

THE MAST

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Garfield Book Company Saying good-bye to a dud?



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN FROSCHAUER

An event held on the first floor of the Garfield Book Company. Donna Gibbs says the building will be repurposed - but she can't tell us for what just yet.

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The Garfield Book Company will shut down this summer at its current location on Garfield Street, just east of Pacific Lutheran University's campus.

PLU began appraising the Garfield Book Company during the 2013-2014 academic year, and found that among similarly sized schools, an on-campus and university-controlled bookstore should return around \$10,000 a year in profit. The Garfield Book Company, however, has never produced a profit. Additionally, the average size for a university bookstore was 6390 square feet. The space that the Garfield Book Company currently uses comes in at 15,582 square feet, plus 1,690 square feet for the space occupied by 208 Garfield.

PLU doesn't have plans to remove the Garfield Book Company completely, though. "What we've anecdotally heard is that if [the bookstore] was closer, we might use it more often, so we're looking at an



interim step and then a long-term step," said Donna Gibbs, Vice President of Marketing and Communications.

"The interim step is to create mobile kiosks, probably in the University Center, that would carry primarily Lute gear, some supplies, maybe gift cards," said Gibbs. "A much, much smaller footprint of gift items than what you see in the store now."

The long-term step involves moving the Garfield Book Company into the first floor

of the Mordvedt Library. This step includes a full remodel of the first floor of the library, beginning this summer and ending in the fall of 2017.

"There's a lot of underutilized space there," Gibb said. PLU is currently looking at what the cost for the remodel would be. "We're looking at possibly putting a cafe in the library, upgrading the equipment that students use, creating more collaborative meeting spaces."

The remodel would require

2,000-3,000 square feet of space on the first floor to be allocated to the bookstore.

The textbooks, however, will remain online-only. In a survey sent out by Marketing and Communications, 72 percent of PLU students said they purchase their books from Amazon, while only 15 percent said they used PLU's online bookstore.

PLU's online bookstore looks to be competitively priced, Gibbs said. In a survey that compared pricing of select textbooks on both sites, in almost every case MBS is competitive or cheaper when the guaranteed buyback is considered.

208 Garfield will remain in its current location. In fact, PLU is looking to expand 208's kitchen once the bookstore has been removed. The Fireside room may become a to-go counter.

As for the soon-to-be former space of the Garfield Book Company, Gibbs said she'd love to tell us what's becoming of it, but can't just yet.

"That information will be available in the next two weeks, or by the end of April," she said.

What to do at PLU

Ongoing

Provost Search; *Campus Visits by Provost candidates, April 4-15*

Friday

Provost Search; Anderson University Center 201 & 203, 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Tour of Scandinavian Cultural Center with Sally Epstein; Anderson University Center 101, 2:30-4 p.m.

Dance Continuum; Eastvold Auditorium, 7:30-9:30 p.m., General Admission: \$8, Alumni and Seniors \$5, PLU students \$3

Trombone & Euphonium Studio Recital; Mary Baker Russel Center Lagerquist Concert Hall, 8-9:30 p.m.

Saturday

Men's and Women's Soccer Auction; Anderson University Center 213 & 212, 8-9 a.m.

Inspired by Munch; Anderson University Center 101, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Baseball vs Whitman; Baseball Diamond, 12-7 p.m.,

Ann Bradfield Saxophone Recital; Mary Baker Russel Center Lagerquist Concert Hall, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Men's Tennis vs Linfield; Sprinker Recreation Center; 1 p.m.

Sunday

Pacific Lutheran University's weekly university congregation meeting is at 10 a.m. in the Ness Family Chapel.

Baseball vs Puget Sound; Baseball Diamond; 12-6 p.m.

Organ Series: Renee Anne Louprette; Mary Baker Russel Center Lagerquist Concert Hall, 3-4:30 p.m.

Men's Tennis vs Lewis & Clark; Sprinker Recreation Center, 10:30 a.m.

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From passion to your major

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What if you arrived at college, excited to start taking class, but were not interested in any of the majors offered? For one student at PLU, this situation challenged her educational path. This sophomore decided to create her own original academic major: Digital Media. She aims to be the first student to complete such a major despite the difficulties that may come with making it happen.

Rachel Lovrovich, sophomore, plans to individualize her major, an opportunity not readily available at most universities. She gained permission from the provost her first year at PLU. In order to get started, Lovrovich must compose a group of advisers who will guide her in her academic pursuits.

"I have three professors from art and communication who are backing me," she said. She also accredits communication professor Joanne Lisosky for spurring her interest towards this pursuit.

Now, Lovrovich will have to provide written evidence of why certain classes should count towards her major to the university's Board of Regents. Her major involves an interdisciplinary approach, taking classes from departments varying from communication to business. As of now, Lovrovich has taken four graphic design classes, digital photography, a creative media course, MediaLab and some communication classes.

As one of the few who take this individualized approach, Lovrovich

said she faces obstacles that other students do not even think about.

"The most difficult part for me is just figuring out what the next step is, and how I can achieve it," she said. "Making your own major is rare, so there aren't many people that have walked this path before."

Despite the challenges, creating an individualized major opens new and different opportunities for Lovrovich. She said she plans to make her major "[encompass] all kinds of digital media, so [she] won't have to narrow it down to just graphic design." Her expertise would allow her an array of jobs, such as graphic design, marketing, or TV production.

If anyone is interested in an individualized major, Lovrovich encourages them to find knowledgeable advisors.

"The most important requirement is composing a faculty committee," she said. "Having the guidance of your advisers and faculty is key to making an individualized major."

No matter the challenges, Lovrovich said she strives to complete her major in four years. With hard work and dedication, individualized majors may be achievable. Lovrovich demonstrated that any interest can be turned into a major if proper planning and dedications is implemented.

If you are interested in designing your own major please check out <http://www.plu.edu/catalog/2015-2016/undergraduate-program/program-curriculum-information/individualized-major/>.

Seniors give back

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Three seniors say they hope to give back to PLU by fundraising for a scholarship as their traditional graduation gift from the Class of 2016.

This year, more students will graduate from PLU than ever before. Seniors Evan Heringer, Zach Kuntz and Kristin Monroe have directed the Graduation Gift program for the Class of 2016. Their graduation gift is a scholarship to an incoming freshman.

