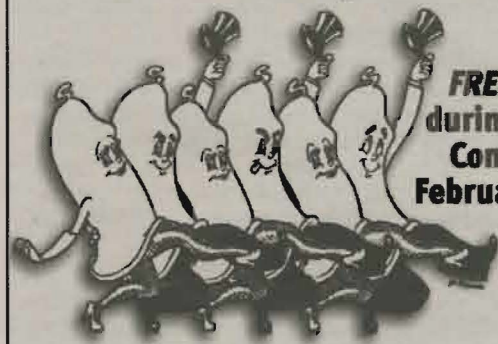
programs have been planned by ASPLU, SIL, Admissions, Black Student Union, Clubs and Orgs, Aliyah Jewish Club, Garfield Book Company, Saxifrage, Harmony, and Lute Explosion.

IHBHM offers about four programs every week, ranging from excursions to local, historically-black churches to discussions on why we have Black History Month.

"Black History is an important topic for everyone, not just those interested in Black History Month," first-year Boo Dodson said. Dodson, public-relations chair of Aliyah Jewish Club, helped to plan a panel discussion for next Thursday on the relationship between Blacks and Jews in the U.S.

For more information, check out Facebook.com or e-mail the Diversity Center at dcenter@plu.edu.

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February 17
Poetry Slam with Saxifrage
7pm/NPCC

February 18
Brown Bag Lunch with Dr. Beth Kraig
12:30pm/dC

February 19
Black/Jewish Relations
6:30-8pm/Regency Room

Invisible Children Documentary Showing
8pm/Cave

i heart black history
events during the month of february

sponsored by the dCenter, SIL, ASPLU Diversity, Admissions, Black Student Union, Clubs and Orgs, Aliyah Jewish Club, Garfield Book Company, Saxifrage, Harmony, and Lute Explosion!

From the editor

Project Access makes PLU more affordable

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Since The Mast was last published (12/5/2008), the landscape of the world, the U.S. and PLU has changed. The Gaza conflict escalated, President Obama has taken the oath of office and hundreds of PLU students have felt their wallets shrink as the economy of the world has taken a significant downturn.

A rejuvenated sense of enthusiasm seemed to usher in 2009 in the U.S. due to Obama's new leadership role. There was hope, optimism and over 1.4 million people greeted the new president on the Mall in Washington D.C. on Jan. 20.

But, however high the national positivity may have been in the last month since the inauguration, the economic challenges facing the U.S. and the world, have added a dose of reality to the scene.

In my e-mail, I receive a message from Obama almost daily to remind us of what we can do to help his team implement a plan to help recover the U.S. economy. Each message encourages me to look around and see how I can support those around me feeling the effects more than myself. His efforts right now seeks to inspire people that the economic recovery plan requires each individual investing in the larger society.

As students at a private liberal arts college, we feel the economic pinch of trying to pay for an education that requires significant monetary investment. However, one thing that I did learn in my economics 101 class is that education is one of the few things that has a lifelong return.

As the economic crisis has hit, the PLU administration and staff support has been impressive by opening the doors of offices so that students can discuss financial aid packages and how to make a PLU education possible right.

However, what has impressed me even more, is the efforts of the Office of Development and University Relations that has, in conjunction with other offices on campus, decided to launch a new initiative called Project Access.

Project Access seeks to secure an additional \$3 million in monetary support in the form of Q Club scholarships for PLU students next year. Q Club is the annual fund at PLU that helps to sponsor the yearly operations of the university. When donating to Q Club, donors can choose to support student scholarships, academic excellence, campus life or the area of greatest need.

However, the development of Project Access is an additional effort to give students a little more financial support from philanthropists who have demonstrated a keen investment in the type of education that takes place at a university like PLU. These funds will add additional help to curb the costs of tuition for students; in this time of economic hardship, PLU has not forgotten about your wallets.

This project demonstrates a very interesting and admirable characteristic about PLU; in times of economic hardship where budgets across the university are being squeezed, the administration sees a need to provide financial support to students.

Even in tough financial times, the university preserves its focus that students are the heart of this organization and access to a PLU education remains the focus of all university efforts.

Obama's messages call for each of us to make choices about how to be financially responsible in the current economic climate. Our university has made efforts and now maybe it is time for us, as students, to be more conscious of how the national and global situation can be mediated by us. We have the privilege of education, to be engaged in the greatest investment in our minds at the current moment, so now it's time to engage the world.



Comic by Aubrey Lange

School in the Iron Mask



A Cheer for trends

Jono Cowgill

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On this first week of spring semester "in the interest of being sustainable, the syllabus is online," has been (with minute permutation from case to case) the mantra of Pacific Lutheran University's professors. Many send the document by e-mail or post it on Sakai or, with even more savvy, load it to their Facebook pages. Of-course it is almost unnecessary to point out the hypocrisy of this gesture when, in many cases, the professor requires the student to print out a copy to bring to class. It might be just as well, and following in the no longer outré theme of administrative transparency expounded by our Federal Government, for the miscellaneous departments to say up front "it's hard times; we're broke." This will save them from the embarrassing situation of being found hiding behind a statue engraved with the word "convenience" like a kindergartener who is particularly bad at playing hide-and-go-seek.

It was once written that consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds. We should embrace the man who penned that and read him. But also note his aphorism to bleed false when dealing with an institution whose middle name is Lutheran and first child is Vocation.

More embarrassing and contradictory than the syllabi situations were the J-Term study abroad trips. Students and their professors traveled to Europe, Australia, Asia and South America. They traveled almost constantly for the better part of a

month. Today, as in years past, they have returned with pictures: pictures of curious animals on rocks, of bright-eyed children, of sublime monuments, of other students working in tandem with native people. The best of these pictures have been framed and hung above the fancy new recycling receptacles found about the University Center. Then there are presentations given, letters written, blogs posted and photos published.

Life goes forward. There are more projects of sustainability—the goats shipped in to eat the bramble, a new community garden, expanding environmental classes—and PLU organizes them, embraces them and touts them. There's also more discussion about vocation—what it means to be Lutheran in this world, what it means to find, practice and live vocation. How not to fizzle away one's wild, precious, angry, contradictory, bland and psychotic life. All of these band together in sick, malignant contradiction.

