

THE MOORING MAST

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Johnson nominated for national awards



Photo by Brie Bales

Senior quarterback Chad Johnson was nominated for the Melberger Award and Gagliardi Trophy. For more, see page 11.

Conference details still under negotiation; Harmony responds with petition, letter campaign

BY JENNI DILLON
Mast news editor

Harmony, PLU's group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered people and allies, is circulating petitions to gather documented support for the admission of high school students at their conference this spring.

The conference has been the subject of much debate among students, faculty and administration for several months. Though it has been approved by the university, some details, including who is in the audience, are still under debate.

The university originally limited the conference to college students only, and in a memo dated Nov. 13, Vice President of Student Life Laura Majovski and Provost Paul Menzel explained that "the presence of other college students at the conference will enhance the educational experience for our students in ways that the inclusion of high school students may not so clearly do."

They added that "programs designed for a college audience that are extended to high school

students raise additional issues and concerns."

Harmony responded that the conference was designed to include high school students in sexual minority support groups in order to provide affirmation and education to teens facing discrimination. The group also maintained that the conference would provide an opportunity for high school students to meet college-aged mentors who could help them in activism efforts.

Finally, Harmony pointed out that many college programs at PLU, including forums confronting racism and the recent Passion Week, have been extended to high school students without additional issues and concerns.

Majovski and Menzel replied to Harmony's views, writing that the university needs to "maximize the safety of the environment in which the conference conversations will occur; any perceived additional controversy about the nature of the conference stemming from high school involvement will exacerbate safety concerns."

In a letter to the PLU community, Harmony explained that though they appreciate the administration's difficult position in dealing with a conference of controversial nature, the group believes that the refusal to include high school students is a decision based in fear of prejudice. The letter states, "We think that the proposed rejection of GLBTA high school students will send the wrong message. It may unwittingly portray our community as not ready to include GLBTA people (including high school students visiting our campus) in a full, safe and respectful manner."

The letter continues, saying, "We think that excluding GLBTA high school students would draw a line of discrimination that would not be drawn for a conference against racism or a conference against sexism."

Discussions regarding the specific audience of Harmony's conference continues between the group and the administration.

See HARMONY, page 16

Leadership Summit produces productive plans, ideas

BY KELLY KEARSLEY
Mast editor in chief

Administrative and student leaders gathered in the Columbia Center Tuesday night to discuss several topics of campus concern, and actions needed to improve all areas of student life, ranging from freshmen orientation to computer accessibility.

Participants in the Student Leadership Forum, sponsored by ASPLU, were randomly assigned to one of six tables where they were to discuss a specific topic in detail. Keith Pranghofer, ASPLU vice president, opened the discussion.

"It will be through the unity of student leaders and administration that we will find success," he said. He encouraged the groups at the tables to relate their topic to the greater issue of community, a theme that has been the focus of campus discussions the past several weeks.

For almost an hour, each table conversed on its subject, with one person taking notes of new ideas and another acting as a facilitator.

The entire forum then convened to discuss their results of the small group brainstorming and add a larger perspective.

PLU senior Ben Dobyms represented the table that discussed Freshman Orientation and the Freshman Experience. "We need to start addressing the issue of the freshmen experience by adding ideas that are more real life and including new and diverse perspectives," he said.

His suggestions included adding more of a real world setting to freshman orientation and revamping the role of the Lute Ambassador to something more effective in relating to new students.

Chris Anderson, president of Foss Hall, shared his tables suggestions for Campus Programming, noting that programming plays an important part in a student's experience. "It not only builds community, but provides recreational and educational opportunities," he said.

He noted some problems with programming, such as how to connect with off-cam-

pus students and the need for a common calendar. "And everyone is strapped for cash," he said. Several audience members laughed in agreement.

As the evening progressed ideas flowed, and hands raised with more comments on nearly every topic.

South Hall co-President Anne Kalunian pitched the idea of a student public relations club to help other clubs and organizations. The audience nodded as she proposed the idea of an electronic reader board updated daily, and an electronic calendar of events to which students could subscribe. The need for an easily accessible master calendar was discussed in other groups as well.

After two hours of brainstorming, note taking and community talks, the evening came to a close.

Pranghofer thanked everyone for coming and asked the participants if they should meet again in the spring.

"Sooner than that," called out one student leader. "The more we have these conversations, the better."

Suggestions from Leadership Summit

Freshmen Orientation

- Revamp Lute ambassador program
- Create "real life" relevance
- Focus on inclusion of freshmen on campus
- Possible class project to express diversity

Campus Programming

- Connect with off-campus students
- Create common calendar
- Make use of dailyjolt.com

Club/Organization Public Relations

- Proposed student-run PR firm
- Electronic reader board, updated daily
- Subscriptions to personalized calendar

Computers and Technology

- Encourage students to come with computers
- More computers, more access

Student Leadership Education

- Mentors for student leaders
- Credit for leadership class
- Dinner/event to discuss common issues

Administration-Student Relations

- Guidebook of administrators
- Administration more approachable
- Connecting upper and lower campus students

Sidewalk Talk

How do you feel about Planet Burrito closing?

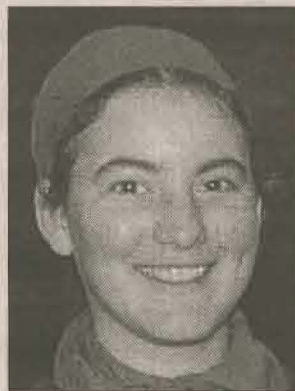


"A little sad...it sounded like a good place to eat."

Candace Noyes

"Oh my gosh, I didn't know it was closing."

Natalie Gulsrud



"There was a great weeping and gnashing of teeth, but I have stayed strong."

Ben Dobyns

"I hope it wasn't for health [code] reasons."

Dawn Snodgrass



Campus Events

PERSPECTIVES IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Elizabeth Brusco of the Anthropology Department will present *Some Preliminary Findings Regarding Reverse Assimilation Among 19th Century Missionaries in Tahiti and Hawaii, and a Contemporary Case from the Amazon*, in Eastvold 227 at 2:30 p.m. today.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL CELEBRATION CONCERT

PLU's annual Christmas Festival Concert will be held in Eastvold Auditorium tonight at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for senior citizens and students. Tickets can be purchased from the Music department at x5116.

FACULTY HOUSE NOON PROGRAM

Erin McKenna of the philosophy department will present *Chimposium* at the Faculty House on Wed., Dec. 13 at noon.

PASSIONATE ABOUT RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY?

The last discussion in the *Passionate About Religious Diversity* series will be on Wed., Dec. 13 in University Center room 210 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The title of the discussion is *Questioning the 'One Way' Approach to Religious Diversity*. The discussion will focus on how to respect, include and promote religious diversity in religious beliefs and within different religions.

Clubs and Organizations

- Monday:** Feminist Student Union UC 206 - 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Philosophy Club Northern Pacific Coffee Co. - 7 p.m.
- Tuesday:** HARMONY UC 208 - noon-1 p.m.
Truth Ministries In front of Eastvold - 4 p.m.
Puentes UC commuter lounge - 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday:** PLU Young Democrats UC 214 - 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
B.L.A.C.K. @ PLU UC 208 - 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday:** PLU Film Society Hinderlie Main Lounge - 7 p.m.
Advocates for Social Justice UC gray area - 7:30 p.m.
Diversity Coalition ASPLU office - 8:30 p.m.
- Friday:** PLU Film Society Ingram 100 - 8 p.m.
- Saturday:** Truth Ministries The CAVE - 9 a.m.
- Sunday:** Hawaii Club Regency room - 7:15 p.m.

SAFETY BEAT

November 28

- A PLU student injured his ankle while playing basketball in Olson Auditorium. Ice was applied and he was advised to seek further medical attention if needed.
- Unknown individual(s) put a graffiti symbol in the first floor men's restroom of the University Center.
- A PLU student was hit in the eye while playing basketball in Olson Auditorium. Campus Safety dressed the wound and the student was advised to seek further medical aid if needed.

November 29

- A PLU student was treated for an injured ankle at the PLU Health Center. He needed a ride to the hospital for X-rays but refused to be transported by Campus Safety. He stated that he would find a ride.
- A PLU student injured her finger in the University Center. Ice was applied and she was advised to seek further medical attention if needed.
- A PLU student received harassing telephone

calls in her Harstad Hall room. The investigation continues.

■ Numerous empty beer bottles, a fifth of alcohol and a glass marijuana pipe were confiscated from the room of a PLU student. The pipe was turned over to the Pierce County Sheriff's Department for disposal and the empty bottles were recycled.

December 1

- A PLU faculty member had his cell phone stolen from his office in Eastvold. The faculty member was advised to contact the Pierce County Sheriff's Department for further investigation.
- A PLU student injured his ankle while playing basketball in Olson Auditorium. Ice was applied and the student was advised to seek further medical aid if needed.
- PLU students and a non-guest were found to be in possession of alcohol in a Kreidler Hall room. The alcohol was dumped out and PLU's alcohol policy was explained.
- A PLU student injured his finger when he fell

off his skateboard in the main lounge of Ordal Hall. Ice was applied and he was transported to St. Joseph's Hospital by his sister.

December 3

- A PLU student had his Tingelstad room vandalized over the weekend. The investigation continues.
- A PLU student was suffering from flu-like symptoms and was advised to seek further medical attention if needed.
- A PLU student had her vehicle broken into in the North Resident Lot. The investigation continues.

December 4

- A PLU staff member reported that someone had written on the walls and thrown eggs in the lower level men's restroom in the University Center.

SAFETY BEAT is compiled by Campus Safety

Campus Ministry groups highlight reconciliation throughout month

BY KATIE GILLIAM
Mast reporter

Religious organizations on campus will come together this month to take part in the "Month of Reconciliation," Campus Ministry's theme for the month of December.

"We want to show the breadth of diversity and talents in ministries," said Nancy J. Connor, University pastor.

Campus Ministry hopes to help the different religious groups on campus understand each other and appreciate their diversity, said Connor.

Most of the events will take place during Chapel on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and during the University Congregation's Sunday morning services.

Campus Ministry will focus on affirming diversity amongst different groups and finding unity in diversity, said Connor. All religions are welcome to participate in the events. Connor said the theme will explore "how we define ourselves as Christians and as religious, spiritual people."

Each of the religious groups on campus will participate in several service projects. The groups will be working together on a food drive started by Catholic Campus Ministry and will collect food for homeless and impoverished families in the area Dec. 4-8.

Members of Jam62 and The Upper Room, along with faculty and students, will also speak and perform at chapel throughout this month.

Campus Ministry hopes the different ministries will gain "exposure to each other and work cooperatively," said Connor. University pastor Dennis Sepper said the theme for this month stemmed from the themes of advent and preparing for the birth of Christ, but the Let's Talk Community discussions helped bring definition to the theme.

"The gift of the Christ child reconciled the world. Therefore, we're reconciled to one another."

Rev. Dennis Sepper
University Pastor

He also said that the recent graffiti on the Administration Building has already led to positive effects, such as discussions and a focus on reconciliation.

Campus Ministry began the month with a lighting ceremony in Red Square Nov. 30. Advocates for Social Justice held a separate healing service as part of the reconciliation theme.

"Reconciliation is a good focal point during the day," said Connor. She also said she hopes people on the PLU campus will see the half-hour at chapel as a time to come together.

er. Chapel time is a "gift", not a requirement at PLU, where people can "take time for prayer, praise and fellowship," Connor said.

People at PLU often take the half-hour at 10:30 a.m. for granted, Connor said. The administration encourages everyone at PLU to attend, she added.

Both pastors said they hope the spirit of reconciliation carries on past the month of December. "We want this to be more than the theme of the month," said Sepper.

Connor said she hopes to see something like the food drive again in the spring. She also said she hopes different musicians and speakers will continue to take part in chapel and Sunday services.

Campus Ministry used the verses from 2 Corinthians 5:16-20b to support the theme of reconciliation.

"The gift of the Christ child reconciled the world to God. Therefore, we're reconciled to one another," Sepper said.

The groups participating in the month include: the University Congregation, Advocates for Social Justice, Catholic Campus Ministry, Baptist Student Ministries, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Latter-Day Saints Student Association, Aliyah Jewish Club, Intervarsity

Newsire

News from beyond the Lutedome

California faces power emergency

The lights in California are not glowing as brightly this week. The state is facing its worst power supply shortage ever.

California has been on at least a Stage Two alert since Monday. A Stage Two alert means that the state is down to its last 5 percent of power. To conserve, suppliers are allowed to cut service to commercial customers whose contract allows for interruptions.

One part of the problem is the power plants' supply of natural gas is being rapidly reduced. Another factor is the shut down of several plants for maintenance.

To ease the strain on the power grid, residents have been asked to unplug Christmas lights, set the thermostat at 68 degrees Fahrenheit, and turn off lights and computers not in use.

Los Angeles is on its own power grid and is not being affected by the shortage.

Albright calls for release of spy

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright strongly urged the release of U.S. businessman Edmond Pope in a call to Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov on Wednesday.

Pope was convicted by a Russian court of espionage and

has been sentenced to 20 years in prison.

The U.S. is asking for the release of Pope on humanitarian grounds as Pope has been diagnosed with bone cancer. His wife, Cheri Pope, has written two letters to Russian President Putin asking for her husband's release.

The United States has also called into question the fairness of the trial and the validity of Pope's conviction. Pope has seven days to appeal his conviction. He was accused of trying to obtain secret information on a Russian torpedo.

War ends between African countries

After talks with senior Ethiopian officials, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan announced Wednesday the end of the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The two countries plan to sign a peace treaty on Dec. 12 in Algeria. The treaty, drafted by the Organization of African Unity, will begin the process of demarcation of the disputed 620-mile long border between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The war between the two countries began in 1998, when Eritrea—which gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993 after 30 years of guerrilla warfare—moved into Ethiopian territory.

Compiled from CNN Online

Dates to Know

Dec. 18-22	Finals Week
Dec. 22	Semester ends after last exam
Jan. 8	J-Term classes begin
Jan. 12	Last day to register or add J-Term classes
Jan. 12	Last day to drop a single J-Term class with a full refund
Jan. 15	MLK, Jr. Birthday holiday No classes
Jan. 16	Date to start obtaining instructor's signature to withdraw from or add a J-Term class
Jan. 19	Last day to file pass/fail forms with the Student Services Center for J-Term
Jan. 30	Final day to withdraw from a J-Term class No tuition refund - W grade \$50 administrative fee.
Feb. 3	J-Term ends Final exams on last day of class
Feb. 7	Spring classes begin
Feb. 9	Grades due from faculty for J-Term

The Mast does not publish during Dead Week, finals, and J-term.