"It's important to give back to the community that gave us so much," said Kuntz. The seniors said that they really want to show their appreciation for the school who made them who they are. They wanted to thank PLU for the many scholarships and grants they give students as well. According to the admissions department, 97 percent of students applying qualify for some sort of scholarship at PLU.

"I don't think that a lot of us would have been able to come to PLU if not for the scholarships," said Monroe. While the Office of Alumni oversees the Graduation Gift, most of the work has been accomplished by the ambition of the three seniors. All communication majors, Heringer, Kuntz and Monroe said that they have been very busy orchestrating the event. The seniors said they've designed a Facebook page, created a logo, held focus groups and even surveyed their class with 198 respondents. "We wanted to make sure it reflected the general idea of the senior population," Kuntz said.

The seniors also said that they want this

year's gift to be different, hoping to draw in as many students as possible. They said they want to raise more awareness so that people will know about the events before they happen.

This year Thomas and Patty Krise have promised to donate money to the scholarship depending on senior participation. For every one percent students donate, the Krises will contribute \$100. If the full 100 percent of students participate in the events, then President Krise said he will donate \$25,000 in order to endow the student scholarship. Involvement from the full senior class may seem like a stretch, but Heringer said, "We are optimistic."

Seniors Heringer, Kuntz and Monroe planned three events to fundraise money for the gift. The first event, Thursday April 14th, is a 90s trivia night. The Cave will hold the game night and give out prizes like Farell's gift cards, the seniors said. The second event is hosted by The Haven bar Friday May 13th. The seniors said drinks will be 15 percent off and all sales will go towards the graduation gift.

For the last event, the seniors said they hope to take a different spin on an old tradition. They plan to make picking up caps and gowns a more social experience. This may be the last time some seniors see each other before they graduate. Heringer, Kuntz and Monroe said they felt this would be a great opportunity to combine some goodbyes with a farewell gift to next year's class.

Heringer said, "We want to focus on being more together and center on bringing people together, helping future lutes in the process." Students willing to help with can attend the fundraising events or donate online.



CSI: Campus Safety Investigations

Taken from weekly Campus Safety reports

Vandalism

CSAF received a report of vandalism from Cleaning Services in the first floor restroom of Morken Center. CSAF found multiple damaged lights in the restroom. No suspect information at this time.

Theft from a Vehicle

CSAF officers observed a suspicious person looking into a vehicle in the Mortvedt parking lot. The subject fled as officers approached. There was no damage to the vehicle, but it appeared that it had been entered. The non-student owner of the vehicle reported that a pack of cigarettes was the only item missing when contacted.

If you ever need help

Call Campus Safety at 253-535-7911
Email Campus Safety at csin@plu.edu
Or visit campus safety in the lower level of Harstad Hall

General Policy Violation

CSAF responded to a report of a male sleeping in the lounge of Stuen. Officers contacted the student, a Pflueger resident, who explained he was staying in Stuen over the break to feed the fish of a friend who was gone. The friend had left her ID card for him to use as access but he left it in the room and could not get back in. CSAF explained the policy on access and the student returned to Pflueger.

Suspicious Activity

CSAF officers contacted three students who were attempting to climb onto the roof of the library entrance. All three denied they were attempting to climb, but video evidence and a Cleaning Services employee witnessed their actions. The incident has been forwarded to SRR for review.



PLU's budget: *Some hard facts, some soft ones*

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After last month's article "PLU's Budget: A confusing mess" hit the stands, I received an overwhelming amount of comments, help and information from staff and students. So, this series continues as I dive into the first few pieces of information in the attempt to make these things finally clear. This week, I looked into the Pacific Lutheran University sale of KPLU and other assets to be sold soon.

To start, the staff members I talked to for some information will remain anonymous - that way they were allowed to talk about issues freely, without having to worry about their job security. The Mast usually does not host anonymous sources, but in this case we found it appropriate to respect their request for anonymity.

To understand the budget at a basic, non-financial planner level you need to know that PLU's budget is made up of three major parts: there's the cash and money that PLU currently has, there's the university's assets (property, owned licences, etc.) and there are debts (money that is owed to other entities).

According to PLU's 2015 Statement of Financial Position you can find it online for some light Friday night reading - our campus currently has about \$5.3 million in cash. Meaning that's what our theoretical bank account

has in it. However, our campus has \$63 million of long-term debt owed to governmental entities. Even though PLU has plenty of land and other assets that equal up to \$248 million, debt can only be paid off with money that an entity actually has, or with an asset. Keeping that in mind, I started looking into the assets that PLU is purging itself of.

How does KPLU fit into all of this? Many students and staff believed that PLU was selling KPLU to get out of debt and voiced those concerns in meetings with PLU President Thomas Krise or through protest. Last semester, The News Tribune and The Puget Sound Business Journal both reported on the sale, citing PLU's need for money as a clear cause.

However, the sale of KPLU will only offer a gain PLU \$7 million in cash, bringing up PLU's total cash assets to \$12.3 million.

That amount is almost enough to pay (let's just estimate here) a \$15 million bond payment. But just almost. PLU has actually been deferring its bond payments and, according to an article in the Puget Sound Business Journal, the university might default on its millions of dollars of debt. In the big scheme of things, that \$7 million isn't nearly big enough to be a reason for selling KPLU since the non-profit radio station actually made net profit of about \$700,000 this year and that number has been steadily increasing over the last few years, according to its annual financial statements.

According to KPLU's annual

2015 Statement of Financial Position, PLU actually owes KPLU \$2 million in cash. Selling the entity off and disbanding KPLU also meant that PLU won't have to fork over that money, from what I understand. So, not only is it a nice \$7 million in the university's pocket, but it could also tick off \$2 million owed.

PLU's financial statements and Krise's claim that PLU is in "fine financial state" looked even more unstable earlier this month when students were told that there were plans to sell and move Garfield Bookstore. According to an email sent to students earlier this semester, the Office of Student Life is currently looking for different places to host a "PLU Bookstore," including the library and the University Commons. The numbers haven't come out yet on how much money that will bring PLU, but currently, according to a PLU staff member, the bookstore loses about \$1 million each year.