Today, PLU is suffering, as all small colleges that rely on tuition revenues are. So, it does well to attract new students with some astounding J-Term opportunities that span the globe and pack more experiential learning into one month than former President Bush received in eight years. But the destruction of whole communities and environments due to oil, as seen in Ecuador, or due to economic floppiness, as seen in Great Britain, pose a stark relief for this university.

PLU promotes its core identity as Lutheran—something more than religion that surrounds community work, environmental awareness and life vocation. The anecdote about syllabi illustrates this university's iron mask, which it is unwilling to acknowledge or to attempt to remove. It is hard to see how this school can go on travelling around the world, burning fuel and resources, while also trying to promote a disciplined, sincere and well wrought way of living. With over 70 percent of the student body claiming a religion other than Lutheran as its own, the answer seems simple, almost perfunctory: drop the middle name.

In search of an **AP style wizard...**

The Mast is hiring a

copy editor

please send inquiries, resumes to **mast@plu.edu**
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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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Faculty Voice

Scorpions in the drawer: President Obama and Foreign Policy

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Forget the economy - of the manifold problems currently facing the U.S., those concerning security and foreign affairs are in many ways most pressing. From the Middle East to East Asia, U.S. power is being exercised and challenged in unprecedented ways. The gluttonous hope that accompanied President Obama's investiture as the president was accompanied by some long-overdue international goodwill toward the U.S.

However, foreign problems have persisted how could all of the U.S.'s problems in the area of foreign affairs be solved instantaneously? Among other metaphors, Obama has inherited the whirlwind of the Bush legacy in foreign affairs. He faces unprecedented challenges, towering problems and all the work needed to restore the tarnished global reputation of the U.S.

The very abundance of metaphors being offered to characterize the toxic inheritance of foreign affairs problems left for Obama to manage is in itself revealing. Depending on the day and the moment, Obama is digging the bus out of the ditch, adding new weapons to the diplomatic quaver, cleaning up the afterparty, going halogen with the beacon on the shining city atop the hill, etc. etc.

Imagine that in the desk drawer of the Oval Office there lies a heavy old cigar box, whose design and intricate lettering suggests origins dating back to the early years of the Republic. It is a hefty box. The reason for its weightiness becomes apparent when one opens it and peers down into the prism, which is writhing with scorpions. Upon closer examination, one can see that each squirming exoskeleton is inscribed with obscure words; words like "Guantanamo Bay - McKinley 1898." Others say "North Korea - Truman 1950," or "Iran - Carter 1979."

These are the ongoing contradictions and conflicts in our foreign policy - and each has an origin, perhaps even an original sin of a type. In a remote corner of the box, two of the biggest creatures are grappling with one another for alpha status: these two prowl with proud scars. They are "Iraq" and "Afghanistan," and they are brothers bearing the mark of "W." Clearly the problems represented by these "scorpions" are actual and often deadly conflicts in U.S. foreign policy. Each one of these scorpions have been nourished with the blood of thousands, paid for with by Pentagon budgets, argued

over repeatedly and destroyed presidencies. And, in fairness, most of them are not the creation of Bush.

If we accept this odd metaphor for foreign policy, we might tender a few axioms for new presidents who open that terrible box every day. First, a president ought not to make the problems worse, to fatten a particular conflict or stir up the whole lot.

Second, he or she ought to render the problems manageable, doing so by clarifying the relation of U.S. national interest to each of the problems.

Third, if at all possible, a president should endeavor to solve a problem conclusively. That is, we should consider it a supreme achievement if a president is able take one of those scorpions out of the drawer for good. That means dollars and lives saved, and a more peaceful world.

Barring the ability to end a war or at the very least solve an age-old bilateral issue, there is one final axiom: our fourth: a new President should try at all costs not to introduce another scorpion into the box because these creatures are ravenous for lives and tax dollars, and they are hazardous. Even the adrenaline rush of nationalism they provide as they are dropped into the box isn't worth the price of a wrestling ticket.

Any new administration, especially one armed with such an impressive mandate as Obama's, has to sort through the metaphorical drawer to figure out which problems are most urgent, and which can perhaps be solved rapidly. First terms go by too quickly, and complex bilateral and multilateral maneuvers are already underway. Perhaps the president is right; perhaps supreme opportunities are oscillating today in our foreign affairs. Given appropriate actions, some scorpions could lose their ability to sting altogether.

It would be gross negligence allow our Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to go unmentioned in such a column. After all, Le Monde coverage of the Secretary, who will be leaving for Asia on Feb. 15, has been even more excited than that of the cheerleading New York Times.

I offer a tidbit of spoken word, one which aims to gin up the high morale and bonhomie that Clinton's presence has inspired in the State Department. Although Hillary is no concert pianist, speaks no foreign languages and sings out of tune, she may prove to be far better than her abundantly talented predecessor at State. Clinton is going to the mat for funding that might someday reach up to 10 percent of Department of Defense expenditures, that multilateralism hasn't made its final stand yet, and that humanitarian and cultural diplomacy will be advanced by the Secretary as tools of state power.

Yet, while the State Department might be elated to be finally offered the upper hand in the existential relationship with the Department of Defense, freed from the further bondage of six years of Donald Rumsfeld's bullying ways and the utter distain of Dick Cheney, their view of the world today remains sober still. A brief review of a few of the issues facing U.S. foreign policy should suffice to explain why optimism is immediately tempered by reality.

Foremost is the ongoing and expanding war in Afghanistan, a co-sanguineous struggle undertaken alongside valiant Canadian and European allies amid the barren mountains of south central Asia. Illicit poppy fields are flourishing again in Afghanistan, and so too are burquas, the full-body veils whose temporary disappearance in 2001 was hailed by President Bush and his wife as a major cultural victory for the West.

