

THE MOORING MAST

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

FEB. 22, 2013

www.plu.edu/mast

VOLUME 89 NO. 12

SEX, DRUGS, ALCOHOL: Speaker shares story, challenges students

By VALERY JORGENSEN
Guest Writer

There wasn't an empty seat to be found in Olson Auditorium for the Sex, Drugs and Alcohol talk. On Tuesday evening, guest speaker Julia Garcia spoke to students about her experiences with all of the above in college and explained how to keep true to yourself.

"TRU: The Real U" was Garcia's main motto and the heart of her presentation. After discussing certain topics, she would end by holding up a "T" with her hands, and the crowd would say "true."

Garcia opened her presentation with a poem about herself: "I am an alcoholic." Written and performed by Garcia, it recounted past events from when she was an alcoholic in college. After the poem, she explained that in college you either lose yourself or you find yourself. She lost herself.

Garcia kept the audience engaged with activities, one of which required the audience to stand in response to certain

questions if it was true to them.

Questions ranged from a variety of serious topics, including "who feels alone?" "who knows someone who has tried to commit suicide?" and "who has got ten behind the wheel after drinking?" This exercise demonstrated people are not alone, and that many college students go through the same things.

Another activity allowed students to text in answers to questions anonymously. These questions were similar, such as, "when you go out at night, how many drinks do you typically have?"

Students responded to the questions, and their answers appeared on the screen. This allowed for the audience to see where the majority stood related to certain topics.

The presentation topics ranged from drinking and drugs to rape and abuse. Garcia shared several statistics about sexual assault, including: two in three sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knew. Fifty-ninety percent of

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PHOTO BY BEAU SMITH

Guest speaker Julia Garcia shares a word with sophomore Hillary Frett after giving her a signed copy of her book "Somewhere in Between."

No quizzes, tests or homework: the secrets of Finland's success

By TAYLOR LUNKA
News Writer

Finland surprised the world by ranking No.1 out of about 80 countries for the highest scores on a standardized test evaluating education systems in 2000.

The United States has ranked consistently between 15 and 25 in the past several years.

Students had the opportunity to learn about the successes of Finland's education system Tuesday evening when Pacific Lutheran University's Director of Academic Advising Hal DeLaRosby gave a lecture on Finland's education system in the Scandinavian Cultural Center.

During the lecture, DeLaRosby pointed out what sets Finnish

students apart from those in other countries.

"The Finnish are very trusting people," DeLaRosby said. "Their natural resource is their people."

The program to become a teacher includes both a three-year Bachelor of Arts degree and a two-year Masters Degree. All levels of teachers, including primary school teachers, are required to have a Masters.

Only 10 percent of those who apply to become a teacher at the university level are selected for the degree.

DeLaRosby said that even though teachers are paid less in Finland than they are in the United States, teaching is a "highly desirable role in comparison to doctors and lawyers."

The education system is also much different than the United States.

DeLaRosby said there are no school achievement exams, no inspections and no probation times for teachers.

Students don't start basic education until they are seven-years-old. Even though that is a later age than the U.S., DeLaRosby said Finnish students are scoring higher on exams. School days for K-12 are shorter, consist of more

breaks, include free hot lunch and have no homework.

Students are enrolled in basic education until age 16 and then have a choice between two high schools: vocational high school or general high school. Vocational high school specializes in students focusing on their career who want hands-on experience prior to entering the job market. General high school prepares students to move on to a university, like PLU, after graduation.

Students can transition between the two at any time, DeLaRosby said.

He also said that although school in general starts at a later age than in the U.S., foreign language education starts earlier.

When Finnish students begin their basic education, they are introduced to English and taught it throughout their basic education years until age 16.

Once they are in high school, a Scandinavian language is added. Most students choose Swedish or Danish.

Junior Tommy Flanagan, who spent spring semester 2012 in

"Their [Finland's] natural resource is their people."

Hal DeLaRosby
Director of Academic Advising

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Gender-neutral housing at PLU an ongoing conversation

By ASHLEY GILL
Guest Writer

This time next year, residential wings on campus might not be separated by gender any longer. With the exception of Hong and South halls, every residential wing on campus is divided by gender.

The long process of gender-neutral housing in Pacific Lutheran University's residence halls is on the fast track.