What this says to me and the staff members I've talked to is that PLU is consolidating, streamlining and trimming the fat around campus. What this says to me is that our budget might not be in "fine shape." What this says to me is that I need to keep doing some investigating.

Stay tuned next week, I'll be looking into what we're spending all of your tuition money on. Did you know PLU currently has \$5 million tied up in construction in progress?

A little context...

Standard & Poors is a credit-rating agency, and as such it issues ratings for the debt of public and private companies. The scale spans from "AAA" to "D," with intermediate ratings offered at each level.

PLU had its rating reduced in September from "BBB" to "BBB-." "BBB" means PLU has adequate capacity to meet its financial commitments. However, "adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitments." So, while we may be in a position where we can meet our financial commitments, S&P cited a "weakened overall financial profile," and "several years of enrollment and demand pressure, shown by decreasing headcount and freshmen applications."

Two hundred students down, from 2011 to 2014, to be exact. PLU Board of Regents member calls it a crisis because those 200 students means \$5 million in revenue. To combat this issue, PLU launched the Strategic Enrollment Management Advisory Committee in 2012, to "to help the institution achieve and maintain the optimum recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of students." Within a year, the university also pledged to raise salaries, maintain facilities, and expand the cash it had "on hand."

All of this also lands KPLU in an interesting situation; being a public station with private owners. KPLU does not have a governing body independent of its private owners at PLU.



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Pacific Lutheran University's Budget

A confusing mess

If you are an expert on the PLU budget or have something you'd like to be looked into or included, email mast@plu.edu.

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A&C

“Walking Dead” disappoints: #SPOILERS

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The sixth season finale of “The Walking Dead” aired last Sunday with one of the cruelest cliffhangers in the show’s history. The episode began with Rick Grimes and a few of the residents of Alexandria piling up in their RV to rush a suddenly ill Maggie to the Hilltop where she could receive proper medical attention. On the way, the group reached a road block composed of a small group of Negan’s infamous “Saviors.”

After a short conversation between Rick and the group’s leader, Rick told his group to drive away in order to avoid a potentially deadly encounter, with the hope of finding an alternate route to the Hilltop. The Saviors suspiciously

refrained from pursuing Rick’s group. Our beloved Alexandrians continued driving through Washington, D.C. towards the Hilltop, but were met with another Savior road block of an even larger group. Rick’s group then turned around to once again attempt an alternate route towards the Hilltop, but they continued to encounter more road blocks with increasing numbers of Saviors as nightfall began to set in. The terrifying realization that Rick’s group had become surrounded by a veritable Savior army came too late, and our heroes inevitably found themselves trapped by upwards of fifty armed Saviors who had cornered the group in a dark forest.

One by one, Rick and his people were disarmed and brought to their knees, leaving them submissive and vulnerable as the leader of the Saviors, Negan, introduced himself and his favorite barbed-wire-covered baseball bat (intimately named Lucille).

After lengthy minutes of psychologically tormenting the group by deciding who he was going to kill to punish Rick for killing some of his Saviors, Negan began chanting “eeny meeny miny moe” as he slowly walked up to each member of the group pointing his bat at them. Suddenly, the audience’s view switched to a first-person perspective of an unknown member of the group that Negan gestures his bat to, finally saying: “...and you are it.” Negan then proceeded to smash this character’s skull in as his/her vision blurred and hearing obscured more and more with each vicious hit.

The episode ended with the death of this mystery character, and silent credits rolled. Fans of the show (myself included) are disappointed (and expressed it through various social media outlets like Reddit and Twitter) by the show writers’ choice to leave the identity of the murdered main character unknown.

In issue 100 of the ongoing comic book that “The Walking Dead” is based off of, Negan’s introduction was exactly the same, except the reader knew who Negan killed. The comic book’s writer Robert Kirkman didn’t shy away from such a pivotal moment in the story by playing it safe. Audience members were at the edge of their seats as Negan teased, tormented and eventually killed a member of the group, but the show watchers won’t find out exactly who that person was until the seventh season premieres. This has left fans feeling manipulated by such an unnecessary cliffhanger that emphasizes a lack of integrity by the showrunners.

An opportunity for “The Walking Dead” to become the kind of show people want to watch but haven’t seen in a while was unfortunately abandoned.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FREEREPUBLIC.COM

Molly’s Music Reviews: Saje

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Saje is a duo based in Paris, consisting of Vincent and Gregory. Their music as a mixture of housepop and electronica. The two met at a day job in 2014, but quickly discovered they had a love for music and started working on their music together instead. Although they have been releasing music for over two years now, very few people know of them, something they are trying to keep as it is, according to French music site Konbini.com. They like to stay mysterious.

Their first EP, “Freefallin Dreams,” was released on January 20, 2016 by French label Roche Musique, and consists of five tracks. The most popular song, which also happens to be my favorite, is “Raspberry.” Their music is the perfect blend of calm and house.

So far, Saje has only had concerts in France, but hopefully this will change soon. Follow Saje on Facebook or Twitter to stay updated on their work.

LollaPLUza Receives its Lineup

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Seattle-based indie rock band Pickwick hits the main stage Saturday, May 7 on the Pacific Lutheran University golf course to perform at LollaPLUza 2016. Pickwick has performed live at KEXP and at Bumbershoot in 2014. (youtube.com/watch?v=T9lv0mbPch8)

Student band Head Portal won PLU Battle of the Bands, landing them a spot on the mainstage alongside Pickwick. The second

and third place bands, Runaway Satellites and Caleb & Denae, will also perform on B stages. Pickwick’s last album was released in March 2016. It combines classically-styled R&B/Soul with a messier, louder, garage rock - a powerful combination, to say the least. Their music doesn’t just give you energy, it is energy. Pickwick announced via Facebook that they just finished recording their second full-length LP with the great Erik Blood (who’s previous work includes music for Shabazz Palaces, Tacocat, THEESatisfaction and The Moondoggies).



GRAPHIC BY COLTON WALKER

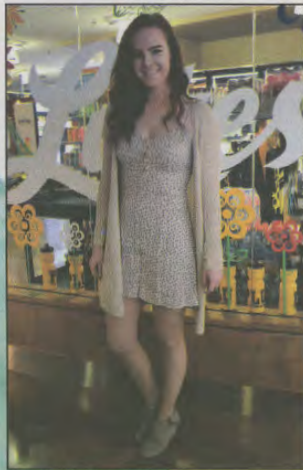


PHOTO COURTESY OF PICKWICK

“[The flannel shirt] was a Christmas present.”