In the ex-British colony of Iraq, "Operation Iraqi Freedom" is over, but anti-insurgency, policing and state-building missions continue to occupy the energies of 160,000 American troops, their families, a couple of thousand American diplomats, a dwindling handful of independent North American journalists, and an unknown number of military contractors. Jobs may be disappearing in droves in the United States, but there is still plenty of money to be made in Iraq.

Over Pakistani territory, U.S. Predator Drones hum along, periodically hissing out million-dollar cruise missiles that strike potential terror targets. Maybe the civilians that are invariably vaporized in these bombings and the resentment their deaths feed in Pakistan are a small price to pay for the political benefits which they render to Obama and his clenched-jawed VP as a means of hammering down the inchoate ubernationalism of warlord hacks like Sean Hannity.

Dodging right-wing talking points is important for Obama especially when he turns to Iran, where his policy toward Iranian missile programs has yet to define the "open hand" versus "clenched fist" metaphor that he unveiled at the Inaugural Address. Iranian influence in Iraq continues unabated.

We can only imagine what life would be like without an executive mansion invested with such power, and infested with such persistent bugs.

Adam Cathcart is an assistant professor of History at PLU, specializing in East Asian History. Cathcart will be a new weekly contributor to The Mast.

Alphabetic discrimination stints student success

Lisa Wilson
GUEST EDITORIAL
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My entire life has been plagued with unjust discrimination. And since it has once again reared its ugly head it has come to the forefront of my thoughts. It is the issue of alphabetic discrimination. Now wait, some of you may say, alphabetic discrimination? Yes, that is correct. I am not claiming discrimination based on my race, gender or age, but rather on the first letter of my last name. I am part of the alphabetically disadvantaged, those consistently forced to be last. The W-Zs know exactly what I am talking about.

Understandably, this may not quite make sense to those of you who are lucky enough to be an A or a B, or to those who are snuggled nicely in the

middle of the alphabet. But allow me to elaborate. For as long as I can remember, alphabetical order has always been the "fair way" to make classroom decisions. Picking a presentation topic: alphabetical order. Seating arrangement: alphabetical order. Picking groups: alphabetical order. Graduating: alphabetical order. Appointment times: alphabetical order. I am forced to choose whatever topic is left over, sit in the back, get the last appointment, the list goes on.

Now in certain areas, such as registration, I understand that priority is decided by number of credits. However, if I am tied for credits with someone I go last. In high school, I picked up my yearbook (a BIG deal in high school) two days after the A-Is. I have not only been forced to sit in the back of the classroom consistently, but there was even a time when the classroom was just one desk short. Guess who was last

on the alphabetical list? And guess who found herself chair-less and crammed into the back corner while hoping for a daily absence just so she could get a seat? Me. Last on the list. The W.

If I were to tell someone with a last name starting, for example with, M that they were going to automatically be last for every important decision made concerning them, they would be appalled at the injustice. They would ask why and preach about the unfairness. So, just because I am a W it is right to make me go last every time? I understand those little life lessons we were all taught as a child. "Patience is a virtue" and "wait your turn," but after 21 years I have been patient; I have waited my turn. When professors utter those fateful words "let's just be fair and go in alphabetical order," two things happen. First, my stomach drops because once again I must "wait my turn" and get whatever is leftover.

Second, I think "Why? How is this the fair way when the same people are forced to be perpetually last?"

I am not saying that I have been wronged beyond repair. Rather my intent is to make you aware of alphabetic discrimination and its effects. As a senior, I have finally reached the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back after 16 last-in-line school years. I often wonder when the alphabetical order will strike again.

I challenge you to think outside the alphabetical box and come up with a better alternative. We are constantly reminded of the importance of equality and justice. It is time that we put those words into practice, not only for race and gender, but also for those of us who have long suffered under the oppressive burden of our last names.

Sidewalk Talk

What grade would you give President Obama and why?



I would give him an A- because he is doing good with what he got and his resources. There is always room for improvement. Go Obama!
Kelly Stephens
senior



I feel, intuitively, that he's changing the direction our government goes in the policies.
Eric Griebenow
sophomore



With my uninformed opinion I give him an A because he won the election. But that's only 1% of his final grade.
Jillian Foss
junior



C - he hasn't done anything good or bad.
Sean Maloy & Neil Henly
juniors



B+ because he's succeeding in passing the stimulus package but I'm skeptical about certain ornaments within the stimulus package.
Tommy Begalka
sophomore

Global change yo

Three students reflect on their experiences watching the inauguration abroad

Obama unites conti South Africa J-Term witnesses Af

Erika Meyer
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In the hills that lie above Grahamstown, South Africa, my J-Term group filed into the lounge to watch the inauguration of President Obama.

There were 19 students, two staff members, a bus driver and a Benedict monk crammed together on the floor.

We sat in front of a small television complete with rabbit ears as décor and a slightly fuzzy screen as the only English channel, SABC, began its coverage of the inauguration.

My group and I had driven around Grahamstown all day with my Obama t-shirt hanging in the window of our

bus. After while we began to

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Hope to more than one nation Obama's speech inspires an Aboriginal woman

Sarah Kehoe
MAST LUTELIFE EDITOR
kehoesm@plu.edu

As I watched the inauguration of President Barack Obama at the University of Sydney in Australia, one aboriginal woman stood out to me in the over-heated room filled with around 400 people.

Applauding and tearing up at the new president's words, Kristy Kennedy, 27, had a gleam of hope in her eyes that was unavoidable.

"Seeing a black man become president of the most powerful nation in the world gives me hope, inspiration and a sense of worth that as a minority person it is possible to work hard and become what you dream of being," said Kennedy.

Kennedy comes from the small community of Bourke, Australia, that's laced with poverty, racism and crime. Her dream of becoming a lawyer and educating her people about their rights propelled her to work hard all her life.

"I want to publish material and speak with aboriginal people about intellectual property," said the University of Sydney senior. "I want them to understand their rights and legal responsibilities so that no one will be exploited."

Kennedy is training to do this by studying law and aboriginal studies as well as advising at the Women's College Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alliance Project.

"The purpose of this project is to encourage young aboriginal women to finish school and help create pathways for them to attend the university and attain their dream career," said Kennedy.