The conversation started during the 2010-2011 school year. RHA and ASPLU introduced the first piece of official legislation in March 2011. Both organizations worked on a proposal, and

ASPLU President Alexis Ballinger and Diversity Director Angie Hambrick were responsible for most of the conversation.

But the idea of gender-neutral housing soon faded into the background.

"It was a bit inflammatory," ASPLU President Ian Metz said. "It had to be put on the back burner until it cooled down a bit."

Metz, along with ASPLU's Diversity Director Karter Booher, took the initiative this school year and once they prioritized it as a primary goal, the wheels started moving.

"In three years," Metz said, "if that input [against gender-neutral housing] has not been shared, then at this point we need to move

forward."

Booher took the lead, and ASPLU presented a resolution in December 2012. A gender-neutral housing task force was primarily responsible for producing a report, providing recommendations and being the driving force for the continuation and productivity of this topic.

"We would not have been able to do this," Booher said, "without the help of those professional staff members who put in time and effort outside of their normal job description to make sure that this was the best policy proposal we

HOUSING
CONTINUED PAGE 3



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PHOTO BY QUINN HUELSBECK

DeLaRosby describes characteristics of the Finnish education system during last Tuesday's lecture entitled "Finland's Education System and What We Can Learn From It."

FINLAND CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Finland, also spoke during the lecture regarding his experience in the country.

He explained that once students get into a university, it is completely free.

"Students will often spend several years [in college] because they can have an extra job, take some time off and come back," Flanagan said. "It's not a race to get done in four years before your scholarships expire."

DeLaRosby then spoke about what the United States can learn from Finland.

There are no private schools, there are no standardized tests and DeLaRosby repeatedly emphasized equity in the Finnish system.

"The Finnish challenge and support their students. It's all about learning together," DeLaRosby said.

Students at the lecture expressed approval of Finland's education system.

First-year Lian Pauly said she was impressed by Finland's system.

"I like the way they don't rush you to do something. They allow you to figure out what you want to do and give you time instead of having you be put into

a four year expectation of college," she said.

Sophomore Jennifer Kness agreed.

"I like how they give you more options when you're younger," Kness said. "When you get to university, it's not 'how am I going to pay for all this?'" Kness said she is spending \$40,000 each year for college, but "I wouldn't have to worry about that in Finland."

DeLaRosby concluded by telling everyone the United States comes up with most of these ideas through scientific research, but only Finland chooses to implement them.

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HOUSING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

could put forward."

The task force and Residential Life spent January 2013 working together, looking at the best practices across the nation and applying them to PLU's specific conditions.

Residence Hall Congress, RHA and ASPLU have all approved the resolution for gender-neutral housing. It still needs to be approved by Vice President of Student Life Laura Majovski, among others.

The Board of Regents does not need to approve the resolution,

although they are constantly being updated on its progress.

Residential Life had already made changes in the housing questionnaire for the 2012-2013 school year by adding questions in efforts to provide options for safer, more comfortable housing for LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) students.

As of this school year, upperclassmen are permitted to live in gender-neutral apartments in South Hall. Many underclassmen or upperclassmen unable to afford accommodations in South that would be more comfortable living in a gender-neutral

situation are unable to do so.

"Students who want to live in a gender-neutral environment, or even just in a mixed wing, should not have to pay more or even leave the traditional residence hall housing if they do not want to," Booher said.

Gender-neutral housing will be accessible to all students if it passes this spring. It will include better access to more equitable housing and safer, more affirming housing. LGBTQ students were the spark behind it, but all students can apply to live there.

Students will not be placed in a mixed wing by random because there is an application

process. Students can also apply to live in a gender-neutral room within the mixed wing in which they will have a member of the opposite sex as a roommate. The regulations preventing any romantic affiliations between roommates are still in place and will not change. Unless married, those in romantic or intimate relationships will not be allowed to room together.

Hong Hall resident first-year Micah Baits said, "Having gender diversity can be a great experience, especially when it comes to living communities." Hong Hall is the only residence hall on campus with mixed-gender wings.

SEX, DRUGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rapes are unreported. College women are four times more likely to be sexually assaulted.

One of Garcia's final points was alcohol is a primary factor in rape cases. Garcia shared her account of being taken advantage of and emphasized the need for clear consent.

Sophomore Katie Patton said she was "surprised" by the statistics on sexual assault, but thinks "it is important for college students to be aware of."