Look for us again Friday mornings in February.

~CALLING ALL STUDENTS~

Spring Break travel JUST for you!

Announcing a **NEW** alternative Spring Break 2001 program for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors!

LUTE WORLD - LOS ANGELES

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Spend a week living and learning in Los Angeles and earn 2 course credits

- Program features:
- learning in the "Real World"
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APPLY NOW! ONLY \$775!

Price includes airfare, lodging, some meals, program-related entrance fees and on-site transportation! Take advantage of block pricing and put your tuition dollars to work!

Space is limited to 20 students.

Contact Jeff Schultz (x7555, schultjr@plu.edu), Kara Fleharty (x7439, fleharkj@plu.edu), or Charry Benston (x7628, benstocl@plu.edu) for more information and program applications!

!!!This offer good through December 15 only!!!

Sign up today and pack your bags for the "Real World" - PLU style!

It's an experience you will never forget!

Brought to you by the Study Abroad Office and the Freshman Experience Program

"Hello, Congress, education is actually important"

According to an article I read Wednesday in the *Washington Post*, students from the United States are "just above average" internationally in math and science. According to the *Post*, we have actually moved up just slightly since the last testing done four years ago.

However, the United States' spectacular move from below average to "just above" may be attributed to the fact that more than a dozen Western European countries dropped out, and many developing nations were added into the testing.

To put it simply, the curve was lowered so we scored higher.

Ironically, the very same day I read about this mediocre performance of United States' students, I also read about Congress's plan to cut the education budget by \$2 billion.

Hmmmm, it doesn't take a *Mast* reporter to think that this is a little backwards, and a little sad.

One of the last bills to pass through the 106th Congress, predicted to be decided on today, is the ratification of the 2001 fiscal year educational budget. As of Wednesday night, the decision was at a standstill, with the Republicans refusing the \$2 billion cut proposed by Clinton, which was a compromise in the first place.

House Majority Leader Dick Armey, a Republican from Texas, said that for any budget package to pass, the White House would have to agree on a cut of at least \$5 billion. However, the White House spokesperson, Jake Siewart, said in the *Post* article that the massive cuts proposed by the Republicans, as well as the possible postponement of the decision until the new Congress convenes, "amounts to a real cut in education, a real cut in student loans, and a real cut in programs that help hire teachers."

It is here where the *Mast* staff stops and sighs the collective sigh of students.

It is here where the *Mast* questions why the government puts education on the backburner and why the future of the nation comes down to dickering over the lesser of two evils.

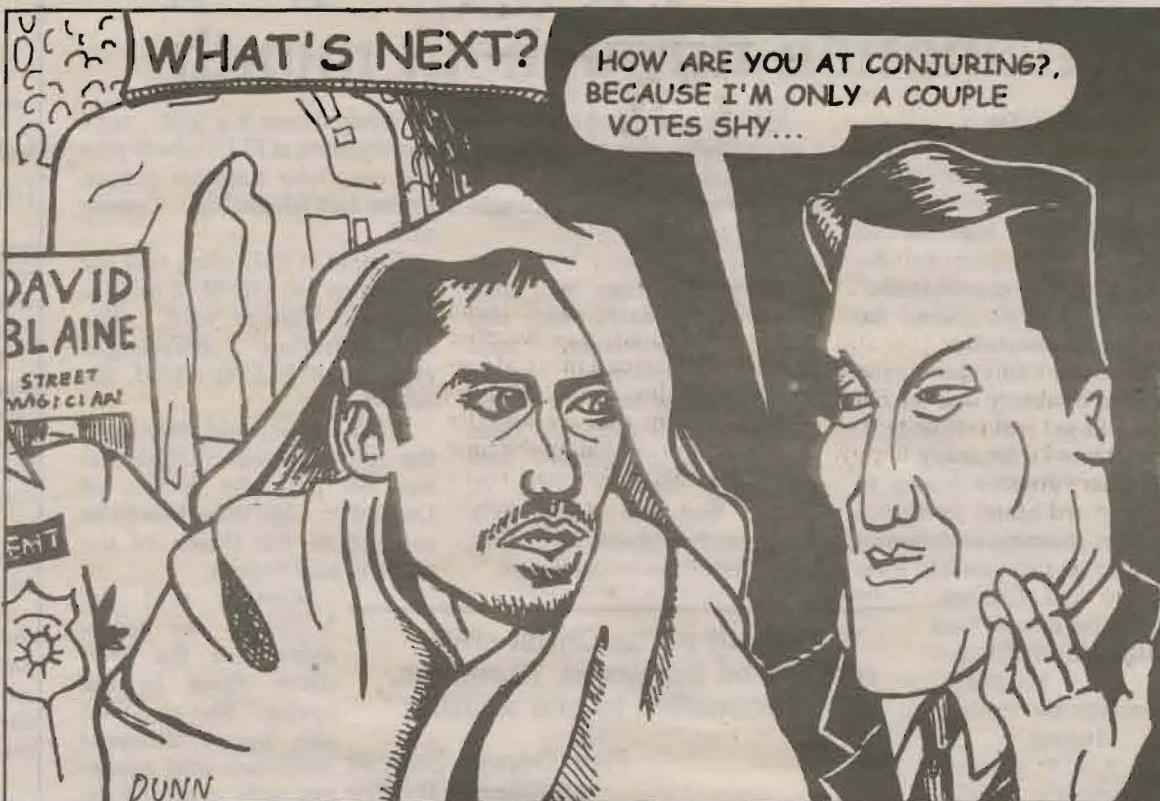
And it is here where the *Mast* looks back to the scores of our nation's children and wonders how leaders who believe we are "the most powerful nation in the world," think we can continue to be so if our education is "just above average." We all know that in this day of grade inflation, "just above average," is in reality, not very good. PLU students and faculty spent Wednesday calling Republican and Democratic senators and representatives to tell them that Federal Financial Aid is important to them. However, the *Mast* would like to point out that the fact we even have to call and tell Congress this, is asinine.

"Hello Congress, education is important. Whaaa...Oh yes, more important than the DNA samples from Monica's dress. Huh? Yes, even more important than an impregnated chad."

The more educated the citizens of a democracy are, the more efficiently and effectively the democracy runs. Education is important, everyone knows this. The fact that the government can and does give us money to obtain high education is vital. It is clear that the more the government can help, the better off students, and thus society, will be.

The fact that they can take it away is lethal. We all know student loans and grants make the impossible possible. We hope that Congress can get past their petty partisan arguments and realize the same.

Kelly Kearsley
editor in chief



University supports a conference designed for college students

In the Dec. 1, 2000 *The Mast*, the guest editorial on page 3 questioned the university's support of the Harmony conference. While we appreciate the concern that PLU operate in a fair and inclusive manner, we write to differ with the characterization of the university's recent actions.

On Oct. 24, 2000, PLU approved Harmony's request for the club to host a conference titled "Building a Fair & Inclusive World for Sexual Minorities."

While acknowledging that the topic may be controversial and that tension may exist for some members of the community, approval was based on a firm commitment of support for the sexual minorities who study and/or work at PLU. The strong, clear language of PLU's Equal Educational Opportunity Policy and Equal Employment Opportunity Policy serve as founda-

tion for the university's commitment. No similar conference has ever been held at PLU (to the best of our knowledge), and thus approval of the conference hardly seems like a "go slow" strategy or a shirking from fear of "tension."

Accompanying the approval of the Harmony conference was the request that the conference planning committee be expanded to include the ASPLU director for diversity and the associate director for multicultural student affairs (both key leaders of diversity education on campus).

Further, it was requested that the conference appeal "to those college students interested in becoming educated on issues of sexual minority discrimination, both those already committed to activism and those who are not yet committed," and that all conference sessions "be conducted in a manner that is welcoming and

that promotes dialogue." Finally, conference planners were asked to utilize the resources and expertise of University Communications in the promotion of the conference. On these items the university and Harmony are in agreement. Discussion continues about the conference's audience.

We respectfully disagree with the conclusion that the above considerations in planning the conference evidence "lukewarm acceptance" or the imposition of administrative hurdles. The above requests are in keeping with a conference planning strategy that utilizes pertinent campus resources. The university strongly supports a conference designed for college students that promotes education and dialogue.

Laura Majovski, vice president for Student Life
Paul Menzel, provost

Treasure the gift of friendship this holiday season

As this holiday season approaches, I would like to pay tribute to a gift we should all learn to share more of: friendship. It may be that throughout our lives some friends will come and go, but the growth and blessings we reap from sharing a good friendship remain with us for the rest of our lives.

I would like to share a word of admiration for for a group of friends I have been blessed to know. My hope that is by saying

thank you to them, those of you who read this will remember to treasure your own friendships as one of the true gifts of the holiday season.

I would like to say there is a wonderful group of friends who have taught me a lot about what it means to be a friend. I do not have to prove that I am friend, nor fight to keep their friendship. They are just simply my friends.

I have never met a group of people who is so open and accepting.

They do not expect anything in return. With such a premise it is impossible not to offer friendship back.

My wonderful friends in Ordal (those on first East, and everyone associated with them), whether you realize it or not, you tough the lives of people around you. Thank you and God bless.

Nick Lockey
PLU junior

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POLICIES

The *Mooring Mast* is published each Friday by students of Pacific Lutheran University, excluding vacations and exam periods.

The views expressed in the editorials and columns reflect that of the writer, and do not necessarily represent those of the PLU administration, faculty, students, or the *Mooring Mast* staff.

Letters

The *Mooring Mast* encourages letters to the Editor. Letters need to be submitted to the *Mooring*

Mast office no later than 5 p.m. the Monday before publication.

Letters without a name and phone number for verification will be discarded.

Letters should be no longer than 400 words in length, typed and double-spaced.

The *Mooring Mast* reserves the right to refuse any letter. Letters may be edited for length, taste and errors. Letters are printed in the order they are received.

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

A letter to Santa (complete with request for president)

Dear Santa,

Hello again. How are you? Gosh, I can't believe it's been a whole year since I last wrote. I hope things are going well for you up at the North Pole.

Once again, I'm sending along my Christmas list. I know I'm getting a little old to still believe in you, but I have some big requests this year and I don't think my parents are going to be able to deliver. Even if I could get just one or two of these items I'd be really happy. Okay, here goes:

1. A United States president

Please, please, please Santa! I really, really want a president. I don't even care who anymore. Just put an end to this whole thing so I don't see diagrams of the treacherous butterfly ballot and slimy campaign lawyers holding press conferences every time I turn on the TV.

Actually, Santa, maybe you should be the president. Everyone knows how kind and



Artichoke
Maggie Santolla

selfless you are, and half the country isn't going to believe in the president anyway, whether it's a politician or a magical toy-making elf. Just think about it.

In the event that we actually do have a president by the time you get this letter, you really ought to consider running next term as a third-party candidate. I'll bet the Green Party would love to sponsor you. You could help promote flying reindeer as an environmentally sound (not to mention super-fun and adorable) mode of transportation.

2. A new controversy for PLU

Okay, so the homosexual thing here has been really interesting, and a lot of good important discussion has come out of

it, but I think the issue is getting a little tired. But what else is there to be upset about? What else are people going to write in their Letters to the Editor? We need another juicy crisis here. Maybe you could offend a different minority group on campus so we can have some fresh discussion.

3. That wool coat from J.Crew.

You know, that one with the hood. Black, size small please.

4. Some real rock stars

I am so tired of all the boy bands, of all the breast-implanted blondes, of all the angry white boy rock/rap hybrids, and of all the quasi-punk rock sellouts. And especially Ricky Martin. I'm really sick of him. What I need is a drug-doing,

hotel-wrecking, thrift-store-T-shirt-wearing, tattoo-bearing artistic genius who is authentically tortured. Someone who hates the media yet thrives on the attention they bestow upon him.

You know, a real rock star. Where are all the Kurt Cobains and Sid Viciouses of today? Are they drowning in the flood of die-cut teenage superstars in their trendy clothes and stylish haircuts? If so, throw them a raft, Santa!

5. Excellent driving skills for everyone

Seriously Santa, what's with people? Why is it that every time I get in my car and drive somewhere I almost die? The worst people are those who haven't heard of blinkers. They either don't use them or they seem oblivious to the fact that when others have their blinker on it means they want to MOVE OVER IMMEDIATELY.

My favorite is when I'm on the freeway and I put my blink-

er on and the guy in the next lane who is just behind me speeds up like he's gonna pass, but then decides he's too chicken so he just hangs out right in my blind spot, while the giant truck in front of me is going 45 m.p.h. so there's no way I can get around.

Can you bestow some blinker knowledge on everyone in the state so they'll stop doing this and I don't end up on the news as another perpetrator of road rage?

6. Snow on Christmas Eve!

Well, Santa, that's about it for this year. I really hope you can do some of these things for me. I know it's kind of a difficult list but I trust that you and your elves can see to at least some of my concerns. Especially the wool coat. I've been really cold lately. Thanks.

Give my best to the reindeers! Love, Maggie

Maggie Santolla hopes everyone has a lovely winter holiday!

Time to phase out the states that aren't pulling their weight

This summer, I had an internship at the corporate office of a worldwide company, and one thing I learned is that an efficient workplace is an effective workplace. But you can't be efficient when you're bogged down with excessive weight. Not as a business, and not as a nation.

Yes, friends, it's time to phase out those parts of our great nation that aren't pulling their weight. It's time to downsize the nation. Some states have gotta go.

But which states? Well, the coastal states, both east and west, are prime examples of what states should be: compact centers of commerce and cultural diversity, nestled snugly against their neighbors and the ocean. The states east of the Mississippi and the Great Lakes states also contribute to our nation with their big cities and transportation centers.

The coasts and the Midwest stay. So what's that leave? The interior West. And that's where



No apparent reason
Matt Vancil

we start cutting.

Idaho? Gone. Montana? Gone. Utah? Way gone. Nevada, Wyoming, New Mexico, Nebraska? All gone.

Do we really need two Dakotas? Do we need even one? Nope. Both gone.

Texas? Cut it in half, north-south. Oklahoma and Kansas? Well, they're not really in the interior West. What the hell! Gone.

Now, I'm sure some of you folks whose states have been fired are up in arms about this, probably literally, but let me explain. In business, if you don't contribute to the whole, you don't last too long. Most of what these low population states contribute are Republican legislators, and God knows we

have enough of those.

Some of y'all are undoubtedly saying, "But what about food? How ya gonna eat if you cut out all the farming states?"

Again, it's all about efficiency. There are so many farmers in the United States that the federal government pays farmers not to grow food. At the same time, we have mounds of produce left to rot because of oversupply.