Senior Abram Misiluti



First-Year Kristen Falecki

Lutes Spring into Spring Fashion

BROOKE THAMES & MCKENNA MORIN
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Spring blooms all around Pacific Lutheran University's campus, but the flowers aren't the only things

blossoming this season. Slowly but surely, Lutes are exchanging their winter wear for lighter, brighter and happier outfits. To investigate more, the Mast took note of a few fashion-forward Lutes on campus and asked them about the inspiration behind their looks.

“I woke up early, and the colors matched.”

“I was in a hurry. That's why I don't have socks on. But it works.”



Junior Arika Matoba

“[Birks are] my go-to shoes, and I wear black skinny jeans 98 percent of the time.”

Junior Hatch Miller



PHOTOS BY MCKENNA MORIN

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Anonymous Lutes

What do Lutes talk about when they think nobody is listening? We took the top anonymous student posts from Reddit, Yik Yak and PLU Confessions, and uncovered some fantastic Lute Life.

Feb. 24 |

"All excited about walking at graduation, then I found out today that the rotc carry loaded guns at the ceremony. So, do I uphold my passivist ideals and not go to graduation, or do I just set aside my beliefs for the sake of being in the ceremony? I'm really torn. TBH I dont think those in charge would even listen to me if I asked for them not to have loaded guns at the ceremony."

April 5 |

"Why does OMM only ever have mild cheddar? Do they think we're going to say 'ouch, this is too sharp! I need rubbery safety cheese!'"

April 5 |

"My ex texted me saying he misses m e so I sent him screenshots of all the [heartface emoji] "gorgeous" "beautiful" comments he left on other girls' Instagrams since we broke up"

Anonymous Response:
"Ouch! You go glenn cocol"

What do you think about
as a form of expressing
opinion by emailing
could see your opinion



April 4 |
"Me: I have a lot of homework.
Brain: let's watch every episode of Bob's Burgers first.
Me: why? Brain: you gotta"

April 6 |
"SOS: funny blonde in need of boyfriend. Literally all I have going for myself is that I'm kind of funny, and happen to be blonde."

April 6 |
"I'm really amazed to have met a lot of book nerds and engaged people since coming here. I was kind of expecting to see more airheads like at my high school, but so far, I've only met one such person."

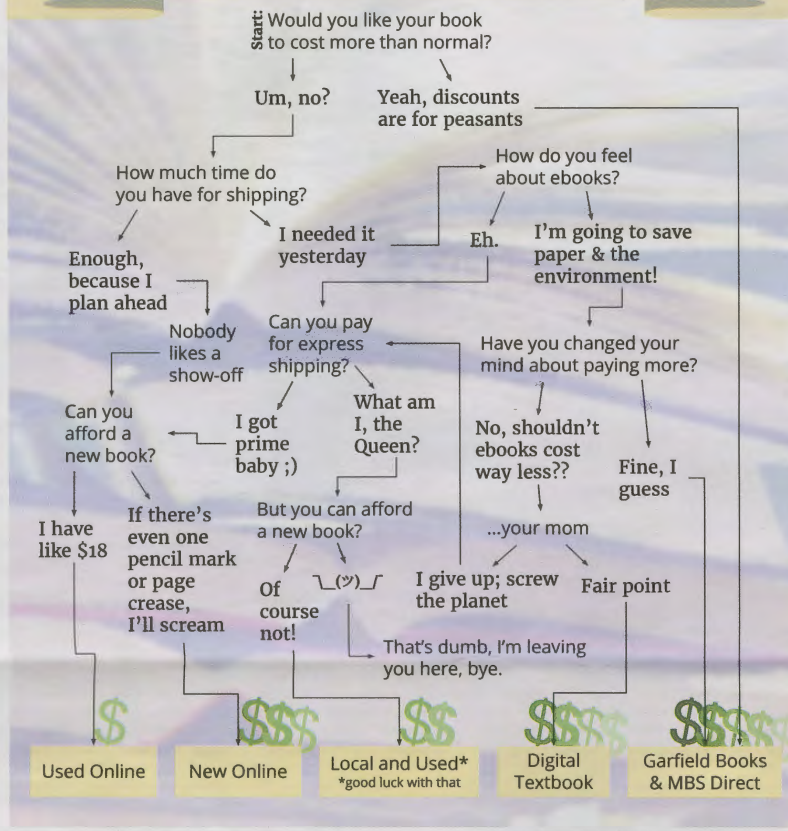
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mast@plu.edu and you
on in the next issue.

OPINION

Bookstore Blues

Quiz: Where Should You Buy That Textbook?

If you read the article about Garfield Bookstore's relocation on the front page and you're looking to find a new book source, check out the quiz on this page to find out! Graphic by Julia Grosvenor.



Letter from the Editor

Hello, Lutes!

My name is Paris, and I am the new Opinion Editor for the rest of spring term. A little bit about me: I am a first year Anthropology major from Denver, CO. I began as a copy editor for *The Mast* last semester, and I look forward to expanding my role here as we wrap up the 2015-2016 school year.

I have a variety of strange interests, making the Opinion section the perfect fit for me. If you feel that you, too, have unique passions worth sharing, or you simply want to explain one of your favorite things to the world, let me know! We can publish any of your valuable thoughts right in these hallowed pages.

To sum it up, if you ever have something on your mind, please share it with us. (I know we all have some last-minute ranting to do about having homework over spring break.) This is the least formal section of *The Mast*, but that doesn't mean that it can't reflect serious issues as well. The Opinion section is here for you, and it can be whatever you want it to be. If you have any ideas, feel free to email me at frankp@plu.edu. I'm excited to hear from you!



Problems with a bipartisan system

LUCAS SCHAUMBERG
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As a far-left college student on a liberal arts campus (a rarity, I know) I often find myself tired of the entrenched neo-liberalism and hypocrisy in the Democratic party. I probably will only vote for Hillary Clinton, the likely nominee at this point, in hope of preventing the Book of Revelations hellscape that I'm pretty certain a Trump Presidency would bring about.