Simply watching Obama speak over the last year has given Kennedy the hope of achieving her goals, she stated.

"Just listening to him speak gives me goosebumps because he doesn't want the way the world is working to continue," she said. "He always makes me believe that I can change my society and my community."

And the inauguration speech was no exception.

"Obama takes me back to Martin Luther King Jr. who always spoke about making change," said Kennedy. "The difference is that having Obama in power means change will happen and is happening."

Her newfound respect for Obama's policies also makes Kennedy reminisce about a time when she was less than thrilled with her own government.

"In 2000, when the prime minister, John Howard, refused to apologize for the way the Australian government was treating aboriginal people, I was ashamed to be an Australian," she said.

As Kennedy stood up and yelled, "I can't believe you," and locked eyes with Howard, she stopped hoping for change and cut all ties with the Reconciliation Council of Australia.

This group advocated for fair treatment of aboriginal peoples and organized an event called "Walk Across the Bridge" where they protested against the

government.
It wasn't until 2008 when she attended current Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology speech at the Multi-Purpose Center in her town that her faith in Australia was restored.

"I compare the feeling of pride I had at this event with the inauguration event of Obama," said Kennedy. "Obama has shown me that it is not about black or white but it's us as a nation making changes."

Kennedy's hope is for the American and the Australia government will have a great relationship and build on their programs.

"I am overwhelmed the tide has finally changed," she said. "Obama has set the stage for a new generation of leadership."



Photo by Sarah Kehoe

Senior Sarah Kehoe takes time from her J-Term trip in Australia to talk with University of Sydney student Kristy Kennedy. Kennedy is the first person in her family to attend college as she works towards a degree in law. She plans on taking her knowledge back home with her, to teach her friends and family about their rights.

You can believe in

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Photo by Alison Hughes

PLU English professor Barbra Temple-Thurston and sophomore Allison Lansvork express their excitement before watching the inauguration in South Africa. After talking politics with the locals all week, the two women were anxious to hear Obama's speech, said Miller.

Politics on the piazza

Bradley Ballinger
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While studying abroad in Italy I was able to view the inauguration from another country's perspective,

During my last night in Fontecchio, a small village of 300, I met a couple who were excited about our soon to be president elect. They had plans for attending an Obama party that was occurring in Paris.

Italy in general has stronger social programs than the United States, in my opinion. Many Europeans believe electing Obama as President is a big step in the right direction for our country. The people told me that Obama is someone Europe can relate to.

The night after the inauguration, I talked with an Irish couple sitting next to me at a café. They were celebrating the beginning of Obama's presidency that night. While discussing this with them, the couple said they believed that this was not only a benefit for blacks in the United States, but for blacks all over the world.

Traveling in Italy made me aware of the big impact our politics have on the rest of the world. The Irish gentlemen that I had dinner with that night said "when America sneezes the rest of the world has a cold".



Photo courtesy of: Bradley Ballinger

Right to left: Junior Bradley Ballinger and Jillian Foss spoke to locals about their political views while studying abroad in Italy. These conversations made them think about the United State's effect on the rest of the world, said Ballinger.

Biopic succeeds mission of understanding



Photo courtesy of Focus Features

Sean Penn plays gay rights activist Harvey Milk, who went on to become the first openly gay elected official.

Van Sant, Penn deliver with timely 'Milk'

Kolby Harvey
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In the wake of Proposition 8, Gus Van Sant's biopic of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man ever elected to public office in the United States, is bittersweet. It's too bad that the California of the 70s was able to keep legislated intolerance at bay, while the modern-day sunshine state was unable to do so. Back then, it was in the form of Proposition 6, a bill that called for the firing of all gay teachers and their supporters. And too bad that the release of "Milk" did not coincide with a triumph of equal marriage rights in California. Nevertheless, timing is one of the film's strengths, for it is first and foremost a film with an agenda.

At its heart, "Milk" is more about the ideas that Milk espoused than the man himself. Van Sant's loving (sometimes overly sentimental) portrait and Sean Penn's utterly compelling performance are there to pull us onto the gay rights bandwagon, to make Milk's cause become the viewer's own. To get everyone on board, Van Sant has returned to mainstream cinema with a film that, on the surface, seems completely conventional.

But Van Sant isn't so much being conventional here as he is toying with

FilmReview
Milk (2008)
Directed by Gus Van Sant
Starring Sean Penn
Rated R, 128 minutes

conventionality. While no doubt capable of delivering an arthouse retelling of the life of Harvey Milk, Van Sant eschews the complex in favor of accessibility. His final product is not banal, but purposeful, and is not without the occasional flourish of the fabulous, such as James Franco swimming naked in a pool and Penn discussing the lavish spectacle of opera.

A film more in the vein of 2003's "Elephant" or 2007's "Paranoid Park," aimed at Van Sant's devotees, would have been preaching to the proverbial choir, rendering the film's central call-to-action moot. The film's structure adheres to Hollywood standards so as to not alienate the average moviegoer. The artistic elite are not in need of recruitment to the gay cause; it's the Average Joe that needs to be shown that most homosexuals, like Harvey Milk, are nothing to be afraid of.

For those of us already fighting the good fight, Van Sant's latest film is a reminder that the battle for legal equality isn't over, and that the movement to which Milk dedicated his career must continue. Milk said in regard to the possibility of his death by assassination, "If a bullet should enter my brain, let the bullet destroy every closet door." 30 years after his death, the closet doors are open and homosexuals need only step forward and take their places among citizens.

The quiet Beatle speaks

Harrison's solo effort sets artist apart from fab four

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AlbumReview
Living in the Material World (1973)
George Harrison
EMI, Apple Records



half of the album contains only two overtly spiritual songs: "The Light That Has Lighted World" and "Who Can See It." The former is addressing the stubborn blindness of the world: "It's funny how people just won't accept change/ As if nature itself-they'd prefer rearrange." "Who Can See It" is more of a personal declaration of faith. The other three songs are only sprinkled with the occasional Krishna reference, but continue the theme of disillusionment. "Sue Me, Sue You Blues" is a sarcastic account of the Beatles' messy breakup set to a bluesy, bottleneck groove.