Downsizing these states would save money. All the remaining farmers would be working, no food would go to waste, and the government would save all the money that used to be spent on farm subsidies. Efficiency, people.

I'm sure you're wondering what the realigned United

States will look like. Washington and Oregon will border Minnesota, we'll shove Arizona in Nevada's vacated nook, and Colorado will go north of Texas where Kansas and Oklahoma used to be. We may have to trim the edges of a few states, especially the square ones, but I'm sure they'll fit.

Think of all the travel time that will be saved! Seattle will be a six-hour drive from Minneapolis! San Diego will be less than a day's drive from New Orleans! Think of all the money we'll save on roads and power lines when the infrastructure of the nation is tightened!

"But what about our national parks?" you must be asking. "Yellowstone, Carlsbad Caverns, Mesa Verde? Mount Rushmore, for God's sake!"

I'm one step ahead of you. That's why I set Arizona aside. We'll relocate all the national parks from the deleted states to Arizona! Not only will we save our national wonders; they'll all

be in the same place! Think of the tourism! That's time savin' and money makin'.

And what about those purple mountain majesties? Drop them in Colorado. There's plenty of space in the valleys. We'll move all the mountains from the Mountain Time Zone into Colorado. Of course, this will turn the state into one huge, raised plateau, much like Tibet. But hey, those folks in Denver are used to thinner air.

That's my plan for downsizing the nation. We'd save time, space, and money, and the entire nation would be more efficient. And when we're through here, we can do the same thing for Canada.

We could tighten Canada down to two provinces: Quebec and New Prince British Alskatchitoba. What do you think? I'm here to help.

Matt Vancil is a senior writing and classics major. He does not have a degree in geography

Rise up! A single woman's take on a campus marriage crisis

I would like to open by saying that I love news graphics more than life itself. They're so great. Who out there can't hum the eight notes and visualize the computer imaged stars and stripes that CNN has graced nationwide television screens with the past month?

And what about when the weather becomes special around here? All of the local news stations show pictures of that same yellow Volvo sliding down Queen Anne Hill to be followed by the faded echo of a jingle-bell anthem and a tacky, snow-flake saturated graphic celebrating the storm as though it were a second coming: Winter Blast 2000. Ah yes. I feel it now. The forces that be are hard at work. I predict a fresh news graphic in need of our mocking will be birthed before the season is over.

As I am writing this column for *The Mast*, I have to ask, "What would PLU's current news graphic be? Perhaps it would be a cartoon hand holding a bottle of green spray paint,



Observation, Imagination, Exaggeration
Kara Larson

etching the words "hate crimes" against a backdrop of a nearly believable brick wall. Or perhaps it would be an animated Lucia bride, battery operated candles all aglow, and in her praying hands would rest a number 50 to celebrate the festival's anniversary.

No, I've got it! It would be a giant, three-tiered, pink and white rosette decorated, spinning wedding cake complete with plastic bride and groom toppers, with the words Campus Marriage Crisis blinking across it. There would be music in that wedding style march, only to fade and blend into the theme song from the Unsolved Mysteries. Yes! That's it.

I hear people talking. I know what's up. "George just pro-

posed to Shanny and they've only been dating for two weeks!" Or, "Annie told Drew that if he didn't propose by graduation, she was leaving him. She can't wait around forever you know." And then there's always, "They were made for each other. Why would they wait to get married?" Or, "They've been dating for three years, so it's either get married or break it off." This is pure insanity!

Don't deny that while you were home for Thanksgiving some distant, if not immediate member of your family, asked the ultimate taboo question, "So are you dating anybody new?" It happened to me, three times.

And you know what? The queen mother of all family get-together holidays is right

around the corner. What are you going to tell Aunt Olga and Cousin Sig when they ask you who your new beau or betty is on Christmas Eve?

The buzz on the Presidential and Washington state Senate elections has finally dulled. So this is it, single folks. Let's strike while the iron is hot. Clearly if the rest of us were going to meet our life partners at PLU it would have happened by this point in the semester. So I say rise up - campaign for a sweetheart! We only have a week and a half until we go home for Christmas, so go out and get someone (You'll make Aunt Olga proud).

We can organize a caravan. Yes! We'll meet outside Harstad tomorrow at noon, wearing our best. And we'll map out an election-week route. We'll hit all of the small universities in Western Washington and hold press conferences on the statuses of our personal lives. We'll wave our flags and raise obscene amounts of money to run prime-time commercials with slogans like, *Jane: your wife*

for life or Date Tom: he's da bomb.

If that isn't enough, we'll have platforms. The women can say their piece about cooking pot roast dinners and folding laundry and men can say their piece about not being able to leave the toilet seat up and having to mow the lawn every week. These are issues that matter to everyone, right? Surely these are issues that are crucial to choosing someone as a life partner.

Let's face it, Lutes. We're getting up there. Marriage is the only thing we can look forward to at this point in our lives, right? What else is there? We have to start young; the clock is ticking!

So when people ask you what you want for Christmas, tell them you want one thing and one thing only: to be joined forever and ever in holy matrimony.

Kara Larson is a senior writing major. She is SOOOO joking. She also wishes Brianne and Brian the very best, and apologizes for the pot roast and toilet seat references.

Sankta Lucia candidate offers glimpse into pageant

BY STEPHANIE CHRISTOPHER
Mast reporter

It started one day early in October. I found a compelling story in my mailbox about a girl named Lucia. This girl had everything, home, family, and wealth, yet she was willing to give it all up for her faith. She gave up everything to spread the light of hope to those who needed it most.

I found myself frozen in time as I read over this story again. I was entranced and with little understanding of what I was getting myself into, I submitted an essay and found myself a participant in the annual Lucia festival.

I think my senses caught up with me at the second rehearsal. As I slowly walked in circles at the Scandinavian Center, struggling with the Swedish Sankta Lucia Song, I wondered to myself, "Why am I doing this?"

I am not exactly the Christmas pageant type. I hated them even as a kid. I still have bad dreams about some of the church ladies leading these annual torture rituals otherwise known as Christmas programs. Why was it that seven years since my last Christmas pageant, I was doing it again?

Gradually, I became more comfortable with my surroundings and the music. I was making friends and having a good time singing, mak-

ing Swedish heart baskets, and eating cookies. But I still did not understand what compelled me to participate in the first place.

I did not tell my parents much about the Sankta Lucia festival beforehand, so I think I may have startled my dad. Apparently, he was not expecting me to be wearing a white robe and garland crown with a candle singing Swedish Christmas carols.

The first words my dad greeted me with after the festival were: "I kept waiting for someone to say 'you have now entered the Twilight zone.'" And in some ways, as a participant, I felt exactly the same way.

The festival has now come and gone, the crown of candles has passed from one sweet Lucia to the next and I still do not fully understand why I was there.

All I know is that one day, a compelling story landed in my mailbox about a girl named Lucia and everything she was willing to give up in order to spread light to a world of darkness.

This was not like the torturous Christmas pageants of days gone by. In fact, I do not even view it, as a pageant at all, rather a celebration of light, hope and a season that can make even the most cynical freshman girl get on stage and sing Christmas carols. Maybe that is all I need to know.

Helleson crowned Sankta Lucia

BY ANNE KALUNIAN
Mast senior reporter

PLU's Scandinavian Cultural Center celebrated the 50th annual Sankta Lucia Fest Dec. 1 with joy, memories and the crowning of the new Sankta Lucia Bride, Kirsten Helleson.

Before the pageant started, candidates Kimberly Andre, Abigail Buck, Stephanie Christopher, Cecelia Flachs, Kjersti Germar, Lisa Hudlund, Kirsten Helleson, Heather Nielsen, Berit Olson, Heather Short and Krystal Torkko gathered backstage full of laughter and cheer. Dressed in white robes, with silver garland around their waists and heads, the young women discussed the meaning of Sankta Lucia and their experiences preparing for the festival.

The candidates explained that their costumes were symbolic pieces of the Sankta Lucia Fest. The white robes commemorated Sankta Lucia's position as a bride to the people, and the garland symbolized the light she brought to the people of Sweden.

The candidates have met once a week since October to study Swedish culture, learn traditional songs and help bake cookies, and said they have enjoyed the camaraderie of the event. They also said that the preparation has been a form of stress relief for them and they enjoyed the interaction with one another. "I enjoyed the time I spent with the other girls and I hope to take away friendships from this," Helleson said.

As the women prepared backstage, Lagerquist filled with families, neighbors and old friends, gathering to celebrate the event. The hall was full, with many children in the audience. Neighbors ran into one another, old friends reminisced and children tugged at the neckline of their fancy clothes.

Finally, the pageant began and the candidates took their places on stage. The festival included some traditional Swedish dancing, music, a story and the Swedish Santa Clause, Jultomten, and ended with the singing of Silent Night, first in Swedish and then in English.

Helleson was crowned the 2000 Sankta Lucia Bride and a red sash around her waist recalled the memory of Sankta Lucia's martyr death; the historical woman was killed for her Christian



Photo by Leah Sprain

Kirsten Helleson is crowned PLU's 50th Sankta Lucia Bride last Friday night in Lagerquist.

faith.

Despite the dark history that surrounds Sankta Lucia, the event is an uplifting festival to the Swedish people, who remember the woman who gave her dowry for the poor and her life for her faith.

As the festival came to a close, the audience walked across campus, escorted by kerosene candles, to the Scandinavian Cultural Center for more music, dancing and Swedish cookies. Sankta Lucia candidates, past Lucia brides and guests sat around the Christmas tree, sharing stories and snacks and celebrating the joy of the traditional festival.

Campus Voice adds Red Square Webcam to site

BY AMELIA PARTLOW
Mast reporter

PLU now has its own Webcam. The camera is mounted on Ramstad Hall and began broadcasting pictures of Red Square via the Internet on Monday.

The Webcam is the newest addition to the Campus Voice, PLU's online newsletter. "We were looking for something to add to the Campus Voice, to

draw people in and to see what was going on on-campus," said Laura Gifford, a media relations assistant for News and Information Services at PLU.

Gifford, along with Greg Brewis, executive director of News and Information Services, and Keith Folsom, the director of Systems and Communications, were instrumental in setting up the Webcam. "We were originally contemplating putting up a

photo (on the Web site) everyday, but then it was suggested that a Webcam could be a possibility," Gifford said.

The Webcam was set up to focus on Red Square because it is "an area on campus where things tend to happen," Gifford said. She also noted that the Christmas lights on Eastvold and near Ramstad show up well on the Webcam in the evening hours.

The Webcam also offers

those studying abroad, or prospective PLU students, the chance to see what the campus is really like or keep them updated on events and rallies that are happening in Red Square. "We thought it would be something that would be dynamic and would give a reflection of what's going on around campus," said Gifford.

The Webcam updates about once a minute, so the pictures are not live video streaming, but

still offer a view of events in Red Square. The pictures from the Webcam will not show details such as the faces of students. "That was intentional so as not to bring up any privacy issues," said Gifford. "It's not as if you can pick out individual people."

The Campus Voice newsletter and the Webcam are accessible through the PLU homepage by going to the Campus Voice at www.plu.edu/campusvoice/.

WHAT KIND OF A COMMUNITY DO WE WANT AT PLU?

And how do we get there?!

A Commission on Campus Climate was recently appointed by President Anderson to assess our current campus climate and make short and long-term recommendations to the university. Serving on this commission as students Sarah Allen, Aaron Bell, Michele Pleny, and Eric Samuelson; faculty members Diane Harney, Richard Louie, and Norris Peterson; staff members Kathleen Farrell, Rick Rouse, and Jennifer Wrye.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU! Send your thoughts and ideas to us at our new e-mail address climate@plu.edu. We promise complete confidentiality - no names will be shared. You may even submit an anonymous e-mail by going to the following web site: www.anon.xg.nu.

We want your input on the following questions:

1. What do you think is the current campus climate?
2. What programs do you think exist to build community at PLU?
3. What short-term programming would you recommend to enhance our campus community?
4. What long-term actions might you recommend to strengthen community at PLU?

Take a break from stress

BY AMELIA PARTLOW
Mast reporter

With finals week just around the corner, panic over exams, papers and presentations can be felt throughout the Lutedome. But not to worry, help is on the way.

Counseling and Testing, along with Academic Advising and Academic Assistance, will open a stress-free zone in the University Center's Regency Room Dec. 18 and 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The stress-free zone will offer fun activities including fingerpainting, miniature golf, and coloring. Also at the stress free zone will be the supplies needed to make stress balls to squeeze and release tension.

The event is intended to serve as medicine for stress, said Shannon Ledesma Jones, a psychologist in PLU's

Counseling and Testing Center. According to Jones, a buildup of stress can lead to injury or sickness if not released through exercise or some other form of activity.

The stress free zone will act as a kind of shot, to keep stress away during the hectic time of finals week.

"Of course you need to do well on your finals, but not do so much studying that you get sick," Jones said.

During dead week, ASPLU will be offering massages on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The massage times on Tuesday will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday from noon to 3 p.m. and Thursday 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The massages will be done in the gray area near the PLU Bookstore. Sign-up sheets for massage time slots are available in the ASPLU office in the UC.

From gas stations to benefit concerts; the Coats sing on



The Coats Keith Anderson, Jamie Dieveney, Doug Wisness, and Kerry Dahlen sing to a crowd in the Cave.



Coats tenor Jamie Dieveney, a PLU alumnus, lights up the stage Tuesday.

The Coats bring talent and laughs to stage

ANNE KALUNIAN
Mast senior reporter

The Coats have come a long way since their first paying gig, earning \$50 for playing at a gas station. I had the opportunity to find out just how far the four-man group has come, and just who they are as individuals and a group, before their concert in the Cave Tuesday.

The group arrived about 35 minutes before the concert was scheduled to start Tuesday to find that the sound system still was not fully set up, so I took that free time to chat with Jamie Dieveney, the group's tenor, Keith Anderson, the group's high tenor, and Kerry Dahlen, the group's bass.

Dieveney and Dahlen have been members of the Coats for 10 years now, with Anderson joining the group on Halloween six years ago. Though they all come from different backgrounds, all three now live in the Puget Sound area and said they love the Northwest.

Although all four members of the group have been singing and performing since they were young, only Dieveney has a degree in music.

"When Jamie [Dieveney] told me that Joe Mele was leaving the group and the Trenchcoats wanted me to audition, I decided that this was the chance of a lifetime and that school, although important, could wait a few years."

The group said it has enjoyed some wonderful and some not-so-wonderful times. To highlight some of these experiences, I asked them about some of the embarrassing memories that still bring laughter.