I'm not alone in my cynical disenchantment for party politics. One recent *New York Times* column titled "Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump Are Winning Votes, but Not Hearts" found that 53 percent of Americans have an unfavorable opinion of Mrs. Clinton and 63 percent have such a view of Mr. Trump. A majority of U.S. adults, 58 percent, say a third U.S. political party is needed because the Republican and Democratic parties "do such a poor job" representing the American people.

The two-party system as it currently exists remains ineffectual, mainly due to suffocating amounts of cash flow from massive corporate interests. As the economist Thomas Friedman puts it, our system has "ossified," and now creates parties that "lack integrity and creativity and any sense of courage or high-aspiration in confronting our problems."

This might be one of the last political opinions that Americans can bipartisanly agree upon.

Anyway, due to all the vested interests

and lobbying dollars accrued in both parties, as well as the zero-sum calculations where one party's loss equals another's gain, gridlock in a two-party system is almost guaranteed to exist. And contest between distinct choices that a multi-party system could provide is in dire demand. "If competition is good for our economy," asks Stanford University political scientist Larry Diamond in Friedman's column, "why isn't it good for our politics?"

In the US, the Democrats and Republicans have been very effective in eliminating any regional competition due to their massive resources. Cramming 300 million Americans of incredibly diverse backgrounds into two political parties has sunk political participation and voter turnout to embarrassingly low levels for a developed nation.

Could a multi-party system provide solution?

While both parties have tapped into the wellspring of middle- and lower-class frustration, these uprisings remain squarely within the channels of party politics. The 2016 elections have seen the progressive streams of would-be third parties, such as the Tea Party or Black Lives Matter, into the two existing political channels, rather than splitting out into a multi-party alluvial fan of sorts, in which diverse economic and social sources can distinctly and separately flow. A potential proportional representation would certainly be a more platonically democratic way of government. It has the potential to create the competitive intermingling that is evidently missing from current American politics. Representation in a multi-party

system would end up more accurately meeting Americans' needs as well.

In a global context, Americans are little behind the increasingly multi-partied times. Most modern democracies around the world use some form of proportional voting, which gives small parties an avenue for gaining representation in direct relation to the share of the votes. Canada, India and the UK all have multiple parties, indicative of their regional ideological separations, which we Americans seem to have now as well. These small parties are competitive with the two dominant parties in their particular region.

Americans, with a famous passion for variety in consumer choices (bacon-flavored mayonnaise could only exist in the U.S.) could happily deliberate between parties with specific programs on the environment, social welfare and the size of government. A real Tea Party, for instance, would be required to develop a feasible foreign policy program when election time comes around. The social democratic or socialist parties that are close to my heart would have to openly justify costly social welfare programs.

So why, despite common sentiments and practical benefits for a multi-party system, does America continue to have practically two choices?

It really comes down to the mechanics of the electoral system. The US, in congruence with our traditional "If you're not first, you're last" cultural style, uses first-past-the-post voting. This ends up favoring two large parties and prevents small parties from gaining any representation.

Indulge me in my use of an arch-

metaphor for a minute. Imagine U.S. political process as a forking river traveling down a man-made canyon. (The river could be the smoldering Chattanooga, if your optimism of American politics matches mine). Each demographic is a tributary feeding into the flow, with channels made of political donations and party infrastructure separating the mass into two distinct rivers. Republicans have shifted their rivers far away from the source, directing its base to the south while cutting off some demographic tributaries. Democrats have moved away from the flow of Republican ideology to concentrate on coastal regions. But our government, as history has shown us, traditionally worked best when many waters mix and froth, sprawled out across many regions.

The upwelling of bipartisan disenchantment we can currently seeing in this funhouse-mirror election cycle is still being bifurcated into the existing party channels. Candidates like Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders may froth and fist-shake against the already-formed party canals, but ultimately need them to direct the many demographic and ideological tributaries into a large enough coalition. Americans might benefit from a two-party system, but the current structure is too cemented to produce a political victory for any candidate deviating from the party line.

What does all this mean for PLU students? Well, for any millennial infamously pining for a Kanye West independent ticket in 2020, their vote will probably end up being wasted. Oh well.

What is it really like to have lunch with an Eskimo Sister? And then have lunch with her again to interview her about what it's like to be Eskimo sisters.

It is no secret that Pacific Lutheran University is short on male students. We boast a proud 67 percent female to male ratio, meaning that the dating pool for heterosexual women is ... well, rather disappointing. This proportion makes it nearly impossible for straight women to go out with men who have not already gone out with at least a few other lady Lutes.

Enter: Eskimo Sisters. For the purposes of this article, please ignore the fact that the term "Eskimo" is not politically correct. My deepest sympathies to the First Nations, Yupik and Inuit populations who were once labeled as such.

According to Urban Dictionary, Eskimo Sisters (ES) are defined as two women who have slept with the same man. I recently found out that an acquaintance of mine and myself fit that criteria. At first, I thought that discussing the matter with her would be just about the most awkward thing I could imagine. Instead, the situation has brought us even closer together, and she and I are now great friends.

This took a few open conversations,



The weekly, anonymous "Let's talk about sex" series will look into a different topic about sex and sexuality in an effort to raise awareness, bring education and be a forum for discussion. To write in and share your opinions and stories, email mast@plu.edu.

but we learned that there was no reason to feel anything but kinship between us. Neither of us care that he was sleeping with multiple people, both of us included, nor were we jealous of the other girl's relations with the man. On the contrary, we found it kind of hilarious. We were able to discuss some of the guy's signature "moves" and figure out what attracted both of us to him in the first place.

"It's hard to break the ice, but I'm not about the elephant in the room. I don't want to sit there with one of us not knowing or

both of us not wanting to talk about it," said my ES. "If I want to retain a friendship and good vibes with the person, I want to make sure that none of us are jealous or angry or that any of us are feeling weird emotions."

We have since had many conversations that led us to our similar interests that fall outside of our relations with our mutual guy friend. "I felt like I needed to talk to you. I wanted to remain friends with you, so I felt that we had to bring it up," she added.

One of the easiest ways that we were

able to connect was through our mutual beliefs about sleeping with someone in the first place. "We both understand that sex does not have to equal love and that love does not have to equal sex," said my ES. "I really like talking about it with people who understand the importance of honesty. We can just communicate and use 'girl language' to talk, and it feels good."