Alcohol was in most areas of discussion. One question Garcia highlighted was, "when does use become abuse?" She said some key questions to ask when considering this are "what is your intention?" "What is your motivation?" "What benefits will you get?" "What do you want to be really good at?"

The "abuse to use" section hit home with athletes. Softball player senior Kaaren Hatlen,

said the presentation was helpful, especially to go through it as a team. Hatlen said Garcia presenting as a former student athlete "made it applicable."

Student athletes were required to attend the event.

Garcia explained that you can't have both: you can't be a really good athlete and a really good partier, you have to choose. This idea is equivalent with academics and partying, where students will need to choose which one means more to them.

Another key idea was "destroy you or drive you." Garcia said these are the two options when

something bad happens. She advised you let it "drive you" to be the best you can be.

This led into the "impossible versus I'm possible" part of the presentation. Garcia said no one can tell you that something is impossible, and to instead respond with "I'm possible."

Feedback following the presentation was predominantly positive. Sophomore Taylor Christensen said, "I really enjoyed Julia's presentation. I thought it was relatable in a lot of ways, and although the target audience was athletes, I felt as though I learned a lot as an RA."

Garcia's suggestions to stay safe:

- Have a designated Dave or Darla: designate a driver
- Buddy bodyguard: watch out for your friends' backs
- Make your own Minute Maid: don't let anyone make your drink so you know exactly what goes in it
- H2O is the refreshing way to go: drink water for each alcoholic drink you consume
- Fill the tank: be sure to eat
- Hop on the bull: drink Red Bull or another non-alcoholic beverage

What to do at PLU

Friday

Green Dot Bystander Skills Training, 3:30-6:30 p.m., Morken 103. A workshop to teach students how to act in high-risk situations to help make PLU a safer place.

Saturday

Elect Her: Campus Women Win. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. This unique training program teaches collegiate women how to run for and win student government positions. Register with the Women's Center.

Harstad Play Date, 8-10 p.m., Harstad Hall. De-stress with a trip back to childhood. Featuring caricature artists, a photo booth, arts & crafts, classic cartoons, henna, food and drink and a Nintendo 64 tournament.

Snow camping at Mt. Rainier with Outdoor Rec. Cost: \$30. Sign up at the Campus Concierge desk.

Sunday

Habitat restoration work party, 1-4 p.m. A student-led project supported by the Sustainability Office to replace invasive plants on the hillside south of the AUC with native species.



PHOTOS BY BEAU SMITH
 ABOVE: Softball players support each other during the more emotional parts of Julia Garcia's "Sex, Drugs, Alcohol & Everything in Between" lecture. BELOW: Guest speaker Julia Garcia invigorates the crowd with playful banter.

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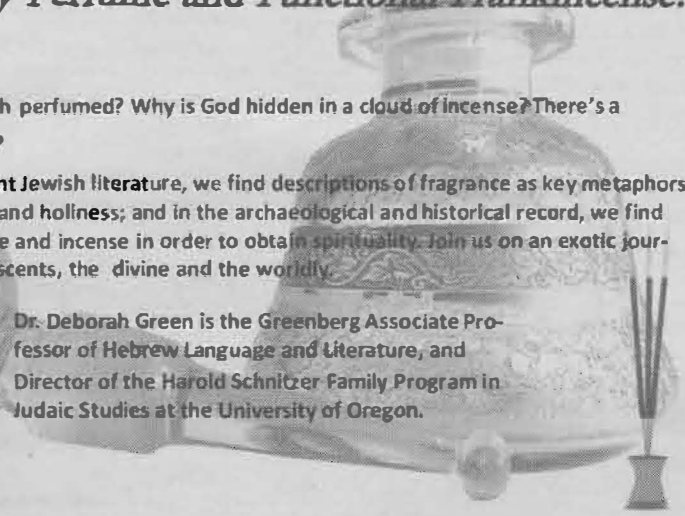
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Dr. Deborah Green is the Greenberg Associate Professor of Hebrew Language and Literature, and Director of the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at the University of Oregon.



CALL ME 'SHOW HOST'

Reflections from behind the microphone

By **KELSEY MEJLAENDER**
Copy Editor

There exists a fine but much lauded line that separates the public and those the public listens to. In our microcosm of Pacific Lutheran University, one such area is LASR — Lute Air Student Radio.

Every Friday night, I tune into "Call Me Ishmael" on LASR, one of 19 student-run PLU radio shows. The DJs of "Call Me Ishmael" play a variety of music, including international bands, and give listeners the message to

"live your life."