Dahlen remembered a performance at a high school. "It came my time to sing lead and I figure what the heck, I'm bullet-proof this morning," he said. "I saunter up to this young female audience member, and yelling to her in my mind telepathically, 'check out this amazingly virile stud, singing to you.' Then she erupts in a fit of laughter."

He continued the story by saying that he looked down at his midsection and realized that his fly was down the whole time, framing his beautiful white JC Penney underwear.

After laughing through a few more stories, I turned the conversation to more serious matters, asking about their name change. The group, originally called the Trenchcoats, decided to change their name to the Coats after misunderstandings associated with the "Trenchcoat Mafia" affiliated with the Columbine High School shooting.

"We did not want to have a bad connotation associated with our group just because of our name," Dieveney said. On stage, the group discussed their name change a bit to the audience and Dieveney said, "We are coming out of the trenches."

The group also told the audience that after the Columbine incident, they held a benefit concert for the families. The concert raised \$12,000 and all of the proceeds went directly to the families in Columbine.

I asked the guys how long they expected the Coats to keep performing and the members agreed that they would continue until it is no longer fun. At the beginning of a song, Anderson offered imperson-

ations of Eminem and Britney Spears, setting the crowd into laughter and cheers.

After the concert, I asked Dahlen if Anderson does impersonations at all of their concerts. He told me no, that they generally only do them for a college audience, so the impersonations Tuesday were exclusive to the Cave.

Dahlen said that, like the impersonations, most of the moves they do are spur of the moment improvisations. "We get a feeling of how the crowd is reacting to our songs and then just go from there," Dahlen said.

Although their moves may be spur-of-the-moment, their music is not and Dieveney writes most of it. "If I am driving, then I will call my answering machine at home and either sing the lyrics or hum the melody so I don't forget it."

Throughout the whole concert, audience participation was an important to the foursome and they included the crowd as much as possible. At one point, Dieveney walked into the audience, pulling me on stage to announce who I was and why I was at the concert. Later, he threw his jacket to me from stage, missing and knocking over a milkshake at the next table.



Coats singers Jamie Dieveney and Doug Wisness

Alumnus returns to Cave as singer with the Coats

ANNE KALUNIAN
Mast senior reporter

The foursome now called the Coats performed to a 160-member audience in the Cave Tuesday night. The concert began at 8:30 p.m. and by 8:40 p.m., no standing or sitting room was left.

The concert, which was sponsored by ASPLU and RHA, was free to students. The four men specifically chose the Cave to hold their concert because they said they liked the intimate atmosphere. The crowd, which was cheering, screaming and whistling from the moment the Coats set foot on stage, came to see a wonderful show and it was not disappointed.

The Coats paused between every song to stop and chat with the audience. At one point, they even asked the audience which song they should sing next. Several fans even brought signs that said they loved Keith Anderson, the group's high tenor. During a song, the Coats showed their appreciation to one fan by having Doug Wisness, the group's baritone, bring the fan, Maggie Eastman, up on stage to dance.

Throughout the whole concert, fans could see in the group's animated and expressive faces how much they were enjoying the show and the audience. Eastman was not the only fan that was brought up on stage by a Coat. Carter Smithhart, a senior and loyal fan, was asked to sing *The 12 Days of Christmas* with the group.

Smithhart, who said he had not expected to be brought up on stage, was thrilled about the experience. "It was fun, exhilarating but the stage lights were blinding," Smithhart said.

The evening was packed with fun, laughter, and applause. Because the Coats chose to sing in the Cave, there were moments when they had to compete with the latte machine. Jamie Dieveney requested a two-minute latte break so the group could sing *Angels We Have Heard on High* without their microphones.

Because the group just released a new Christmas album, half of the songs they sang were from the new album. Some were traditional songs like *12 Days of Christmas* and *Winter Wonder Land* but others were old songs with a new twist. Dieveney told the audience that their Pokemon song, which follows the tune of *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, was based off the Christmas fad of last year.

The entire concert was energy packed and one of the songs was personalized to PLU. Dieveney, changed the words to the song *I Can See Clearly Now* to include Tingelstad Hall and the view of Mount Rainier from his old room in Alpine, the top floor of the hall.

The concert, which included a two-song audience participation encore, lasted for two and a half hours and the audience was still screaming and thirsty to hear more. After the concert the foursome were selling CDs and autographing them for fans. Fans who chose not to buy a CD were bombarding the group with praise and compliments about the concert.

The group will be performing next in Albany, Ore., on Thursday and then back in Tacoma on Friday.

Photos by
Nisha Ajmani

Missed the concert? The Coats will be back in Tacoma, Friday at 8 p.m. at the Rialto Theatre.

Want to hear more? Check out their CDs: *Are you up?*, *Exposed*, *It Turns Me On*, *On Christmas Time*, *The Coats Collection*, *When I'm With You*, and *Your Joy*.

Point Defiance Zoo: an "illuminating experience" for all



A&E Column
Katie Dean

"There must be a million lights!" exclaimed a nearby little boy in a red stocking cap.

The 13th annual Zoolights celebration has invaded the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium.

From now until Jan. 1 from 5-9pm, you can experience the beauty and awe of over 8,000 hours of the Zoo's staff and volunteer's hard work.

The electricity-draining display has only a \$3.75 admission and will be open every night, with the exception of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

For enduring the freezing temperatures of a December night you will be rewarded.

Brightly and creatively lit, the display contains a huge replica of Mount Rainier, a scale model of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, a giant alligator, rainbow (complete with a pot of gold), a collage

of nursery rhyme characters, and of course more than 205 illuminated animals in various poses. Particularly amusing are the animal figures lit in sequence, giving them the illusion of movement.

While most of the regular exhibits are closed, it is still possible to see a few of the zoo's regulars too.

In the farm area, after you have finished dotting over those adorable-Pygmy goats, you can take advantage of a pre-set photo opportunity.

So if you need a break from those grueling final semester activities and want to get into the Christmas spirit, visit Zoolights.

It is an illuminating experience that won't absorb too many of those precious study hours.

For more information on Zoolights, call the zoo at (253) 591-5337.

The World's Favorite Boy Band: Despite Itself, *The Beatles 1* Is A Magical History Tour For All Ages

BY MATT CAMERON
Mast music critic

It's easy to be cynical about the latest high-profile compilation from a boy band whose fan base has traditionally included a significant faction of obsessive teenage girls.

Unless, of course, that band is The Beatles and someone old enough to be one of those girls brought you into the world just six months before John Lennon was tragically ripped from it.

Which is to say that *The Beatles 1* is here and, despite my best attempts not to be, I am very happy about it.

The concept is simple enough: the CD contains all 27 (!) singles from the Fab Four which topped the charts in either the United States or the United Kingdom in their exact chronological order. Nothing more, nothing less.

For the price, this is a good buy. From the lazy harmonica that opens *Love Me Do* to the sentimental orchestral flourish that closes *The Long And Winding Road*, this disc is a workable 80-minute review of the eight-year worldwide pop phenomenon that was The Beatles.

Due to the limitations of the format, however, this is not a "best of" collection. At the risk

of sounding excessively elitist, the most popular elements of a band's work almost never include its best efforts, and The Beatles have been no exception. This is a serious weakness in the "megahits-only" approach used in compiling *The Beatles 1*.

No respectable "best of" would include, for example, the overlong *Hey Jude* or the eleva-



tor-ready trip down *The Long and Winding Road*. And *The Ballad of John and Yoko* is completely out of place here; it was, after all, very nearly a Lennon solo effort that actually didn't include George or Ringo.

Even so, as much as I'd like to see classics like *Rain*, *Hey Bulldog*, and *Blackbird* put on the same disc, I have to admit that it's not bloody likely. There's far too much good stuff stretched between their

14 albums for anyone to be able to agree on what constitutes "the best" of this prolific combo's work.

So we have *The Beatles 1*. Only the most dedicated audiophile will notice the small differences created in remastering, but most of these songs sound at least as good as ever, if not a little better.

There's certainly nothing new here for Beatlemaniacs, but this album isn't for them anyway. It's for your little sister still caught up in the prepubescent fervor of her boy band of choice, your former hippie of an aunt who sold off her LP collection at a yard sale in 1980, your nephew who just discovered Elvis Costello but doesn't know anything about Elvis Presley and his little brother whose room has become a shrine to Fred Durst and Eminem and Britney.

It's for Blue Meanies and Martians and people who have been cryogenically frozen or living in monasteries or under rocks for the past 40 years.

If you have any of these unfortunates on your list this year, they deserve a copy of this musical monument. You probably do, too.

Matt Cameron is *The Walrus*. They are the eggman. Coo-coo-ca-choo.

Christmas Fest celebrates the holidays through music

BY LIZ WARNER
Mast live-music critic

Nothing starts off the holiday season like the PLU Christmas Festival Celebration.

With Nancy Connor, University Chorale, Choir of the West, University Symphony Orchestra members, and Eastvold all dressed up in its holiday decor, it's pretty hard to leave without wanting to go home humming Christmas carols, drink hot chocolate and decorate something - anything you can!

For me it also provoked a new feeling toward the Christmas story. I mean, most of us have heard it half a million times in various forms, but it's pretty hard to miss it when the entire thing is told about 20 times in a row with the choirs singing about it and readings from our lovely Reverend Nancy Connor in between.

Of course I've heard the words "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men," but hearing it so many times, in so many different ways made me ponder it in ways that I haven't before.

Somehow music does that - it steals through our bodies and souls into the veiled chasms of our hearts and minds and unearths newly found ideas and emotions. The concert begins with a balcony carol from Choir of the West - *Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming*.

Following, the choirs are joined by the audience in *O Come All Ye Faithful*,

as the University Chorale goes to the stage to begin their individual portion of the concert.

The University Chorale blends and resonates on their pieces, Christmas Fanfare and *Verbum caro factum est*. The transition between the two pieces was wonderfully done as well.

After *Verbum caro* the University Chorale was then joined by Choir of the West, still in the balcony for a sort of call and repeat carol, *Hodie, Christus natus est*, in which each choir took turns leading and repeating themes throughout the piece. The University Chorale then sang *Gabriel's Message*.

In *Gabriel's Message* there are a capella sections in which the organ drops out and comes back in, and I must say on Sunday's concert the Chorale did a nice job staying in tune throughout the entire piece, which can be difficult, although we know our Chorale is fully capable of doing so.

Next the audience was lulled by Choir of the West and soloist Kelly Brandt or Gloria Binkley, (depending on which concert you attend) with *Lullaby on Christmas Eve* - that sort of dripping-sweet 50s-type carol you would expect to hear in an early Disney movie.

I must say that this is the only song that I do not have a soloist preference on - perhaps ever. Brandt sings the solo

with a very dulce, full, lyric sound, while Binkley, although her voice is incredibly dulce as well, has more dramatic undertones and is positively angelic.

After the classic *Pat-a-pan* from University Chorale, the Choir of the West proceeded to *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*, to join the Chorale for *In Terra Pax* - a Christmas piece for baritone, soprano and choir.

Next the audience gets to join in again with *Angels We have Heard on High*.

That's what's great about the Christmas Festival - it's so "audience participation-ish." After *Angels We have Heard on High* the Choir of the West began their solo section of the concert with *Here is this Little Door* - my personal favorite, by Herbert Howells.

The combination of harmonies, lyrics and phrasing in this piece make it absolutely divine and provokes a feeling of holiness and sacredness. And of course, how could we have a concert without John Rutter? OK, easily, but it never hurts to include one of his many choral canvases, and in this case *What Sweeter Music*.

And really, what sweeter music indeed than Choir of the West's sopranos leading the choir and audience in painting the canvas of this song? If

you're not completely ready to embrace Christmas with open arms and heart, you will be by the end of this piece which talks of singing a carol to adore Christ being the sweetest music of all.

For a little change of pace, the University Chorale then peaks out from the balcony with their upbeat Spanish Carol. I love that song! Call me cheesy, but it's just such a catchy tune and the choir and soprano soloists sound great.

Following the Spanish Carol is a reading from Nancy Connor to set the mood for Morten Lauridsen's arrangement of the eternal *Ave Maria*. The arrangement is absolutely gorgeous and although it's not technically difficult, it is complex - like a tapestry, woven with many different colors and harmonies, unified into one beautiful piece.

The next song, *Glory to the Newborn King* was a total crowd pleaser. You could tell the audience was dying to applaud after that one. Finally, the University Chorale again joined Choir of the West on stage to finish the concert off with *A Babe is Born in Bethlehem, Gesu Bambino*, and for a complete finale, *Beautiful Savior* to candle light.

It's so great to see people smiling with love on their faces during this time of year when emotions tend to run high and consumerism is at its most disgusting peak.

So, make sure you get your tickets from the music office for the last of the Christmas Festival Celebration performances on Dec 8, 9 and 10.

"Somehow music does that - it steals through our bodies and souls into the veiled chasms of our hearts and minds and unearths newly found ideas and emotions."

The Grinch That Stole X-Mas: Every Who Down in Who-ville Liked Christmas a lot...But the Grinch, Who lived just North of Who- ville, Did NOT!

BY HANS-PETTER GRAV
Mast reporter

Dr. Seuss' (Theodore S. Geisel) timeless classic *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* was first published in 1957. This story, which has pleased the child in all of us ever since, has finally become a motion picture.

Directed by Ron Howard (*Apollo 13*), *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* has become a sweet and funny film that the whole family will enjoy.

Jim Carrey (*The Mask*) seems to have had a grand ol' time as the grumpy Grinch who hates Christmas. As always, he is like a fire-cracker ready to explode.

With his energetic presence he manages to steal nearly every scene, the only exception possibly being those scenes where little Cindy Lou Who (newcomer Taylor Momsen) manages the seemingly impossible task of outshining him.

To bring the Grinch and the Whos of Whoville to life, Howard has enlisted the esteemed talents of five-time Academy Award winner Rick Baker. After having created the memorable aliens in *Men in Black* and adding a few hundred pounds to Eddie Murphy in *The Nutty Professor*, Baker has done it again with *The Grinch*.

Throughout the film, Jim Carrey performs under a mask of latex and fur as well as a body suit that must have been a couple of inches thick. As a result, the Grinch looks like a live creature, yet Carrey's multiple facial expressions are still every bit as unmistakable as always.

The film has a charming score written by James Horner (*Titanic*). Director Ron Howard and James Horner have worked together in a symbiotic harmony before on George Lucas' *Willow*, and their familiarity with each other's style has been an advantage for this film. Horner's score fits the atmosphere of the film like a glove.

Although the film may sometimes appear to older audience members as being too sweet, it is still charming.

However, especially towards the end, it

begins feeling like you're being fed yet another piece of cake, after having been full for the last couple of pieces.