"I'm really glad that I have an Eskimo Sister. It makes me really happy to have you specifically because I am comforted about my experiences," she added. It was relieving to be able to discuss what we enjoyed and didn't enjoy.

Our similarities as friends translated into our mutual interest in a man. I understand that not all ES relationships may be like this one, but I am here to tell you that meeting somebody who has shared a partner is not the end of the world.



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Deserted life on-campus: A Q&A

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Cate Rush is a first-year Nursing student. She works for Campus Safety and is a coxswain for the Rowing Team. She stayed on-campus in order to participate in daily rowing practice and team-building activities.

MM: What was it like to live on campus during a break?

Rush: "It was very quiet. I missed a lot of people, but it was also really nice just to go home, and it was quiet and not very hectic... It was very peaceful and calm here."

MM: Was it easy to get food?

Rush: "It was fairly easy to get food for me. I go to Saars pretty regularly, so I walked to Saars to get groceries for the week, and with rowing I got some grocery-type foods, too. That took care of some of my meals, and we had some team dinners. It was kind of fun to cook for myself and to eat here. OMM was open occasionally with very odd hours, but you had to cook all of your own meals."

MM: How did you get cooking materials without a desk worker?

Rush: "You had to have your own if you wanted to stay on-campus. I had one small pan from first semester and a cutting board, and I had to buy a second pan and a few more cooking utensils because you really can't do everything with a fork. You try, but you do need a spatula. Cooking oil, you never really think about that, and salt and pepper, those types of things were all necessary."

MM: Did you dislike anything about being on-campus with few other people around?

Rush: "I didn't realize how much I relied on OMM as well as the Commons and services on campus. There were some offices open, but not many. It was weird when I wanted to get a snack or get a coffee and nothing was open. Nothing was going on related to students on campus, and if you wanted something you had to leave campus. That was kind of a weird experience. Spring break is a good time to apply for jobs and to look for opportunities outside of your schoolwork because you don't have to go to class. It was really nice to have that

break, but I also noticed that because I've been here the whole time, it just felt like classes picked back up again immediately as if there was no break. It felt like it was a weekend and then it was right back into classes because there was no transition."

MM: If given the choice, would you stay on-campus during another break?

Rush: "It was nice to work to make a little bit of extra money, but I really missed my family. I wish I would have been able to go home and see my best friend and spend some time at home. I think it would have been easier to apply for summer jobs since I'll be home while there, so if given the

option, I probably won't stay on-campus. Maybe for the shorter breaks, but not for spring break. I'd either go home or go somewhere fun to get a break from campus. It does feel very continuous now. I needed a change of scenery."

MM: How many people would you say were left on-campus?

Rush: "There were very few. I would say in Harstad that the rowers were here and that was pretty much it, so five or six girls in Harstad. There were also RAs periodically coming in and out. It was weird not having a front desk worker and not seeing people anywhere. Everything was quiet, but it was interesting because there weren't a lot of students, but there was a lot of stuff going on. There were a ton of conferences and a huge choral event from one of the school districts nearby that caused people to pour onto campus. There was also a model train show, so campus was busy, but it was no one that I knew and there were very few students here. A majority of the students left on campus were athletes, but even the students who didn't leave for the whole break still went somewhere like to a friend's house for a bit."

MM: What was the best part of being on campus while it was closed?

Rush: "As an introvert it's nice to just have a break from people once in a while. It was nice to have respite. Not having everyone here also made it seem like more of a separation from the school year. Even though I didn't leave, it still felt like I was getting a break from the routine, so I liked that about it. I definitely missed my family and the possibility of going somewhere."



Red Square devoid of Lutes during Spring Break. Photo by McKenna Morin.

SPORTS

Seattle Mariners Position Questions

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General Manager Jerry Dipoto

With a week left in spring training, questions that Seattle Mariners fans have been asking have been answered. Two position battles have left fans curious as to who is going to be chosen. The Mariners were in need of a fifth starting pitcher, as well as a right-handed hitting first baseman.

The battle turned out to take place between familiar faces and new ones. Should fans really be surprised about who was

chosen?

New general manager Jerry Dipoto brought in what seems like thousands of new players to the Mariners organization. Thirty one of the 60 players in Mariners spring training were new to the organization. Dipoto was on a mission to retool the roster in a way he saw fit.

The fifth spot in the Seattle Mariners pitching rotation came down to James Paxton and Nathan Karns. Paxton has been a part of the Mariners organization, but has never lived up to his potential. Paxton has worn a Mariners uniform in three seasons, but those seasons have been broken. Paxton has never pitched more than 75 big league innings.

I considered the fifth starting pitcher job to be Paxton's to lose, which he did. Paxton boasted a 10.80 earned run average, which is never great when attempting to win a job on a major league roster.

Nate Karns was acquired in a trade with the Tampa Bay Rays. Karns completed his first major league season in 2015 with the Rays, pitching 147 innings, striking out 145 batters and only walking 56. Manager Scott Servais has said that the Mariners want to control strike zone both offensively and

defensively. Karns did that last year, striking out 89 more batters than he walked.

Karns has posted a 6.75 earned run average in the spring of 2016. There's virtually no difference between a 6.75 ERA, and a 10.80 ERA. If a pitcher on your favorite team has either of those ERAs, your favorite team loses.

The other position battle that had fans intrigued took place on the infield. Dipoto traded for first baseman Adam Lind. Lind is a proven, left-handed-hitting first baseman. The team needed a right-handed bat to possible platoon or be the designated hitter while facing left-handed pitching. The battle came down to three players. Those players were Jesus Montero, Stefan Romero and the free agent signing Dae-Ho Lee.

Romero has spent his career as an outfielder, however he was added to the first base mix as a guy with versatility. Romero had a hot spring, batting .357 while learning a new position. Romero had a minor league option, making him the odd man out, and the easiest to send down to triple A Tacoma.

Jesus Montero sent Mariners fans on a roller coast throughout his career with the Mariners.

Montero was brought over in a trade that sent Michael Pineda

to the Yankees. Troubles with performance enhancing drugs as well as his weight fluctuation kept Montero from the major leagues. Montero batted an incredible .355 with 18 doubles and 18 home runs in triple A Tacoma in 2015. However that success did not carry over to the spring of 2016 as Montero hit a poor .237 in 38 at-bats. Having no minor league options forced the Mariners to place Montero on waivers. Montero was picked up by the Toronto Blue Jays a day later.