I listen with a sense of wonder, because a friend of mine — sophomore Richard Olson — co-hosts this radio show, and I know I'm not the only one listening.

Last Friday night, I had the opportunity to do more than just listen, however. Richard's partner on "Call Me Ishmael," sophomore Katie Ayres, had a family trip to attend. So Richard invited sophomore Kelli Blechschmidt and myself to join him as special guests.

We were able to pick out songs we wanted other Lutes to hear and come up with topics for discussion. I felt like Dorothy in

Oz, peering around the curtain to see how everything really works.

LASR, located on the ground floor of the Anderson University Center, has a small front room and then a larger back room where the actual shows are recorded and broadcast.

When a live show is not broadcasting, recordings of previous shows are playing, so students can always tune in. To listen to LASR, anyone can go to <http://www.plu.edu/lasr/> and select the "Click Here to Listen" button in the upper right corner to run the station through iTunes.

Students on campus can also go to TV channel 28 to hear the station.

Tonight, however, I wouldn't be listening to the show on my laptop, but actually participating. It was with great excitement that I, decked out with massive earphones, sat on a wooden stool in front of an intimidating black microphone waiting for 7 p.m.

The first thing I learned is that bad luck is even more commonplace behind the scenes. Technical difficulties plagued the start of the show, as several pieces of equipment decided they'd rather not work that night.

First, only Richard's microphone worked, so Kelli and I could only be heard faintly in the background through his.

I felt like Dorothy in Oz, peering around the curtain to see how everything really works.

Then the sound of our show was unreliable, occasionally not allowing us to hear ourselves through our headphones.

By the end though, Richard had ironed out most of the technical glitches, and we were able to focus more on what we said.

We spoke about love in honor of Valentine's Day, discussing possible results for a test called "The Five Love Languages," which Richard posted on the "Call Me Ishmael" Facebook page.

This was another thing I learned about being on a modern day radio show — social media matters. Instead of just describing the test, or directing listeners to find it for themselves, we merely had to post it on Facebook.

It's also a place listeners can

post their thoughts, which let us know what people thought of what we were saying while we were saying it.

Most of the other shows and LASR itself have Facebook pages for listeners to post comments on, ensuring easy communication.

At one point during the show, I mentioned a friend of mine, senior Caitlen Kay, because she helped influence my song selection. In response, she posted on the "Call Me Ishmael" Facebook page: "so that shout out just made my life. This radio station is officially my new favorite addiction. Thanks guys!"

If you're interested in starting your own show, go to <http://www.plu.edu/lasr/> and select the "Want to be a Student DJ?" link to find an application.



New film about prescription abuse brings suspense, social critique

By **CAMILLE ADAMS**
A&E Writer

The much-hyped movie "Side Effects," by director Steven Soderbergh, is a thriller of Hitchcock proportions. The film is rumored to be Soderbergh's final project as a director, and it would be a fine film for the Oscar-winning director to retire on.

The film focuses on a married couple played by Channing Tatum and Mara Rooney. Rooney masterfully portrays Emily Taylor, a haggard young wife struggling to cope with the fall-out caused by her husband's arrest for insider trading.

As Emily faces her husband's release from jail and his re-introduction to her life, she relapses into depression, anxiety and suicidal tendencies.

With minimal dialogue to assist her in expressing Emily's inner battles, Rooney's disturbed, vacant expressions, mannerisms and distant tone all skillfully paint the picture of a deeply troubled individual.

Emily and many of her friends, co-workers and confidants seek pharmaceutical help for their life struggles. Characters in this film pop pills without hesitation: pills for interviews, pills for sleep and pills for depression.

While the beginning of the film carefully emphasizes — without condoning — this pharmaceutical culture, the entire system comes under intense scrutiny after Emily commits a horrendous act, supposedly under the influence of a trial drug. Suddenly, lawyers, doctors and the media are all out to condemn one man — Emily's doctor.

Jude Law portrays this young professional, seeking justice for himself and his patient as his entire world falls apart. Law artfully engages the audience's sympathies, as throughout the film, his character continues to believe that right

can outweigh wrong.

The first half of the film lags before leading up to the major conflict that initiates a chain reaction of confusion and intrigue.

All characters are believable and sympathetic, with the exception of Dr. Victoria Siebert, portrayed by Catherine Zeta-Jones. Dr. Siebert's murky role throughout the film is the least compelling element of the mystery and also the most nonsensical in the conclusion.