There are a few moments in the film that are spiced with contemporary humor such as a slow motion sack race to the theme of *Chariots of Fire*, and a scene where the Grinch makes an impression of a certain director by putting on a baseball cap of the type always worn by Ron Howard.

This contemporary humor has been added to the story with a masterful touch, and consequently it does not harm the classic story.

In order to turn *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* into a feature film of appropriate length, the story had to be fleshed out. In doing so, screenwriters Jeffrey Price and Peter S. Seaman should have developed a few of the supporting characters more thoroughly. The only characters to be fully developed are the Grinch and little Cindy Lou Who.

The Whos are on one hand presented as a very materialistic people who have forgotten the real value of Christmas, while on the other hand they are happy people in the full spirit of Christmas.

This dual nature is perhaps an attempt at making the story more contemporary, and to criticize today's society, but the story's message is undermined by a seemingly mix between Dr. Seuss' original ideas and not fully developed new ideas.

The costumes, designed by Rita Ryack, project a magical otherworldly atmosphere, which combined with the effort of the make-up artists provide a visually wonderful population of Whos. The sets, however, have an artificial look that would be more fitting in a stage play.

Furthermore, the town of Whoville is shown only through long-distance computer animation and close-ups of the set. Subsequently, the audience is not provided a full impression of Whoville. A few sweeping shots of the town showing different streets and buildings could easily have provided this.

With few modifications Ron Howard's *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* could easily have become a modern day classic, but the weaknesses of the script and set decoration prevents it from reaching it's full potential. Nevertheless, you would have to be a Grinch not to fall for its charm.



Jim Carrey as the Grinch in *The Grinch that Stole Christmas* Universal Pictures Photo



A scene from *The Grinch that Stole Christmas* Universal Pictures Photo

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Experience: Journey showcases graduating seniors' masterpieces

BY STACY HILTON
Master art critic

"I'm out of here!"

This is the attitude of most Lutes graduating this fall, but the art student candidates have to do one last gallery show in order to earn their respective degrees.

Running until Dec 16, the show is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. in Ingram Hall's University Gallery.

Entitled "Experience: Journey," the show is promoted to be "the artistic journey and achievements of Pacific Lutheran University graduates."

The work of three PLU artisans is displayed in the gallery: Kari Macauley and Carl Menge, both Bachelor of Arts candidates, and Sara Prengel, a Bachelor of Arts candidate.

Macauley's work, on the west side of the gallery, focuses mostly on photography and design.

My favorite piece of Macauley's hangs on the left wall. *Falling Angels* includes a series of black-and-white photographs portraying people covered in dripping paint.

Macauley has added drips of

red paint and white feathers to the pictures and the floor beneath them.

This technique gives the work a dramatic effect and adds a somber tone, which enhances the piece.

Her design portfolio sits in the back corner. Make sure to flip through it because this PLU artisan has a great eye for design.

The next artist, Carl Menge, whose work runs down the middle of the gallery, deals mostly with sculpture and etchings.

Out of all of Menge's sculptures in the gallery, my favorite stands in the back left corner.

Understanding a Woman, a silver-painted box containing interesting artifacts, literally stands on a women's legs, which are shaped out of metal.

The box has barred windows and the open top contains a mirror so you can see the silver doll pieces of the interior.

The piece leaves plenty of room for interpretation, but gives the feeling of some definite symbolic meaning.

Menge's etchings are very diverse. My top pick, *Made in America*, is a very busy piece filled

with anger, the American Dream, propaganda, and patriotism.

The work gives the eye a lot to look at, all of which relates perfectly to our country and the political dilemma we're facing.

Sara Prengel's art, lining the right wall, is a little more diverse, containing brass sculptures, a ceramic piece, a rock carving, and acrylic paintings on wood.

You must go see the brass work called *The Gossipers*. Portraying two men and a woman chatting in a small circle, this piece thrives in its simplicity and emits the playful reality of the life of a few social butterflies.

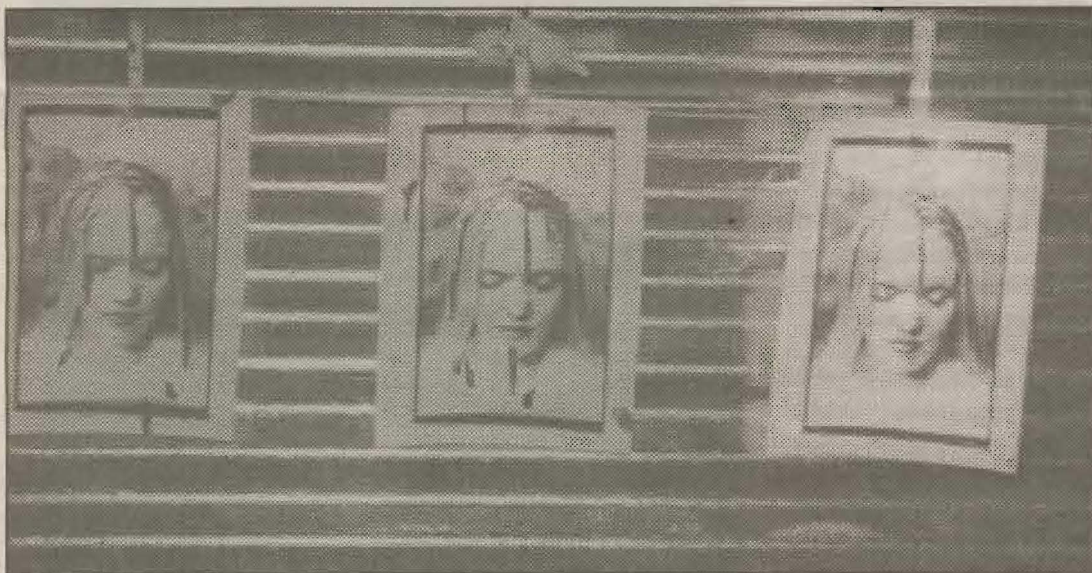
My Namibia, an acrylic on wood, shows Sara getting a guitar lesson. Along with a sentimental subject matter, the realistic look of this painting is striking.

Get close to it; stand far away. It doesn't matter; the piece is just darn good!

If you see these three students around campus, take some time to congratulate them on a job well done and to wish them luck with their future artistic endeavors.



Experience: Journey
Ingram Hall's University Gallery
 Running through Dec. 16



Above: Macauley's "Falling Angels" piece. Top Right: A sculpture by Prengel. All photos contributed by Erica Rische & Gina Hansen. Right bottom: Painting by Prengel

HEY LUTES - GO LUTES - ATTAWAY!

SCHOOL SPIRIT 101

NOT ALL SCHOOL SPIRIT HAS TO DO WITH FOOTBALL. LUTES, GET OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS AT THE SENIOR ART SHOW IN THE UNIVERSITY GALLERY IN INGRAM. SENIORS SARA PRENGEL, CARL MENGE + YOURS TRULY HAVE SLAVED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS/YEARS/DAYS OVER OUR WORK + ARE NOW OPENING OURSELVES UP FOR YOUR CRITICISM. COME, CHECK IT OUT MON-FRI 8:30-4:30 PM DEC. 4-16. AND BEST OF ALL, THIS KIND OF SCHOOL SPIRIT DOESNT INVOLVE FREEZING YOUR BUTT ON COLD BLEACHER SEATS + ITS FREE! EXPERIENCE THE JOURNEY....

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KARI

Experience: Journey

Exhibiting the art of:

Kari Macauley

Carl Menge

and

Sarah Prengel

Hot second half lifts Lutes

PLU scores 65 points in half to defeat Warriors

BY CHRISTINA COURTNAGE
Mast reporter

With a burst of energy in the second half, the PLU men's basketball team avenged its previous loss to Western Baptist College and came out victorious 97-78 in Olson Auditorium Tuesday night. The win bumped the Lutes to a winning record at home, 2-1.

Junior guard Parker Barth made the first points for the Lutes, but the team began to struggle and fell behind, ending the first half 32-39 in favor of the Warriors.

Junior Treven Vander Ploeg made two three-point baskets early in the second half, sparking a PLU rally to come within four points of the Warriors. With 11:17 left on the clock, the Lutes finally tied the game at 56. It took a pair of free throws by Barth to put PLU ahead and the Lutes did not look back.

PLU continued to extend its lead by making 70 percent of its field goal attempts and 80 percent of its three-point attempts. Western Baptist's

Mick Jacobsen was called for a technical foul for unsportsmanlike conduct and senior wing Shane Mankanani made the free throws to bring the score to 72-65. The Lutes continued to play hard and to win the game by a 14-point margin.

"The first time we played (Western Baptist), it was our worst game of the year. This time we had more confidence. There was a lot of energy and we finally put two good halves together," Vander Ploeg said.

Barth led the game with 18 points and Vander Ploeg trailed close behind with 17 points. Mankanani had a solid game with 16 points in 15 minutes of play and freshman center Michael Kelley added 15 points.

The win gives PLU a 2-3 overall record.

Head coach Bruce Haroldson said, "We've improved with every game. I couldn't be more proud of a team's effort than tonight."

■ **Next Up** - Today PLU will play Northwest College in a non-conference rematch in Kirkland, Wash. The game begins at 7 p.m. PLU has its first Northwest conference match Dec. 16 against George Fox University in Olson Auditorium.

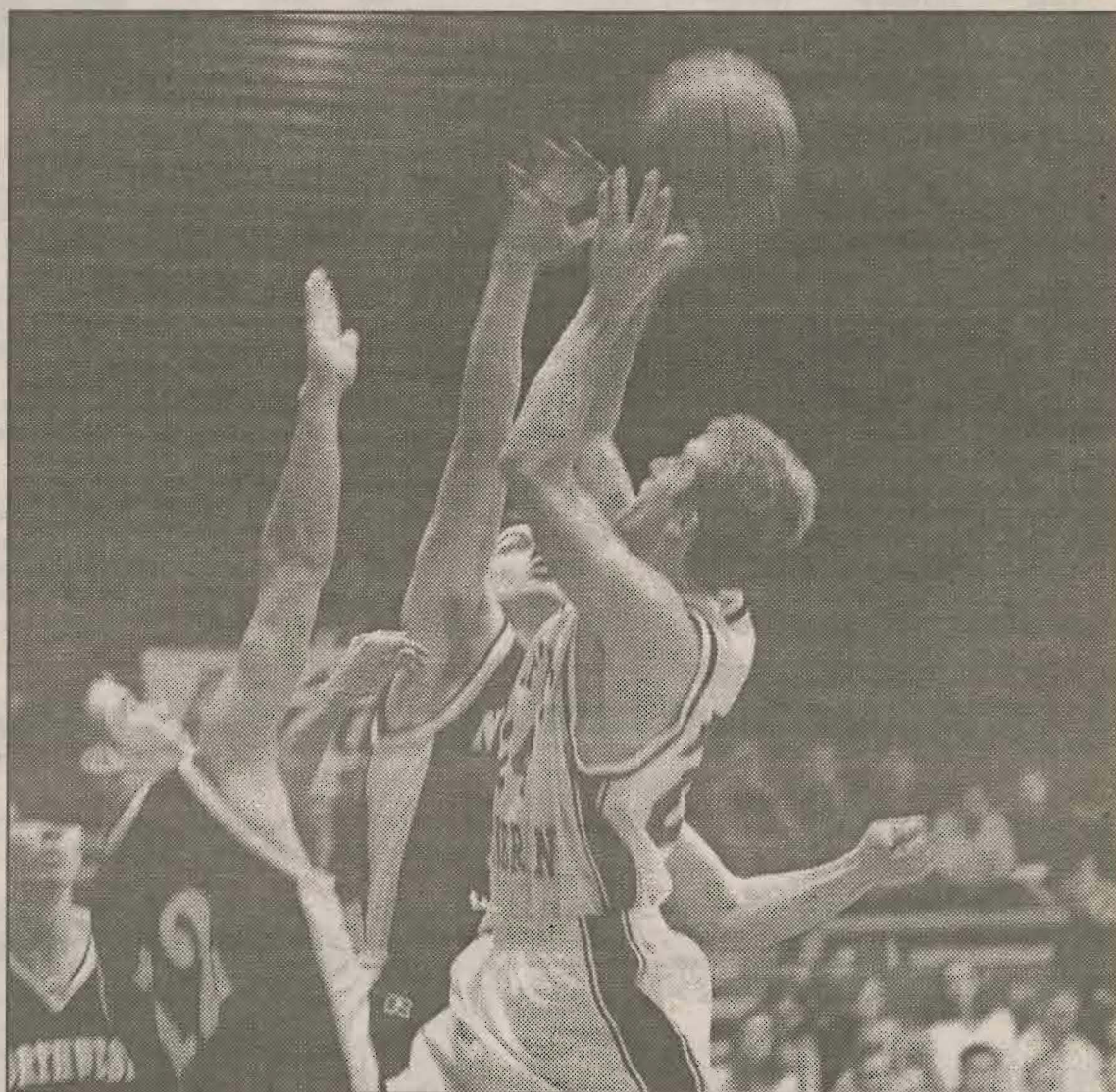


Photo by Ty Kalberg

Junior wing Treven Vander Ploeg jumps over two Western Baptist defenders and makes attempts the basket.

Johnson nominated for top two NCAA Division III awards

BY ANDREW BENTZ
Mast sports editor

Pacific Lutheran senior quarterback Chad Johnson led the Lutes to the second round of the NCAA Division III football tournament this season and for his performance he was named one of the three finalists for the Melberger Award.

The finalists were chosen from a field of 75 nominees by a national panel of 69 sports media experts.



Chad Johnson

The Melberger award has been presented annually since 1991 to the nation's outstanding NCAA Division III football player, and it is awarded by the Downtown Wilkes-Barre Touchdown Club.

The winner will be announced at the awards banquet Jan. 20 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Wilkes-Barre, Penn.

The other two finalists for the award are seniors R.J. Bowers, a fullback from Grove City (Penn.) College, and Damon Saxon, a running back from King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Penn.

Bowers was a 1998 Melberger Award finalist and now holds eight NCAA all-division career records. He holds the records for rush yards (7,353), consecutive 100-yard games (32), total 200-yard games (16), total 100-yard games (35), points (563), touchdowns (92), rushing touchdowns (91), and points per game (14.1)

Bowers was invited to play in the Blue Grey Football Classic and the 2001 Hula Bowl. It is the seventh time in the Hula Bowl's history that a NCAA Division III football player has been invited to play.

Saxon is the first Melberger award finalist to come out of a school in Wilkes-Barre. He averaged 174.4 yards per game, which was good enough to lead the NCAA Division III in rushing. Saxon finished the 2000 season with 2,033 rushing yards and 25 touchdowns.