Side two of the LP is where things get really heavy. It begins with "The Lord Loves the One," a sermon of sorts that states, "The Lord helps those that help themselves." Here, the guitar takes a cue from Harrison's bluesy Beatles composition, "For You Blue." Next is the completely different "Be Here Now," which instead of speaking to a congregation, flows melodiously down a peaceful stream in the Himalayan wilderness. The penultimate track, "The Day the World Gets Round," is Harrison's version of Lennon's "Imagine" with one major difference: Instead of trying to imagine no religion, Harrison assures us that finding God is finding utopia.

On this album, Harrison sings and plays with a more desperate, poignant sound than ever before or since. Listening to "Material World" tells us why he was the greatest Beatle. One does not have to be a spiritual person to appreciate that Harrison is a man using his musical gifts to try as hard as he can to make a difference. He was not writing music to try and sell records (though the album went to number one) nor was he attempting to revel in self-glorification. Harrison was simply using his music to put out a genuine message, a message that speaks to listeners and implores them to fill their voids with spiritual abundance and "That Is All."

The year was 1973. The Beatles were a thing of the past and each of the band's members had gone his own separate way. John Lennon was primarily screaming his atheistic messages of peace and love to the mountaintops with his muse Yoko Ono by his side. Lennon, the solo artist, had also thoroughly washed his hands of the past. Paul McCartney formed his own group, Wings, and this time there were no objections to his taking complete control. Ringo Starr just kept on being jolly and fun, but was only a familiar face who had once been at the right place at the right time.

And then there was George Harrison. After leaving the group, Harrison almost instantly recorded his epic triple LP, "All Things Must Pass." The album is mostly made up of songs written during his time in the Beatles, many of which contained spiritual messages. His next studio effort, however, was practically the gospel, according to Harrison. Inspired by the Hare Krishna movement but pertaining to any faith, "Living In the Material World" consists of eleven songs drenched in passionate, supernatural fervor. The album is a plea to all listeners, hoping they will see the travesty that the violent, greedy Western world had become and find the Light.

The most famous song on the album is its opener, "Give Me Love (Give Me Peace on Earth)." The song reached number one on the Billboard charts and kicks open the door with acoustic guitar strumming, followed by a singing slide guitar line only Harrison could play. This masterpiece alone is one of Harrison's finest achievements. The song is as gorgeous and honest as rock songs come.

The album's religious overtones seem to snowball as the album progresses. The first

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Thurs: 1:00, 3:45, 6:20, 8:50

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
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Tues/Wed: 4:00, 6:35, 9:05
Thurs: 1:20, 4:00, 6:35, 9:05

DOUBT (PG-13)
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Tues/Wed: 3:15, 6:00, 8:30
Thurs: 12:45, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30

Virtual sex gets real



Image courtesy of Microsoft Game Studios

In the new fantasy role-playing game "Fable II," released in October, players are able to play as a straight, gay, lesbian and bisexual heroes, a relative first for mainstream gaming. Same-sex marriages are also commonplace.

Video game treats sexuality with maturity

Matt Click
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Video games don't have the best track record when it comes to portraying sex and sexuality. Parent and media organizations are often quick to criticize the virtual intercourse present in games such as "God of War" and "Grand Theft Auto." Just last year, Fox News ran a shoddily researched piece about the cinematic sex scene in BioWare's groundbreaking "Mass Effect" and its negative effects on teens. While I'll be the first guy to defend video games when Jack Thompson and his cronies come calling, I am willing to admit that the handling of gender, sex and sexuality in video games has been childish, misogynistic and lacking in relevance.

When it comes down to it, video game developers have nobody but themselves to blame for the media's harsh backlash against virtual sex.

But Lionhead's "Fable II," released last Oct. for Xbox 360, is changing the way we look at sex in video games. With a laid-back and realistic take on relevant issues, "Fable II" portrays sex and sexuality with grace, maturity and solid tact. This is a game that parents should encourage their teens to play.

On the surface, "Fable II" resembles your basic hack-and-slash adventure game, albeit a well made one. The player takes control of the nameless hero, who roams the

land of Albion doing good—or evil, depending on the player's preference. The graphics are crisp, the story is fairly engrossing and the simple yet fun gameplay offers just enough entertainment value to fritter away many a Saturday afternoon. But beneath its humble surface, there are some groundbreaking features that might just change the way we view sex in video games.

For starters, gamers now have the option of playing as a man or a woman. In 2004's "Fable," the hero was, by default, a man. One can now also play as a straight, gay, lesbian or bisexual character. This simple but much appreciated addition to gameplay adds relevancy and realism to an otherwise surreal gaming experience. Characters can enter into same-sex relationships and even marriages with no persecution (imagine a world in which that were possible). One quest involves the hero helping a farmer's son with coming to terms with his identity as a gay man, culminating in the young man coming out to his father.

On top of representing the spectrum of human sexuality with the open-mindedness and respect it deserves, the game also manages to portray sexual intercourse responsibly. Yes, characters are able to engage, or choose not to engage, in sexual dealings with the inhabitants of Albion. There are no graphic images, just assumptions made. But obviously, it's not a game for children.

At the same time this isn't "Grand Theft Auto." No, sex in "Fable II" comes packaged with some real-world consequences. Unprotected sex will result in pregnancy and sexual transmitted diseases. So, heroes must carry condoms in their inventories at all times. Likewise, cheating on a spouse will likely bring divorce.

For this gamer, "Fable II" is a breath of fresh air. Parents will find little to complain about, as the messages presented are positive. This is a step forward in gaming—a mainstream release featuring non-heteronormative characters who are not evil, villainous or otherwise monstrous. I hope developers continue to craft every aspect of their products with as much care as Lionhead has with "Fable II."

Gay characters in video games

The inclusion of playable gay, lesbian and bisexual characters is certainly a novel facet of "Fable II," but it is not a first in gaming. In 2003, a PC game called "The Temple of Elemental Evil" allowed the main hero to pursue a gay relationship, resulting in a same-sex marriage at the conclusion of the campaign. Officially, "The Temple of Elemental Evil" is the first video game to feature a playable non-heteronormative character. The game caused quite a stir in the gaming community following its release, but has generally stayed below the radar. With "Fable II," playable gay, lesbian and bisexual characters enter the mainstream.