That leaves Dae-Ho Lee, the mystery man from South Korea. Lee was a superstar in Japanese and Korean leagues. Lee was the Korean Baseball Organization's MVP in 2010, a three-time batting champion and a two-time home run king. Lee hasn't played much better than Montero, registering a .239 batting average with just one home run. So why did Karns and Lee win jobs with the new-look Mariners roster?

Karns and Lee were both hand-picked by Jerry Dipoto. Neither of those players truly beat out those who they were competing with. Dipoto has chosen to ride with the guys he brought in himself. The only remnants of former general manager Jack Zduriencik are players the new GM would be an absolute fool to

give up. It makes you wonder if these so called 'battles' were ever really that to begin with. Fans, it's no surprise that players who were chosen by Jerry Dipoto have made the opening day roster.



Photo Courtesy of Keith Allison
Jesus Montero against the Orioles

Tennis Splits Weekend Matches

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Match One

Men's Tennis took a tough 9-0 loss to Pacific this afternoon as they look to their lost few matches of the season.

The Lutes held strong, going back and forth in several matches before ultimately losing to Pacific University. Every doubles team seemed evenly matched beginning the dual.

One doubles James Okubo and DJ Pekoc took an 8-4 loss while Jeremy Marsh and Noel Oteng-Mensah managed an 8-3 loss at two. At three doubles, Chan Thourk and Justin deMattos gave Pacific's Griffin Fraser and Chris Dalton a run for their money, taking five games before ultimately taking an 8-5 loss.

Singles saw less action, with Pacific giving up less than four games in almost every set. At five, deMattos came out strong with the closest match of the day. DeMattos took the first set against Pacific's Nyles Maissou before ultimately coming home with a 6-3, 4-6 (10-6) loss.

Match Two

Men's Tennis will bring home a 5-3 loss to Willamette after a nail-biting dual this afternoon.

The Lutes began the afternoon strong, taking two of the first three doubles matches.

At one, James Okubo and DJ Pekoc took an 8-3 loss but were followed up by two close wins. Jeremy Marsh and Noel Oteng-Mensah stepped up in the two spot, getting a close 9-7 win. Chan Thourk and Justin deMattos gave PLU a second 9-7 win, bringing the Lutes up 2-4 going into singles.

The Lutes and the Bearcats were very evenly matched through singles as well. At one, Oteng-Mensah took a loss to Willamette's Blake Brash after forcing him to extra points in the second set, ending with a 6-3, 7-5 loss.

Marsh also had a close match at two with the final score coming down to extra points. After taking the first set in a tiebreaker, Marsh lost the second but forced his opponent to a third set tiebreaker, eventually losing 7-6, 1-6, 6-7.

Okubo stepped up in the three spot, giving PLU their first singles win with a 6-2, 7-5 final score.

"Okubo had one of his best wins of the year, if not his entire PLU career this afternoon," Head Coach John Cassens said. "It showed his hard work is really paying off."

Thourk also brought home a singles win for the Lutes, beating Willamette's Jesse Mackinney with a quick 6-3, 6-3. However, with two more losses at four and five, the Lutes couldn't finish off the win.

"It was a very close match," Cassens said. "It was all decided with a tiebreaker."



Sophomore Caroline Dreher



Marcelo Hernandez-Garraz and Jeremy Marsh



All Photos Courtesy of GoLutes

Match One

Women's Tennis took an 8-1 loss against Pacific this afternoon down in Oregon.

The Lutes might have only brought home one match win, but the team made the Boxers earn every match, battling it out through multiple third set tiebreakers.

In one doubles, Caroline Dreher and Megan Beyers forced Pacific's Kaitlyn Lomartire and Chantelle Barclay into extra games ending in a close 9-5 loss.

Emily Bower and Emily Beemsterboer also had a close match with an 8-4 loss while Lilly Le and Ingrid Erickson took an 8-2 loss at three doubles.

Singles continued with similar scores, but Dreher, Beemsterboer and Le found extra power through singles. At four, Beemsterboer gave PLU its single win over Pacific's Kanani Kea 6-4, 6-3.

Dreher, at one, took the first set but lost her stride through the second, taking a third set loss at 7-5, 3-6 (6-10). Le also had a close match at five. After winning the first set quickly, Le dropped the second and ended with a 6-2, 6-7 (7-10) loss.

"I hope we keep the same momentum of today's match through to tomorrow's," Emily Beemsterboer said.

Match Two

Women's Tennis hosted Willamette this afternoon and only gave up two matches, taking a 7-2 victory.

The Lutes opened the dual match strong, taking two doubles wins quickly. At one, Dreher and Beyers outplayed Willamette's Alexis Gjurasic and Mikaila Smith for an 8-4 win. Bower and Emily Beemsterboer also took a quick 8-3 win at two.

Lilly Le and Ingrid Erickson forced their opponents to extra points at three, but finished with a close 9-8 (7-5) loss.

Singles saw a lot of the same domination as doubles. Dreher started the match with a close match, but after forcing her opponent into a third set, Dreher came up just short with a 4-6, 6-4 (6-10) loss.

The rest of the Lutes had smooth sailing, none giving up more than four games in their matches. Erickson also had a challenging match after a slow start at six, but was able to find her strength and bring home a 7-6 (9-7), 6-1 win.

**2016
SUMMER OLYMPICS**



**COUNTDOWN
to
RIO**

**118
DAYS**



Illustration by: Colton Walter

Women's Rowing Hard at Work Over Spring Break

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After winning a stellar four out of six races at Hagg Lake Invitational against Lewis & Clark and Willamette in Oregon on March 19, the Lutes headed into spring break, but it was no vacation.

The team took the week off from competition to stay at school and train. It can be a tough pill to swallow but sophomore rower, Camille Lemke, knows it's all apart of the process and an expectation if their team wants to succeed.

"It's a little bitter at first because everyone else gets to go home or go on vacation," Lemke explained. "But it is an expectation from day one that our team stays and trains, so we kind of know what to expect."