Scott Pingel, a wide receiver from Westminster College in Fulton, Mo., was the Melberger award winner last year.

Johnson was also one of the 10 finalists chosen for the Gagliardi Trophy. The trophy is named in honor of St. John's (Minn.) long time head coach John Gagliardi and is awarded

See JOHNSON, page 13

Men's basketball could be a force

The Pacific Lutheran men's basketball team played impressively against the Western Baptist Warriors Tuesday night.

With that said, I have a couple of concerns. First of all, the team lacks a solid presence at the post. Second, the team seems to live or die by the three-point shot, and third, they have an erratic starting point guard in junior Parker Barth.

The tallest member of the Lute squad is sophomore center Josh Davis, standing 6 feet 7 inches tall. Davis is a transfer student this season from San Jose Christian College. He did not start against Western Baptist and finished the game with two points and three rebounds.

Davis was too slow to defend the Warrior forward and was beat on the baseline a couple of times. He also needed patience on the floor. I'm just guessing here, but I don't think that PLU head coach Bruce Haroldson would call for Davis to try a three point shot early in an offensive set up, which he did midway through the second half.

Unfortunately, there isn't anyone else on the roster than can post up against an opposing center. Both sophomore Neil Mendez and freshman Michael Kelley started at the power forward and center positions respectively but both stand at 6 foot 5 inches tall and play like small forwards streaking toward the basket instead of playing in the paint like the traditional post players.

Mendez and Kelley are excellent players and had a great game, but neither can



Instant Replay Andrew Bentz

play well at a power forward or center position.

Mendez finished the game with 13 points, 10 rebounds, five assists, and five blocks. Kelley finished the game with

15 points, four rebounds, and three assists.

When the Lutes face teams with true power forwards and
See BENTZ, pg 12

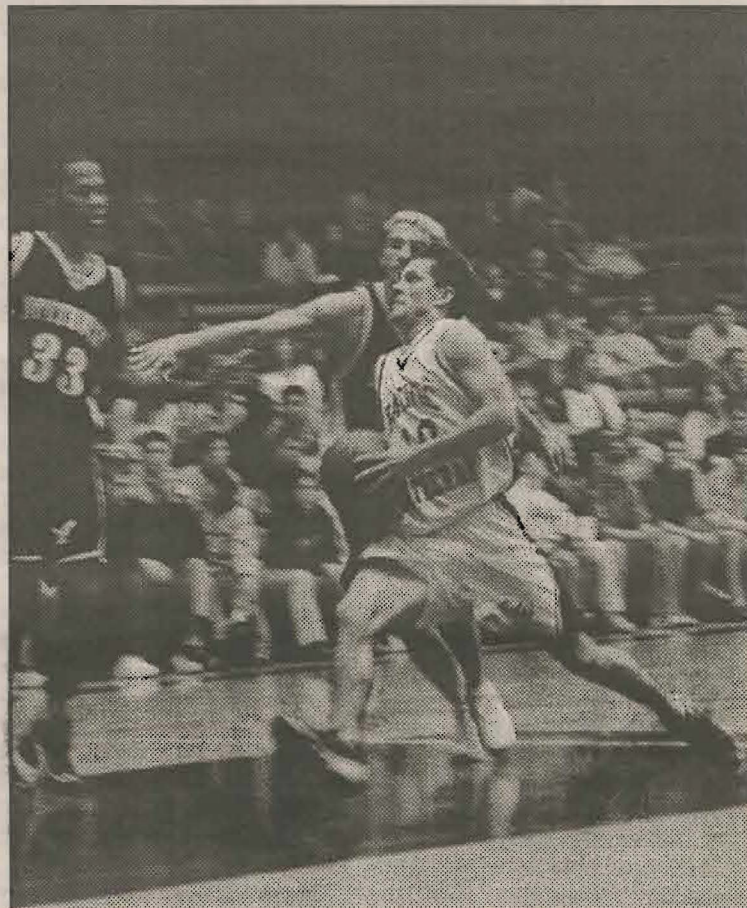


Photo by Ty Kalberg

Junior point guard Parker Barth has the quickness and jump shooting ability to be an all-star, but he has a few things he needs to work on.

Lutes drop to conference foe George Fox, 59-58

BY ANDREW BENTZ
Mast sports editor

Last season's Northwest Conference player of the year, Katie Lacey (Greller), hit a turnaround jump shot as the shot clock expired and lifted George Fox over Pacific Lutheran in the Lutes' first conference game of the season 59-58, Dec. 1.

PLU (2-3, 0-1 NWC) overcame a 32-24 halftime deficit to push the game to the final minute against the Bruins (3-0, 1-0), who were selected in the pre-season poll to win the conference. George Fox is also ranked No. 10 in the NCAA Division III by D3hoops.com, which conducts polls for Division III.

PLU was chosen to finish second in the conference behind George Fox. Last season the Lutes and the Bruins were co-Northwest Conference champions.

Lacey led the Bruins with 22 points and 12 rebounds. She shot 62 percent from the field (8-of-13) and hit all six

of her free throw attempts.

Junior forward Jessica Iserman led a quartet of Lutes in double-digit scoring with 13 points.

Women's Basketball

Sophomore forward Katie Springer added 12 points while senior shooting guard Lucy Barker and junior point guard Becky Franza chipped in 11 apiece. Franza also notched seven assists in the contest.

PLU 71, Linfield 50 - The following night PLU defeated the Wildcats, led by a 14 point and 15 rebound performance by Iserman.

The Lute defense forced 18 first-half turnovers by Linfield and didn't allow the Wildcats a field goal for almost seven minutes. The Lutes went on a 15-2 run in those seven minutes to take a 40-25 lead at the half.

PLU started the second half with a 16-10 run and brought its lead to 21 points. From then on, Linfield could



Lucy Barker



Jessica Iserman

not bring the lead to within 17 points. The Wildcats committed 29 turnovers in the game and shot 28 percent from the field (15-of-51), while PLU committed 12 fewer turnovers than Linfield and shot 43 percent from the field (24-of-58).

Barker added 12 points, shooting 50 percent from the field (4-of-8) and 50 percent from behind the three-point arc (2-of-4). Freshman center Courtney Johnson and Franza also scored in double digits.

Johnson chipped in 11 points, making 50 percent of her shots (5-of-10). She also grabbed three rebounds and blocked two shots.

Franza was perfect from the free

throw line, making all 10 of her attempts. She also notched six assists in the game.

Linfield freshman forward Monica Schwing and sophomore center Ashlee Tucker comprised most of the Wildcats offense, combining for 23 points and 14 rebounds.

■ **Team Leaders** - Through six games Barker is leading the Lutes in scoring with 11.5 points per game with Franza close behind with 11 PPG.

Iserman is leading the Lutes in rebounding with 7.5 rebounds per game, with Johnson close behind with 6.8 RPG.

Franza averages five assists per game and Johnson is averaging 2.67 blocks per game.

■ **Next up** - The Lutes head on the road to face Western Baptist in Salem, Ore., at 7:30 p.m. today and then keep heading south to Ashland, Ore., to face Southern Oregon tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. Both are non-conference games.

Lute wrestlers split in triangular meet to CC's

BY JASON ANSPACH
Mast reporter

Pacific Lutheran University took one of two matchups at Olson Auditorium Nov. 29, and went on to have a pair of strong performances at the Cliff Kleen Las Vegas Open, Dec. 1-2.

The Lutes hosted Clackamas and Highline Community Colleges in a triangular-style meet last week.

Against Highline, PLU managed two decisions by freshmen Matt Holt (125) and Rich Vigorito (149), as well as a 9-5 decision in favor of senior Tom Brown in the 157-pound weight class. Senior Eli Porter won by forfeit in the 165-pound category, but those points couldn't stack up against HCC's three decisions and two pins. The Lutes took the loss 31-17.

Clackamas Community College on the

other hand, fell victim to the Lutes and acquired only two decisions, one pin and a

forfeit against PLU. Senior Abe Porter wrapped things up in the 174-pound category with an 11-0 decision over CCC's Austin Lawrence. Porter's

brother Eli, picked up his second victory of the night with a 6-3 decision. Freshman Karl Krebs and senior David Chew both

won by pinning their opponents in their weight classes, 133 and 184, respectively.

The meet became an official draw when Clackamas edged out Highline 21-20, giving each squad one victory and one loss.

PLU opened the month of December in an incredibly

challenging tournament against the backdrop of Las Vegas' bright lights.

The Lutes were among 53 colleges, the

majority of which were NCAA Division I schools. With such schools as Michigan, Nebraska, Harvard, Illinois, as well as the entire Pac-10, it's no wonder that the majority of the Division III Lutes fell with 0-2 records in the double elimination tournament.

Bright spots appeared for PLU as Vigorito managed a win against two losses. Abe Porter also had a truly outstanding performance given the competition, going 3-2 in the event.

Coach John Aiken said that the Las Vegas tournament was "five to ten times harder than the (NCAA) Division III nationals."

■ **Next up** - PLU will have time off from meets over the Christmas holiday, returning to action Jan. 3 against Highline Community College and North Idaho in Des Moines, Wash.

Las Vegas Open

The Las Vegas Open tournament included schools from all over the country including: Nebraska, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, NC State, Virginia, Virginia State, Cornell, Edinborough, Lehigh, Harvard, Colombia, and the entire NCAA Division I Pacific-10 Conference.

BENTZ continued from page 11

centers they could be in for some trouble in the low post.

The second concern I have for the team is the amount of three-point shots taken.

In the first half, the team attempted eight three-point shots and made three of them. At the half, the Lutes trailed 39-32.

The second half, the team attempted 10 three-point shots and made eight of them, winning the game 97-78.

Tuesday night PLU hit 37.5 percent of its three-point attempts in the first half and an incredible 80 percent in the second half. This kind of performance in the second half can't be sustained throughout the season. The Lutes have to be able to put up points outside of the three-point shot or they will be in trouble.

Third, the Lutes' point guard Barth is an exceptional athlete. I can easily say that he was the fastest player on the court Tuesday and it would be difficult to find a faster player in the Northwest Conference.

Despite this, I noticed that Barth dribbles with his left hand about 85 percent of the time, and almost seemed to be uncomfortable when he was forced to dribble with his right hand for any length of time.

This was even more curious to me because he shot the ball with his right hand. Barth switched the ball from hand-to-hand with ease for most of the game, but on a fast break, down the left side of the court, he went to switch hands and lost control of the ball. He should have just made the layin with his left hand instead of trying to switch hands.

Barth did make very athletic moves on fast breaks, making quick passes to teammates that usually resulted in PLU points. Unfortunately, while running a set offensive play, he seemed to look at the person he wanted to pass the ball to too long and the Warrior defense would knock the ball away.

The part of Barth's game that impressed me the most was his shooting ability. Standing at 5 feet 10 inches, he was the shortest player on the court, but was an accurate jump shooter and this was reflected in his statistics from the game.

He led the Lutes in points with 18 on 7-for-11 from the field, including 1-for-1 from beyond the three-point arc. His height is a disadvantage because on one drive to the basket his lay-up attempt was swatted down by Western Baptist center Drew Langstraat, who stood at 6 feet 7 inches.

Barth accounted for only

four of the Lutes' 13 total turnovers, which isn't very much for a player who handles the ball for the majority of the game.

Another aspect of the game that intrigued me was how vocal Haroldson was on the sideline. He was more vocal in this game than I have seen him in any game over the last three seasons.

Sitting on media row behind the players benches, I was able to hear just about everything he yelled at the officials including, "What the hell is that?" and "Of all the stuff going on out there, you're going to call that?"

The officials did little to calm the coaches, but justified why they called the fouls. Tim Collins, the Western Baptist head coach, was a little less animated on the floor, but he was still being vocal with the officials. His reply to one official's justification of a call was, "Don't give me that crap."

My last comment about the 2000-01 men's basketball team is that it is a very young group of players, with one senior and three juniors on the squad.

Therefore, with hard work and the addition of a couple of true post players, the PLU men's basketball team has the potential to be the premiere men's basketball team in the Northwest Conference.

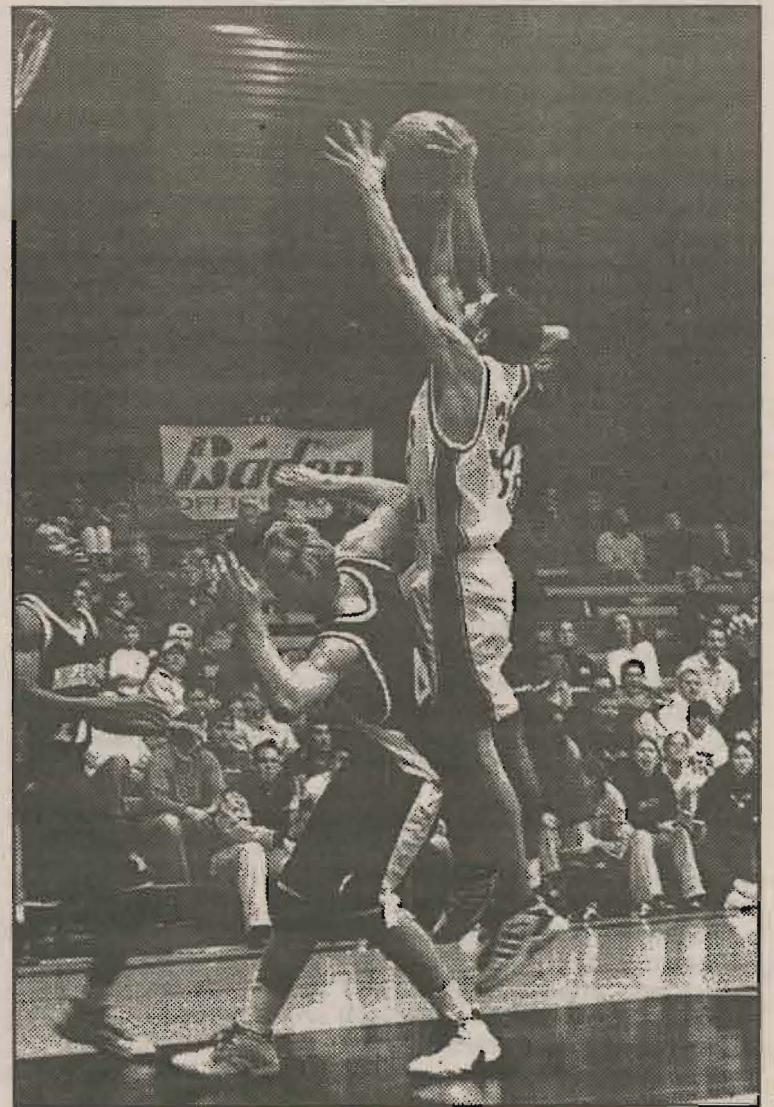


Photo by Ty Kalberg

Freshman Michael Kelley is an excellent player but he doesn't have the size to be a true center in the paint.