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Lutes SPORTS SCHEDULE

Men and Women's Basketball

Whitman at PLU: Friday, Feb. 13 6 p.m., 8 p.m.
Whitworth at PLU: Saturday, Feb. 14 6 p.m., 8 p.m.

Women's Tennis

Linfield at PLU: Friday, Feb. 13 3:30 p.m.
George Fox at PLU: Saturday, Feb. 14 1 p.m.

Swimming

PLU Northwest Conference Championships
Federal Way, Wash. Feb. 13-14

Men's Tennis

PLU at Linfield: Saturday, Feb. 14 9 a.m.
PLU at George Fox: Saturday, Feb. 14 2 p.m.



Slow start for Lutes in E. Washington

Men's tennis starts season 2-1, loses to rival Whitman

Cale Zimmerman
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After a preseason tournament Pacific Lutheran dominated, it began its regular season in mediocre fashion. The Lutes took down the Whitworth Pirates last Friday, but lost to Whitman Saturday and non-conference NAIA powerhouse Lewis-Clark State (Ida.).

On Friday things were looking positive as PLU swept the Pirates 9-0. The closest matches were in singles. Junior captain Kevin Floyd stumbled early, but regained control of the match winning in three sets 4-6, 6-4, 1-0 (10-6). Junior Michael Manser was met by a scrappy Whitworth player Colin Zalewski but Manser won 7-6 (7-4), 6-3.

In other singles matches, senior Joel Trudel, junior captain Justin Peterson, senior James Crosetto and sophomore Scott Sheldon won in straight sets.

The doubles matches went smoothly for the Lutes as Trudel and junior Kevin Floyd, Manser and Peterson, and Sheldon and junior Chris Dew all took care of business.

Saturday turned out to be the Lutes toughest day as they took on both Whitman and Lewis-Clark State. The Whitman Missionaries are always tough. The conference always comes down to them and the Lutes. Lewis-Clark State is a perennial contender for the NAIA national championship.

The Missionaries (with their squirrel mascot roaming the sidelines) preached to the Lutes in fashion, collecting an 8-1 victory. The lone bright-spot of the day was Trudel's come-from-behind victory 2-6, 6-1, 10-5. The only other match that went three sets was Floyd playing Etienne Moshevich, losing 4-6, 6-3, 1-0 (10-6). Whitman closely defeated all of Pacific Lutheran's doubles matches with the largest margin of defeat 8-5.

"That squirrel (Whitman players) I was playing must have been nuts thinking he was going to beat me," Trudel said.

The Warriors of Lewis-Clark State gave it to the Lutes, who were playing their third tennis match in a 30-hour span. All matches were lost in straight sets. The lineups were the same with the exception of Dew substituting for Crosetto.



Mast File Photo

Junior Justin Peterson swings at a ball during a match last season. PLU began their season with a down weekend in Eastern Washington. The Lutes were able to defeat Whitworth but lost to nationally ranked teams Whitman and Lewis and Clark State.

The weekend was as rough on the Lutes as the Australian Open was on Novak Djokovic, but there still is room for optimism.

"Although we lost I feel there is much to look forward to," Peterson said. "This applies to me personally due to being abroad in the fall as well as my bum ankle."

The Lutes also have first-year Zach Ah Yat who did not play due to a strained calf, and will be returning to the roster in a couple weeks.

The Lutes continue the road swing, as they will go to Portland, Ore. this Saturday to play Linfield and George Fox. The first home match will be Feb. 28 against Whitworth.



Mast File Photo

Sophomore Ashley Brooks swings at a ball in a match last season for the Lutes. The PLU Womens tennis team began this season with a blowout loss to Seattle University. The Lutes are filled with young players this season, starting three first-years in the top six.

Seattle U. downs PLU

Lorna Rodriguez
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The women's tennis team opened its season with a solid match against Division I Seattle University on Saturday afternoon at the Sammamish Club in Issaquah, Wash. Although PLU lost 9-0, the Lutes still played well considering they are a Division III school, competing against the upper division Seattle U.

"It was a tough first match, but [it] will help us get ready for the season," junior team captain Ashley Coats said. "We did extremely well under the circumstances."

PLU lost all six of its matches to Seattle University, but went on to win some of the pro sets (the best of eight games).

Seattle proved to be a difficult opponent because they have bigger hitters with more

power than PLU is used to.

Both senior Kristi Bruner and first-year Mary Stang had some amazing pro set wins for the first match. First-year Ali Burnside also had an outstanding first match.

"This year's team has the potential to do well, but it's hard to judge because we played against a D-I school," Coats said. "At this point the sky is the limit."

Some of PLU's top players this season include Bruner who will be playing her first full season, Burnside, Stang and first-year Heidi Weston.

Also new to the team are Sophomore Caitlin Hoerr, a transfer from Willamette University, who is fiery and extremely competitive, and first-year Jessica Wilson who has an unconventional game.

Although this year's team is pretty young, with only two players returning out of the top six, the Lutes look forward to having a great season.

Look at that fool in the Lute suit

PLU Sports Column



Tyler Scott

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PLU has many possibilities for a Mascot, but no Lute roaming the sidelines

"Hey Lutes! Go Lutes! Attaway! Attaway!"
The familiar refrain echoes through the stands and sidelines at various

Pacific Lutheran athletic events. But while PLU has made use of the logical question that follows such a chant – what is a Lute? – I find another question more intriguing. Where is the Lute?

Call it a gimmick, or whatever you will, but the presence of a mascot at sporting events simply adds to the pure enjoyment of the contest. When the game is slow, the mascot emerges from some mysterious location and entertains the fans in various ways.

Sports fans in this region will likely attest to the fact that at recent Mariners games, the Moose often provided a welcome distraction from the pummeling taking place on the field. A similar scenario transpired in Key Arena in the final years of the Sonics' existence, may they rest in peace.