Though the team was working on technical aspects of their rowing like their stroke and maintaining pressure and power, the women found time to sit poolside and at least pretend like they

were on spring break.

The women took a practice in the PLU swimming pool where they floated around and played the new popular intramural game at PLU: inner tube water polo. They took the practice to swim around, have fun and ultimately become closer as a team.

"Through the hard

goals are far from achieved. The women are pushing for a conference win and will not settle for anything less.

"I am looking forward to conference especially because last year we did okay but not great," Lemke stated. "This year we are expecting success and a conference win."

Under the coaching of

Andy Foltz, the Lutes first three races have produced a stellar performance which only look to improve in further conference races.

The term "no days off" exemplifies how PLU

wants to go about their season as shown by their willingness to put in the extra time to improve. The Lutes have back-to-back races at American Lake this Saturday at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

"We have competed well in the races we've had and are continuing to get faster, stronger and more focused on achieving success in the important races we have coming up."

"Through the hard work and fun we get a lot closer as a team..."

Camille Lemke
Sophomore Rower

work and fun we get a lot closer as a team," Lemke stated. "As hard as it is, it's more fun than anything."

The brilliant work ethic mixed with the fun environment of the team orchestrated by senior leadership has undoubtedly led to success. Already, the Lute's top two boats are faster than last year's according to Lemke.

However, the team's



Photo Courtesy of: GoLutes

Stephanie's Stance:

USWNT Sues for Wage Equality

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The women's national soccer team is finally fighting for the equal pay they deserve. Over spring break, five members of the women's team (Megan Rapinoe, Hope Solo, Alex Morgan, Carli Lloyd, and Becky Sauerbrunn) filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Soccer Federation protesting their far lower wages than the men's team. This suit is long overdue as the women's team has always been underpaid despite being more successful than the men's team.

The USWNT has won three world cup championships, to the USMNT's zero. The USWNT has also been a powerful force in the Olympics, winning a majority of the gold medals that have been handed out in the past decades or so. The USMNT has failed to even qualify for the 2016 Olympics, a fact that is not at all surprising. The USWNT qualified for the Olympics with ease, dominating every opponent in qualifiers.

The U.S. Soccer Federation requires both the men's team and the women's team to participate in the same amount of friendlies and matches each year, but the women receive almost no compensation. If the USWNT wins, they each are paid a little over \$1,000 for their effort. However if they lose, they get nothing. Each player on the USMNT however, is paid \$5,000 no matter what the outcome. The



Photo Courtesy of: Wikimedia Commons

women often win their matches, the men do not.

The quality of facilities that the teams play in differs significantly. It seems that the U.S. Soccer Federation could care less what condition the fields are in that the women play on, just as long as people show up. In early December the USWNT refused to play a scheduled match in Hawaii due to the low quality of the turf there. The previous day star Megan Rapinoe tore her ACL in a pre-match practice, most likely due to the bad turf.

The best players on both teams also have unequal pay as well. Alex Morgan, one of the USWNT's best forwards, is paid \$450,000 from the U.S. Soccer Federation and less than \$30,000 from her club team. Clint Dempsey makes about \$8 million annually, with \$6 million coming from his club team. These numbers mean a lot more when the U.S. Soccer Federation plans to take a financial hit on the men's side of the year and is only making a multi-million dollar profit due to the world cup success of the women's team.

The U.S. Soccer Federation claims that they will do whatever it takes to fully investigate and will support the women's team fully. Their words seem promising but many suits have been filed by women's teams and nothing has come of them. The USWNT is hoping that their most recent surge of international publicity will help hold the U.S. Soccer Federation accountable for the inequality that exists.

THE LUTES SET LIST

Men's Tennis:
at Willamette, Lost 5-4

Women's Tennis:
at Home, Won 7-2

Up Next: at Home, Saturday, 1 p.m.

Up Next: at Linfield, Saturday, 1 p.m.

Baseball:
at LaVerne, Won 15-6

Softball:
at Linfield, Lost 4-3

Up Next: at Puget Sound, Saturday, 12 p.m.

Up Next: at Whitworth, Saturday, 12 p.m.

NORTHWEST CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Men's Tennis

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	CONFERENCE	STREAK
Pacific	15	3	0	8-1	Won 1
Whitman	12	7	0	8-1	Won 1
Lewis & Clark	8	7	0	5-2	Won 2
Whitworth	9	6	0	6-3	Lost 2
George Fox	5	8	0	3-4	Lost 2
Linfield	2	6	0	3-9	Won 1
Willamette	2	7	0	2-6	Won 1
Puget Sound	1	7	0	1-6	Lost 1
LUTES	1	11	0	1-7	Lost 7

Women's Tennis

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	CONFERENCE	STREAK
Lewis & Clark	13	2	0	9-0	Won 2
Whitman	10	8	0	7-2	Won 1
Linfield	9	4	0	6-2	Won 1
George Fox	9	8	0	4-4	Lost 3
Pacific	6	7	0	4-4	Won 2
LUTES	5	6	0	4-4	Won 1
Whitworth	4	10	0	3-6	Lost 1
Puget Sound	2	12	0	1-7	Lost 1



PHOTO BY ANGELO MEJIA: Emily Bower against College of Idaho



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLUTES: Frank Airey throws out a runner against LaVerne



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLUTES: Marissa Miller pitches against George Fox

Baseball

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	CONFERENCE	STREAK
Whitworth	21	6	0	13-5	Won 1
Pacific	18	11	0	11-7	Lost 1
George Fox	17	13	0	10-8	Lost 1
LUTES	17	14	0	10-8	Won 3
Puget Sound	14	15	0	11-10	Won 1
Linfield	17	13	0	9-9	Won 2
Willamette	17	15	0	10-11	Won 1
Whitman	12	20	0	7-11	Won 3
Lewis & Clark	11	22	0	13-15	Lost 7

Softball

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	CONFERENCE	STREAK
Whitworth	22	9	0	14-6	Won 3
Linfield	18	11	0	10-8	Won 1
George Fox	21	11	4	11-9	Won 1
LUTES	19	11	0	11-9	Lost 1
Pacific	19	12	1	11-9	Lost 1
Willamette	13	10	0	9-9	Lost 2
Lewis & Clark	14	17	0	8-11	Won 2
Puget Sound	9	20	0	3-16	Lost 3