Preseason accident leaves Carlson on the sidelines

BY CHRIS FREDERICK
Mast reporter

No one knows when something will happen to them that will effect their life. No one can tell when he or she is going to be put to the test and have to overcome adversity. For Jonathan Carlson, a junior on the PLU football team, his time came Aug. 23.

The PLU football team was on its way to Gearhard, Ore., for its annual breakaway camp and was traveling in a handful of 15-passenger vans driven by the upper-classmen players. As was the tradition, the vans stopped at the local AM/PM for snacks before heading south to the camp.

Carlson, after purchasing his Heath Bar and Gatorade, decided to fool around with the freshmen players, otherwise known as bombers, while he waited for his teammates to finish up inside the store. Trying to make the bombers laugh and feel more comfortable, Carlson decided to hang around their van, peeking into the windows. When Carlson had finished his candy, he went to throw the wrapper away in the garbage can in front of the van.

Fellow teammate and friend Mike Mauss was in the drivers seat of the van. Mauss noticed that he could pull the van up further in the parking space in order to make more room for other cars to get by. As Mauss inched forward his foot suddenly slipped off the brake and landed firmly on the accelerator.

The van heaved ahead, jumping first the parking curb, and then the sidewalk. Carlson, still in front of the van, was hit by the front bumper in both of his knees and was hurled against the wall of the AM/PM. For a few moments, Carlson was pinned between the wall of the convenience store and the van.

Mauss, horrified, quickly reversed the van, parked it, and leapt out. He was unable to catch Carlson as he fell to the ground. The two teammates said they just prayed that everything would be okay as they waited for the ambulance. "(Carlson) assured me that it was okay," Mauss said. "I needed the assurance and he did that for me."

Senior Scott Sarrensen, Carlson's roommate and kicker on the team, found out about the accident later that day while waiting for the other vans to catch up to the one he was in.

"I just remember being shocked, but I knew that if it were to happen to anyone, he (Carlson) was the right guy because of his mental attitude," Sarrensen said.

Carlson had sustained injuries to his left and right knees and his medial collateral ligament was partially torn off his femur. He also ripped the capsule that protects the other ligaments in his knee. He tore the hamstring in his right leg, which caused deep bruising. As a result of hitting the wall of the convenience store,



Photo by Ty Kalberg

Junior Jonathan Carlson (5) only played in the last game of the season, due to an injury on the way to breakaway.

Carlson's leg was badly scraped up.

For the entire regular season, Carlson watched and helped as much as he could from the sidelines. "In practices throughout the year, he was a real encouragement, always giving us feedback on what we could do better," junior safety Benji Sonnichsen said.

Sarrensen said he has never seen anyone with such a great attitude towards their injury in all of the years that he's played sports. "He had such a great attitude and it was really inspiring to everyone," he said.

Despite Carlson's help from behind the scenes, the players did miss him on the field. "He's a good football player and a great leader," Sarrensen said. "Whenever you take someone who has such a role on a team, it's really tough."

The healing process was slow for Carlson, and a little rough at times. "The hardest part was watching the guys practice," Carlson said.

However, both Mauss and Carlson said that the team and the coaches were really helpful. "The PLU football environment is so supportive," Mauss said. "I never realized how supportive a football team could be." Carlson attributes his speedy recovery to God and to everyone who prayed for him.

Healing was also a process for Mauss, who said the experience really impacted him emotionally. Mauss said, "I probably had a harder time than (Carlson) did."

Carlson finally returned to the field Nov. 23 to play in his first, and last, game of the season against St. John's. He came away with five tackles in the game, as well as a sack for a loss of eight yards. The players were grateful to have Carlson back on the field with them.

"It was so special to so many of the guys," Mauss said. "It was like a miracle." Sarrensen said, "It was really exciting because it was something we just didn't expect and it ended up happening."

Mauss said the entire experience did have at least one positive thing come from it. "Jonathan and I have grown a lot closer," he said.

Carlson is now fully recovered and will be back on the field again next season as a senior. He said he will continue his role as a leader on the team, and feels like he will be a better player because of the experience.

"I got put to the test, and if you're going to talk something, you better walk it," Carlson said. "I just got put in the position to walk it."

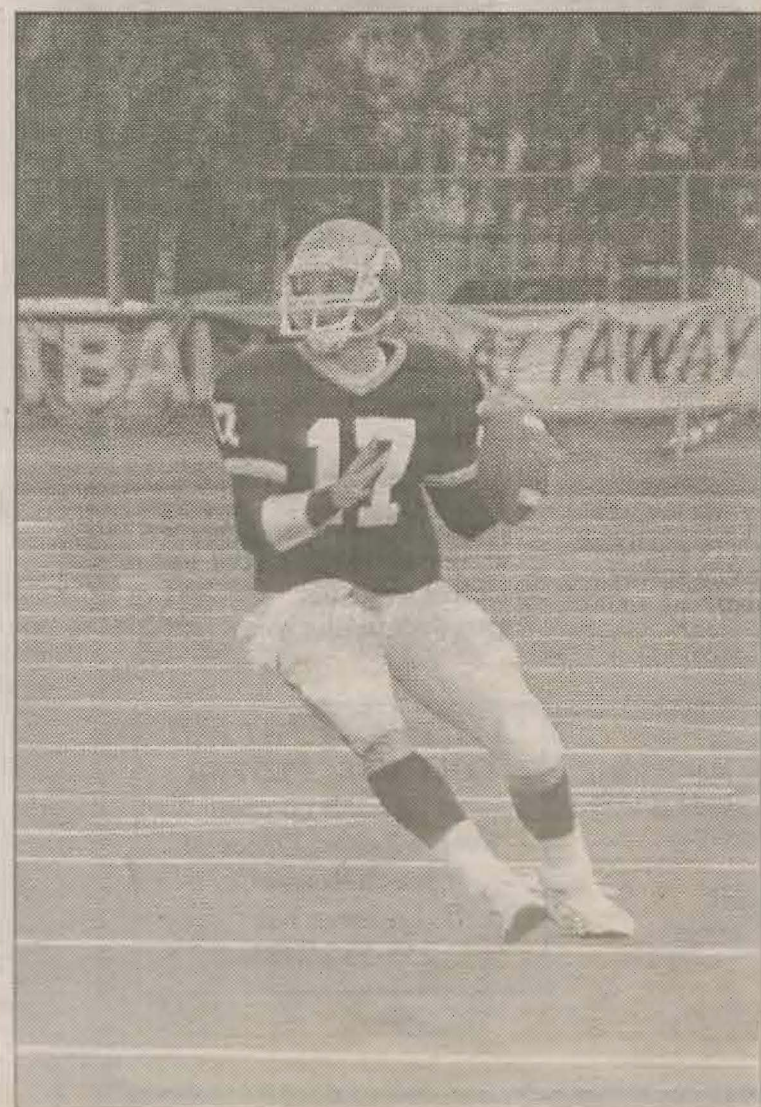


Photo by Ty Kalberg

Senior Chad Johnson was selected to play in the Aztec Bowl.

JOHNSON continued from page 11

to a NCAA Division III football player who excels in athletics, academics, and community service.

It will be awarded Dec. 14 in Salem, Va., as part of the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl festivities.

■ **Johnson's resume** - Johnson led the Lutes to a National Championship in 1999, and led the 2000 squad to the second round of this year's NCAA Division III Tournament before being defeated by St. John's.

This year Johnson completed 65 percent of his pass attempts and accumulated 3,304 yards in the air and threw 26 touchdowns. He also rushed for 279 yards and finished the year near the nation's leaders in total offense per game with 325.7.

In his four-year stint at PLU, Johnson compiled 8,081 passing yards and 8,386 total

yards of offense.

He set a new Pacific Lutheran record by completing 61.7 percent of his career pass attempts (569-of-922) and set another record by throwing at least one touchdown pass in 22 consecutive

Hicks.

■ **Johnson to play in the Division III Pro-Bowl** - Not only has Johnson been named a finalist in the Division III individual awards, but he has been invited to play in the 2000 Aztec Bowl.

He is one of 40 seniors from Division III who will make up the team this year, which will be coached by former Central (Iowa) head coach Ron Schipper.

The American Football Coaches Association all-star players will play a team of college all-stars from Mexico.

The Aztec Bowl has been in existence since 1947 and has been played 28

times since its inception. The first 25 times it was played between two Mexican teams. The last three years the American Division III all-stars have played and defeated its Mexican counterparts: 42-41 in 1997, 40-13 in 1998, and 44-13 last year.

The Melberger Award

The Melberger Award is a 55-pound replica of an old-style leather football helmet crafted of anthracite coal and mounted on a coal base. It takes a month to complete. Anthracite is indigenous to the northeastern region of Pennsylvania. In addition to the award, the Downtown Wilkes-Barre Touchdown Club makes a gift to the general scholarship fund of the finalists' schools in their names. The only stipulation to the donation is that at least half of the money is to be used for the assistance of minority students.

games.

Johnson was named to the first team All-Northwest Conference three years and was the Northwest Conference Offensive player of the year twice. In 1999 he shared that honor with teammate fullback Anthony

PLU swimming squads take third

Whitworth, Linfield steal show at meet

BY SCOTT MCVICKER
Mast intern

The Pacific Lutheran swim team finished third in the men and women's divisions at the Northwest Invitational swimming meet. The meet was held Dec. 1-2 at Linfield College in McMinnville, Ore.

The Pacific Lutheran men tallied 584 points while Whitworth won the division with 686.5 points, and Linfield edged past the Lutes with 590 points to take second.

The men's team got off to a great start, winning its first event, the 200-meter freestyle relay. In the event, senior Randy Webster, sophomore Eric Brady, freshman Justin Lunday, and senior Richard Cromwell led the relay team past Linfield to win with a time of 1:31.12. Cromwell and Webster went on to have several good individual performances for the Lutes.

Cromwell, who anchored the winning 200 relay, also finished second in the 500-meter freestyle, 100-meter backstroke, and 1,650-meter freestyle. Webster was the only Lute to win an individual event, taking the 100-meter butterfly with a time of 53.79. Webster also placed third, behind Cromwell, in the 500 freestyle and second in the 200-meter butterfly.

The PLU women finished third in their division with 382 points. Whitworth won the women's division with 762 points, followed by host Linfield, who placed second with 614 points.

The women's team relied on several strong individual performances at the meet. Freshmen Holly Mulvernon and Haley Cloyd both had third place finishes for the Lutes. Mulvernon finished third in the 50-meter freestyle with a time of 26.66 and with a time of 1:08.09, Cloyd took third in the 100-meter backstroke.

■ **Next Up** - The Lute men and women's teams will break for the holidays before returning to action Jan. 7 to take on Pomona-Pitzer.

Men's Basketball

Lutes split tourney at home

BY KRISTINA COURTNAGE
Mast reporter

The Pacific Lutheran men's basketball team split its first home games of the season, picking up a win and a loss in overtime Dec. 1-2 at the PLU Parkland Chevrolet Classic.

The Lutes seized an early lead in the first half of the first game, leading by as much as 18 points after junior wing Treven Vander Ploeg put in a three-pointer with 8:40 remaining in the first half.

Northwest College whittled away its deficit to 11 by the end of the first half, leaving a half-time score of 53-42. The Eagles rallied in the second half and stole the lead with 6:41 on the clock and a score of 72-70.

Northwest led by three with 26 seconds left, but junior wing Erik Dordal drained a three-point field goal with 18 seconds remaining to send the game into overtime. Freshman post Mike Kelley scored four of his six points in overtime as PLU held off the Eagles, 90-86.

Sophomore post Neil Mendez had a double-double for the Lutes with team highs of 21 points and 11 rebounds, while junior point guard Parker Barth added 19 points and five assists.

"I was glad to be able to come

through for everyone," Mendez said, "It has been 13 days since we played a game and we came out fired up and got the job done."

"The game was a big turnaround for us," Kelley said. "We ran the way we usually want to

The visiting Geoducks scored the first seven points in the overtime period and held on to win the game 100-93.

Some of the Lutes attributed the loss to the team's lack of height.

Mendez said, "We're not a big team. We really have to crash the boards hard or it will jeopardize the game for us."

Barth led the Lutes with 20 points and seven assists, while Mendez added 17 points and seven rebounds. Barth and Mendez were both named to the all-tournament team.

PLU finished 1-1 in the PLU Parkland Chevrolet Classic, as did Evergreen. University of Puget Sound, led by MVP Tom Lynch, was 2-0, while Northwest College finished 0-2.

The Lutes still have a lot of confidence, this tournament being early in the season.

Sophomore post Josh Davis said, "There are a lot of new faces and I think we're going through some growing pains right now. We're starting to gel and come together and once we get through that we should be good."

■ **Next up** - Today PLU heads up to Kirkland for another non-conference rematch, this one against Northwest College. The game begins at 7 p.m.

"We're not a big team. We really have to crash the boards hard or it will jeopardize the game for us."

- Neil Mendez
sophomore wing

run and set the tempo of the game. We're believing a lot more in each other's abilities and coming through with some more shots."

The Lutes were not able to repeat the win the following day against The Evergreen State College. For the second straight night, the game went into overtime. During the first half of the game, the lead bounced back and forth between the two teams and the score was tied at the end of the second half.

Sports on Tap

Dec. 8 - Jan. 30 Home Events

Men's Basketball

- Dec. 16 -- *George Fox -- 8 p.m.
- Jan. 6 -- *Lewis & Clark -- 8 p.m.
- Jan. 12 -- *Whitman -- 8 p.m.
- Jan. 13 -- *Whitworth -- 8 p.m.
- Jan. 20 -- *Willamette -- 8 p.m.

Women's Basketball

- Jan. 6 -- *Lewis & Clark -- 6 p.m.
- Jan. 12 -- *Whitman -- 6 p.m.
- Jan. 13 -- *Whitworth -- 6 p.m.
- Jan. 20 -- *Willamette -- 6 p.m.

Swimming

- Jan. 7 -- Pomona-Pitzer -- 2 p.m.
- Jan. 20 -- *Whitman -- 1 p.m.
- Jan. 26 -- Seattle University -- 6 p.m.
- Jan. 27 -- *Willamette -- 1 p.m.