However, these professional teams seem confused with their mascots. How does a moose relate to a mariner? I always imagined the ideal Mariners mascot as Robert Shaw's character from Steven Spielberg's 1975 epic *Jaws*, with the overwhelming sideburns and a fishing pole, resting atop the classic U.S.S. Mariner.

"Squatch" and the Sonics had the same issue. It simply did not make sense. If you are going to claim a unique and outlandish nickname, the mascot should at least relate.

This brings us back to the Lutes. We could easily use any number of mascots. Embrace our Lutheran heritage with a hooded friar, perhaps. Give a student a Viking helmet and sword and honor our Scandinavian roots. Maybe a call back to our past to the Gladiators in order, complete with a Russell Crowe look-alike.

We could go the Stanford route and use a tree as our mascot to promote sustainability and environmentalism. Considering that our cross-town rivals are Loggers, however, this would seem to be a way of admitting defeat. Seriously, who wins that battle?

I believe that the only truly viable option is something far more unique and fitting of Pacific Lutheran. We are the Lutes, we need a Lute.

Imagine the football team storming out of the tunnel at so-called "home" games, following the lead of a giant "stringed musical instrument having a long, fretted neck and a hollow, typically pear-shaped body with a vaulted back" (dictionary.com). Can you see the look of sheer terror in the eyes of the opponents?

The shape of a lute lends itself perfectly to a student-sized costume. It would work especially well for someone with a "pear-shaped body," like myself. I am willing to volunteer my services as the wearer of the Lute costume at home sporting events, whether they are on campus or in Puyallup. I consider it an honor.

Another option would include a student wandering around the stands playing a lute. But let's be honest, that simply does not sound nearly as intimidating.

A university with our long-standing athletic tradition deserves a mascot worthy of its name. This is why I pledge to bring the power of the Lute to home contests

for the rest of my Pacific Lutheran career. Of course, this pledge cannot work unless someone far more creative than I constructs the suit. When my time is up, the legacy of the Lute can be passed on to another student fully willing to make a fool of him/herself at sporting events.

For too long now we have let our teams down by not offering the support of a mascot, a figure that strikes fear and intimidation in the hearts of our enemies on the field of play. Our country has a new presidential administration based on the promise of change, it is time we follow suit – or costume.

Hey Lutes! Look at the fool in the Lute Suit! Attaway! Attaway!

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Scorecard

Men's Basketball as of 2/11

NWC Standings

| Team | NWC | % | All | % |
|------------|------|-------|------|------|
| LPS | 12-0 | 1.000 | 19-2 | .905 |
| Whitworth | 9-3 | .750 | 17-4 | .810 |
| L&C | 9-3 | .750 | 15-6 | .714 |
| Linfield | 6-6 | .500 | 8-13 | .381 |
| Willamette | 5-7 | .417 | 9-10 | .474 |
| Whitman | 4-8 | .333 | 8-13 | .381 |
| PLU | 3-9 | .250 | 9-12 | .429 |
| Pacific | 3-9 | .250 | 8-12 | .400 |
| George Fox | 3-9 | .250 | 7-14 | .333 |

Team Points Per Game Leaders

Josh Dressler - 15.8, Victor Bull - 11.7, Kyle MacTaggart - 12.1, Nick Stackhouse - 10.1, Curtis Trondsen - 8.3

Team Assists Per Game Leaders

Gabe Smith - 3.0, James Conti - 2.9, Tony Polis - 2.7

Team Rebounds Per Game Leaders

Victor Bull - 7.3, Kyle MacTaggart - 3.8, Nick Stackhouse - 3.5

Team Steals Per Game Leaders

Josh Dressler - 1.8, James Conti - 1.5, Kyle MacTaggart - 1.1

Women's Basketball as of 2/11

NWC Standings

| Team | NWC | % | All | % |
|------------|------|-------|------|-------|
| George Fox | 12-0 | 1.000 | 21-0 | 1.000 |
| UPS | 8-4 | .667 | 14-7 | .667 |
| Whitman | 7-5 | .583 | 15-6 | .714 |
| Pacific | 7-5 | .583 | 8-12 | .400 |
| PLU | 6-6 | .500 | 12-9 | .571 |
| Whitworth | 6-6 | .500 | 12-9 | .571 |
| L&C | 3-9 | .250 | 9-12 | .429 |
| Willamette | 3-9 | .250 | 4-14 | .222 |
| Linfield | 2-10 | .167 | 3-18 | .143 |

Team Points Per Game Leaders

Emily Voorhies - 12.0, Amy Spieker - 11.7, Trinity Gibbons - 10.1, Nikki Scott - 7.2, Sara Backstrom - 5.8

Team Assists Per Game Leaders

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

Team Rebounds Per Game Leaders

Emily Voorhies - 7.9, Trinity Gibbons - 6.0, Melissa Richardson - 5.1

Team Steals Per Game Leaders

Nikki Scott - 2.1, Trinity Gibbons - 1.4, Emily Voorhies - .9

Men's Swimming as of 2/11

NWC Standings

| Team | NWC | % | All | % |
|------------|-----|-------|-----|------|
| Whitworth | 7-0 | 1.000 | 7-1 | .875 |
| UPS | 6-1 | .857 | 6-1 | .857 |
| PLU | 5-2 | .714 | 7-2 | .777 |
| Whitman | 4-3 | .571 | 5-3 | .625 |
| Linfield | 3-4 | .428 | 4-4 | .500 |
| Pacific | 2-5 | .285 | 2-6 | .250 |
| Willamette | 1-6 | .167 | 1-7 | .143 |
| L&C | 0-7 | .000 | 0-7 | .000 |

Team Best Times:

50 free: Chase Mesford - 22.71
100 free: Jay Jones - 48.64
200 free: Crain Forrest - 1:49.64
500 free: Crain Forrest - 4:58.44
100 back: Alex Lirmoges - 55.70
100 breast: Jay Jones - 59.62
100 fly: Jay Jones - 51.73
200 IM: Jay Jones - 1:57.74