Wrestling

- Jan. 5 -- Southern Oregon -- 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 6 -- Roy Gonzales PLU Open -- All Day

*Northwest Conference Matches

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January-March 2001

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To Register contact:
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Pacific Lutheran University
253-535-7423

Off-campus activities can brighten short winter days

The following venues offer a variety of activities for all ages throughout the month of January.

Tacoma Art Museum
Pacific Avenue & 12th Street, Tacoma
www.tacomaartmuseum.org

Grand Tacoma Cinema
606 S. Fawcett, Tacoma
(253) 593-4474

Sabercats Hockey
Tacoma Dome
www.sabercats.com

Experience Music Project
Seattle Center
www.experience.com

Paramount Theater
Pine & Ninth, Seattle
www.theparamount.com

Sonics
Key Arena
www.nba.com/sonics

Volunteer opportunities

The following local shelters are in need of extra help during the cold month of January.

- Tacoma Rescue Mission
- St. Leo's Hospitality Kitchen
- The Food Connection
- Nativity House
- Phoebe House
- Mandella House

For more information about these and other volunteer opportunities throughout the month of January, call PLU's Volunteer Center at x8318.

Dining Services lays off over 60 workers, offers jobs to students

BY ANNE KALUNIAN
Mast senior reporter

Dining Services is laying off approximately 60 temporary and high school workers in order to provide more on-campus jobs for PLU students. As of the first of the year, Dining Services will also be increasing its pay wage from \$6.50 to \$7.50 an hour.

Erin Sigman, the director of Dining Services, said that as of Dec. 22, all of the temporary workers, most of whom are high school students, will be laid off.

"We are doing this in hopes of improving customer service," Sigman said. "This is not to say that the temps and minors we have working for us right now are bad, but I think there is some real value in peers serving peers."

Sigman and Susan Mann, director of Human Resources, sent out a letter to all of the workers who will be laid off, explaining the situation. In the letter, Mann and Sigman informed workers that "PLU has made some decisions to reorganize all of the temporary positions in Dining Services in order to improve scheduling efficiencies and to enhance quality of service."

In addition, the workers were told that there would be a few positions available on a "pilot basis" from January through May 2001.

In order to apply for those positions the applicant must be over the age of 18, meet or exceed the minimum qualifications, complete the PLU employment application, submit a pre-screening employment verification with satisfactory results, and finally, satisfactorily complete an interview with Tawnya Kyle, the assistant director of Dining Services.

Sigman said that in order for this new reorganization to happen successfully, PLU students must fill the positions formerly held by the temporary workers. One way Sigman said that Dining Services is enticing students to apply is by raising their wages from the standard minimum wage to \$7.50 an hour.

The student jobs that will be available in January are: line persons, hosts, and bussers. The temporary positions that are available include: cook help, dish room, salad help, and pots and pans.

Sigman said that if any students are interested in applying, they should talk with Tawnya Kyle.

J-term free time provides opportunity to explore

BY KATIE GILLIAM
Mast reporter

The mention of J-term at PLU can conjure up images of a long, lonely month in the residence halls broken up by three tedious hours of class everyday. Although the day-to-day pace at PLU slows considerably during the month of January, students have taken advantage of the change to explore the area.

Many students mention struggling with boredom during the month. Sophomore Nicole Beaudoin's most vivid memory of J-term was taking lots of naps. But students have found ways to make J-term more endurable and exciting.

Tara Martin, a sophomore, said the best part of her J-term were the GYRADS (Get Your Roommate a Date) because she was able to "get out of Tacoma and get to know more people." Martin made trips to Seattle and the surrounding area to break up the month. When she spent time in the dorms, she hung out with the other people in Foss and enjoyed the "massive bonding."

Joel Soden, a sophomore at PLU, spent his J-term last year in Tinglestad and used the month to relax. The hardest part of surviving J-term for Soden was "waking up at 12:30 to go to class everyday."

The best advice he could give new students for surviving the month is "get a lot of sweatpants because you'll be lounging a lot."

Whether students need a

break from monotony and boredom or a restful escape during J-term, PLU, Tacoma and the Seattle area offers lots of opportunities for excitement and fun.

The Cave, ASPLU and residence halls around campus will all offer programs for students. Tim Vialpando, ASPLU activities director, said that he is planning a day in Seattle for students. Buses will drop students off in Seattle and pick them up later that day. ASPLU will provide students with information on attractions in Seattle.

The Cave will host different forms of entertainment in the evenings. Hall councils and Residential Life staff are planning events like broom ball, service projects and trips to explore the area.

Nearby, The Tacoma Art Museum offers local and national exhibits, along with a student discount. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday through Sunday and students pay \$5 for admittance.

Starting Jan. 20, the museum will have a special exhibit of art inspired by television sets. The museum is located at Pacific Avenue and 12th Street in Downtown Tacoma. For more information, their Web site is www.tacomaartmuseum.org.

The Grand Tacoma Cinema, also in downtown Tacoma is a not-for-profit theater that offers new, old, and small independent films. Students can pay \$4.50 with ID to see a movie. They are located on 606 S.

Fawcett and can be reached at 593-4474.

The Sabercats Hockey team will be playing at the Tacoma Dome in January. The Web site for the team, www.sabercats.com, lists the game schedule. Tickets for students with I.D. cost \$7 on weekdays and \$10.50 on weekends.

Students hoping to make the short trek to Seattle can check out the new Experience Music Project at the Seattle Center. The hours differ everyday, so check its Web site, www.experience.com.

The project features exhibits where people can learn to play instruments or just jam. The project also offers a ride through funk music, a tribute to Jimi Hendrix and an auditory history of music in the Northwest. Students with I.D. will pay \$15.95 to get in.

The Paramount Theater, on the corner of Pine and Ninth, offers Broadway, off-Broadway, and dance shows during January. For a complete listing check their Web site, www.theparamount.com. The Broadway hit Rent will be playing Jan. 8 to Jan. 13, and tickets are available from \$22 to \$52. Tickets for Rent are on sale now and can be purchased on the Web site.

For sports fans, the Sonics will have home games at the Key Arena. Their schedule is available at www.nba.com/sonics. Individual tickets can be bought on their Web site starting at \$9.

Women's Center activism week offers education for all

BY REBEKAH ROTH
Mast reporter

Imagine a world in which women are not permitted to attend school.

Imagine a place where women are barred from working outside their homes, or even from venturing outdoors without a male relative.

If this sounds like a world of long ago, you may be surprised to know that these restrictions apply to women in Afghanistan even today.

Over the past two weeks, the Women's Center at PLU has teamed up with the Feminist Student Union to sponsor 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.

In a written statement, Judy Mladineo of the Women's Center said, "This international campaign strives to emphasize the fact that gender violence is a violation of human rights. The campaign calls for the elimination of all forms of violence and encourages solidarity among all women of the world working towards the absence of gender violence."

This event included a variety of activities intended to draw attention to the unjust treatment of women worldwide, and to encourage activism



Photo by Brie Baies

Judy Mladineo takes a break from organizing PLU's 16 Days Against Gender Violence at the relaxation workshop presented by Maureen McGill.

against discrimination.

A key aspect of this event was a campaign regarding sex discrimination in Afghanistan. This included information sessions, attended by more than 80 people, videos, displays, letters of action, and petitions. A team of approximately 20 people are currently making plans for further action on this issue in the spring.

The 16 Days of Activism also included World AIDS Day, which was recognized by displays on campus, including crosses to commemorate victims of AIDS.

Several discussions and pre-

sentations also took place on relationships, focusing especially on domestic violence and date rape.

A relaxation workshop was put on and led by Maureen McGill of the physical education department. She led a small group in techniques for physical and mental relaxation.

Finally, a group of about 12 people participated in a discussion of women's rights around the globe.

This group considered gender-related concerns in countries including Ghana, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Sweden, and the United States.

Commission designed to assess campus climate

BY JENNI DILLON
Mast news editor

The new University Commission on Campus Climate is seeking feedback from students, staff and faculty to define and focus the atmosphere at PLU as well as to help shape initiatives and program ideas that build an inclusive and affirming campus community.

President Loren Anderson founded the commission in November in an effort to help develop "a campus community characterized by inclusion, affirmation and understanding."

In a letter announcing the formation of the committee, Anderson explained that this characterization has been a concern for years and was central in the PLU 2000 long-term plan.

Recent events and discussions on campus, however,

have made the goal even more important.

The commission is comprised of 10 students, faculty and staff members appointed by Anderson. These include students Sarah Allen, Aaron Bell, Michele Pleny and Eric Samuelson; faculty members Diane Harney, Richard Louie, and Norris Peterson; and staff members Kathleen Farrell, Rick Rouse, and Jennifer Wrye. Vice President of Student Life Laura Majovski and Provost Paul Menzel serve as consultants to the commission.

Collectively, these people are responsible for assessing the current campus climate and community-building programs, developing a series of short-term programming possibilities, creating a series of long-

term recommendations for strengthening campus community, and recommending program possibilities and long-term strategies to existing organizations and committees.

"It's important to under-

stand what PLU stands for,

what kind of community we think we are, and would like to be, and we need to be proactive in creating the kind of campus climate we would like to have at PLU," Rouse said. "The commission is designed to help

make that happen." "I don't think community is just going to happen," he continued. "We have to be proactive in shaping the kind of community we want to have."

Harney added, "I think [the commission] is extremely important, not only in light of the incident in November, but because we are a diverse community, and we need to find ways to converse with one another, to have civil discourse and to consider all the perspectives."

"I don't think community is just going to happen. We have to be proactive in shaping the kind of community we want to have."

— Rick Rouse
Director of Church Relations

She explained that the goals of the commission are not to present a uniform point of view, but to express the variety of perspectives.

"I think it's important that we recognize that we are not trying to get everyone to think alike, but to understand what it means to be a member of a uni-

versity community that is inclusive, affirming and understanding," she said.

"If we get everyone thinking alike, we're not doing a good job. That's not what a university is about."

To learn more about the various perspectives in the community, the commission is asking students, faculty and staff to come forward with their thoughts and ideas. Harney emphasized the importance of diverse points of view in this process.

The commission is available by e-mail at climate@plu.edu. Responses will be used only to gather information and will be kept confidential.

The commission has until Feb. 1, 2001 to complete its work and present findings and recommendations to Anderson and then the committee will share its results with the PLU community.

HARMONY

Continued from page 1

In the meantime, however, Harmony is circulating a petition to gather support from the broader PLU community.

The petition, addressed to PLU President Loren Anderson, reads: "The Harmony conference should include local high school students who are involved in school groups that support equality for gay, lesbian, and bisexual people."

"We will actively support you, as you make a courageous and fair decision to join us in welcoming such students. Voices of prejudice and ignorance may speak, but we believe that people who are devoted to 'lives of thoughtful inquiry, service, leadership, and care' must demonstrate their commitment to justice in the face of prejudice."

In addition to collecting signatures on the petition, Harmony members are asking PLU students, faculty and staff, as well as alumni, parents and other outside community members, to write letters and e-mails of support to the PLU administration.

For more information about the conference, visit <http://www.plu.edu/~harmony>.

From the Archives: December 2, 1988

Soviet visitors bring glasnost to the Lutedome

BY MATT MISTEREK
The Mooring Mast

East met West recently in PLU's Chris Knutzen Hall. But the Soviet-American meeting was characterized by warm, firm handshakes, not the antagonism of two world powers butting heads.

On Nov. 22, just before Thanksgiving break, two officials from the Soviet Union spoke to nearly 50 PLU students for about an hour and a half.

Igor Mitichkin, vice chairman of the Moscow Regional Municipal Council, and Anurbek Alimadzhonov, chairman of a peace committee in the republic of Kazakhstan, came to Tacoma for a week as emissaries of goodwill. They said they came to PLU to share the new mood of openness in the USSR.

"I hope you, as young people, will be pioneers of this new understanding between the United States and Russia," said Mitichkin, who is the caretaker of a section of Moscow containing about 150,000 people.

He added that a private visit to the U.S. by Soviet VIPs would have been unthinkable as recently as five years ago.

"It has been my burning desire since my youth to come to the United States someday," Mitichkin said.

The visit was sponsored by the Tacoma chapter of a peace organization called Sixth Sense. Both guests spoke Russian at a fast clip, and communicated via Edward Kasova, a multi-lingual translator. Kasova, coincidentally, was a French instructor at PLU about 15 years ago.

The discussion was framed as a question-and-answer period, with Mitichkin and Alimadzhonov fielding most of the questions. They did, however, have a chance to ask two questions themselves.

They wanted to know if American students understand what glasnost (openness) and perestroika (economic restructuring) mean.

They also wanted to know if students are open-minded about these changes, or if they think they are just Soviet propaganda gimmicks. PLU responses were positive.

Mitichkin admitted that he's a member of the Communist party, but that it has no effect on his administrative duties.

When asked if Soviet party members were disappointed,

with America's recent election of another conservative president, Mitichkin said no. Many Americans are astonished to learn that Soviet officials favor president-elect George Bush and a continuation of the Reagan peace policies, he said.

Alimadzhonov said his visit to the U.S. as a journalist 11 years ago was different from this one. At that time, he was trailed constantly and kept on a short leash. Now, he can go where he pleases.

As for the recent cries for independence in Soviet republics like Estonia, Alimadzhonov said it's healthy for the people to cultivate their own separate cultures. But if every republic wanted to break away and declare its language as its native tongue, there would be pandemonium, he added.

Christianity and other religious freedoms were also discussed at the meeting. Despite the atheist overtones of Communism, Mitichkin said Russian churches are left unharmed as long as they continue to

share the government's struggle for peace.

Even a scattered few Community Party members are allowed to be churchgoers, he explained.

Dr. Donald Farmer of the PLU political science department, who was master of ceremonies for the event, said he thought it was a success.

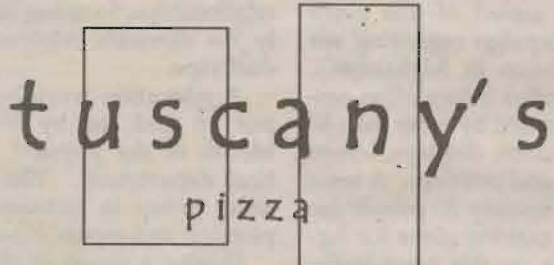
It's valuable for students to attach human faces and compassionate ideas to the generic image of the USSR that many of them hold, he said.

But he said he was disappointed with the translator's omissions and embellishments, which Farmer was able to pick up because of his familiarity with the Russian language.

"These people were very open and candid with their remarks, and I don't think all that interpretation was necessary," he said.

Farmer said he attended a local supper later in the week, during which Mitichkin said he was impressed with the PLU students' questions and their knowledge.

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