Women's Swimming as of 2/11

NWC Standings

| Team | NWC | % | All | % |
|------------|-----|-------|-----|------|
| Whitworth | 7-0 | 1.000 | 7-1 | .875 |
| UPS | 6-1 | .857 | 6-1 | .857 |
| L&C | 5-2 | .714 | 7-4 | .636 |
| PLU | 4-3 | .571 | 6-3 | .666 |
| Pacific | 3-4 | .428 | 5-4 | .555 |
| Whitman | 2-5 | .285 | 4-5 | .444 |
| Linfield | 1-6 | .167 | 2-6 | .250 |
| Willamette | 0-7 | .000 | 2-7 | .222 |

Team Best Times:

50 free: Brittany Wolcott - 26.52
100 free: Jessie Klauder - 57.01
200 free: Jessie Klauder - 2:02.53
500 free: Jessie Klauder - 5:26.49
100 back: Casey Jackson - 1:03.16
100 breast: Gina Wittman - 1:13.33
100 fly: Elyse Bevers - 58.32
200 IM: Casey Dorcas - 2:22.89

Lutes drown Pacific

Men's Basketball defeats Boxers, end five game losing streak

Carrie Draeger
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Pacific Lutheran broke a five-game losing streak last Friday night with a 73-64 win over Pacific University Boxers, which shined a little hope on the Lutes' struggles this season.

"We've been getting better, which is about all we can do," Head Coach Steve Dickerson said.

The Lutes had lost to the Boxers 94-82 10 days before.

"It's interesting to see how much growth there has been in a 10-day period in our men," Dickerson said. "We managed the clock well at the end of the game and our defense was much better."

Sophomore Victor Bull scored a career-high 23 points and pulled down seven boards for the Lutes in the victory.

Dickerson said that point guards first-year James Conti and sophomore Tony Polis also contributed to the Lutes victory.

"They did a nice job seeing openings," Dickerson said.

The victory came after a tough January for the team who lost its first three games to Willamette, Lewis & Clark and cross-town rivals University of Puget Sound.

PLU followed the three-game losing streak with its third 100-plus-points victory of the season, beating Whitman in Walla Walla, Wash. 105-97. First-year Nick Stackhouse led the Lutes with 25 points, while Bull and sophomore Kyle McTaggart added 18.

However, the Lutes victory come with a price, losing junior guard Gabe Smith. Smith dove for a loose ball and caught his thumb on a Whitman player's sneaker, breaking it in 2 places.

PLU lost to Whitworth the following weekend 88-60 and Linfield 69-54 before the Lutes picked up their second conference victory against George Fox Jan. 24 81-74. Sophomore Greg Bogdan was a perfect 6-for-6 from the field, scoring 18 points. Conti added 14 points and senior Josh Dressler brought in eleven points in his first game back after a five game academic suspension.

Things got tough for the Lutes losing four games in 10 days to Pacific 94-82, Willamette 67-53, Lewis & Clark 78-73 and 84-59 UPS.

"A couple of those games we were right there (until the very end)," Dickerson said.

The Lutes were within 10 points in the final six minutes of all but the UPS game, including a two-point deficit at 75-73 against Lewis & Clark in the final seconds.

Inexperience has been a huge factor with the Lutes who have started two or three first-years and sophomores all season.

"It's been kind of rocky for the [team, but] we've been getting better," Dickerson said.

PLU is the youngest team in the conference, which is making it difficult to compete against stronger, older teams. UPS's squad carries six seniors and three juniors, compared to PLU's two seniors and one junior.

"It's a strength issue. We're just like babies compared to the teams we are playing," Dickerson said. "We might be the youngest team in [the U.S.]"

The Lutes lack of experience will help them in seasons to come.

"The more learning we can do this year, the more dividends it will pay next year," Dickerson said.

The Lutes return to action Friday and Saturday night when they host Whitman and Whitworth at Olson Auditorium, both games starting at 8 p.m.

"We have a shot to continue to win (our last games) if we continue to improve. They're motivated," Dickerson said.



Photo Courtesy of Zenon Olbertz

Sophomore Tony Polis drives with the basketball in the Lutes game against Pacific Friday. PLU won the game to end a five game conference losing streak. Despite the win, a tough month of January dropped the Lutes to the bottom half of the Northwest Conference.

Women stay in NWC hunt

Ellen Kanuch
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Pacific Lutheran women's basketball captured a much needed win on Friday, 80-51 over the Pacific University Boxers, helping the Lutes placement in the upcoming Northwest Conference postseason tournament.

The Lutes came out strong on their home court and continued to boost their season record (12-9 overall, 6-6 NWC). The Lutes improved their home record to 10-1 this season.

"It was more of a team performance, [senior's] Amy Spieker and Nikki Scott had a great game," senior Emily Voorhies said.

Spieker jumpstarted the Lutes play by scoring the first seven points and nine of their first 13, while Scott had the other four. Only five minutes into the game, the Lutes had a 13-6 lead. PLU accelerated its game play and scored 14 unanswered points in the first half now leading 44-18.

In the second half the Boxers tried to redeem themselves by bringing the score closer after Pacific's Kayla Akers hit a foul shot making the score

46-26. With 18:15 to go, the Lutes didn't back down and took a 26-point lead. The Lutes continued their streak and first-year Sara Backstrom hit a three with 5:53 remaining now 70-36.


Scott and Spieker contributed the most points, with 17 and 14 respectively. Scott also led PLU in rebounding with eight. Backstrom scored 11 points and Voorhies had 10. Senior Trinity Gibbons had a solid individual performance with eight points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

The Lutes had an impressive game finish by making 34-of-71 from the field, 48 percent, while turning the ball over only 10 times.

"We just continue to work on the details of our game and want to squeeze in the four spot," said sophomore Ellise Parr.

It is crunch time for the Lutes as only four regular season games remain. PLU will be up against another set of "must win" games this weekend as they host Whitman (15-6, 7-5) on Friday at 6 p.m. and Whitworth (12-9, 6-6) on Saturday at 4 p.m. for conference games.

"We are excited about the games (this weekend) and to show we are ready and deserve to be in the conference," Voorhies said.



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