The film contains many unexpected twists, but Soderbergh carefully leads the audience to the necessary conclusions. While it maintains an element of social commentary on the U.S. systems of law and medicine, the movie's focus switches to an intriguing mystery near the end.

Simultaneously suspenseful, surprising and compelling, "Side Effects" makes you care deeply for the protagonist, but then spend 30 minutes wondering who is truly in the right.

Through tinny string music and unusual camera angles, including some throwbacks to Hitchcock masterpieces, Soderbergh creates the atmosphere of a true thriller.

Oftentimes camera shots focus on individuals outside of the main conversation, or who are in another room, while playing the voice-overs of other characters.

This method allows the audience to observe the usually hidden expressions and feelings of characters throughout the film, adding to the uncertainty surrounding their mental states.

"Side Effects" questions our over-medicated and over-diagnosed culture, without condemning anti-depressants or the doctors who prescribe them.

The film leaves audiences satisfied with a well-constructed end but also contemplating larger issues. "Side Effects" is a must-see and a fitting end to Soderbergh's directing career.



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Fri, Mon-Thu: 2:45, 5:30, 8:15
Sat-Sun: 12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15

Silver Linings Playbook (R)
Fri: 3:20, 6:10
Sat: 12:40, 3:20, 6:10
Sun: 12:40, 3:20, 6:10, 8:55
Mon-Thu: 3:20, 6:10, 8:55

Lincoln (PG-13)
Fri-Mon: 1:35, 5:00, 8:05
Tue: 5:00
Wed: 1:35, 5:00
Thu: 1:35

Blacula (PG)
Fri-Sat: 9:09

Starlet (NR)
Tue: 2:15, 8:05

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PLUtonic and HERmonic set to sing at semifinals

By RACHEL DIEBEL
A&E Writer

For most people, the a cappella singing world of hit movies like "Pitch Perfect" and television shows like "Glee" is nothing but a good story. For the members of Pacific Lutheran University's a cappella groups HERmonic and PLUtonic, however, that world is a reality.

PLUtonic took home the top prize from this month's regional International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) competition, and HERmonic placed second. Both groups will advance to the semifinal competition in Los Angeles this April.

"It was pretty crazy," PLUtonic president, senior John Marzano, said. "We knew we did really well as soon as we walked off the stage, but knowing that the judges saw it was great."

The president of HERmonic, senior Marina Pitassi, had a similar reaction. "We feel so blessed that we placed. All the girls just kind of came together and stepped it up for the competition," Pitassi said. "We were so happy to have the guys there with us, our brothers in PLUtonic. It was so amazing to see them win, to share that."

PLU swept the competition,

grabbing not only first and second place, but two of three individual awards as well. Sophomore Sascha Julian won Outstanding Soloist for her two Beyoncé songs, "Independent Woman" and "Love On Top," and senior Julian Reisenhel won Best Arrangement for his arrangement of "Some Nights," "We Are Young" and "Beautiful."

"The award doesn't mean as much to me as HERmonic advancing to the second round," Julian said. "It was a great individual achievement, but I'm more excited for what we can accomplish in LA."

Both groups are already looking ahead to the competition in Los Angeles. "I'm nervous and prepared," HERmonic member, first-year Megan Zink said. "I'm definitely nervous, but it's good. Nervousness makes you more prepared, and it makes you do a lot better on stage."

PLUtonic expressed confidence as well. "I'm sure we're going to practice like, every day leading up to it," PLUtonic member, senior Daniel Frerichs, said. "Just keep running our set until we get so comfortable with it that it doesn't matter that we're in front of an audience or judges, because it's just us doing our thing."

Even through the excitement and nerves, both groups are aware of what their winning streak and the potential to move on in the competition mean for PLU.

"No matter how big or small, I think it's a big thing to be a part of PLU's success and represent them in a big way," HERmonic vice president, senior Hannah Voss, said. "It just shows that PLU is awesome and HERmonic and PLUtonic are really ready to show ourselves and what we can do."

However, the groups said the biggest thing to come out of the competition was the feeling of community and belonging that members felt.

Before HERmonic went on stage, they had a "little circle time" during warm ups. "We had a moment to edify each other with words of encouragement that were really awesome," Voss said. "I think that was the point during the day where there was an extra closeness."

The ICCA West Region semifinals will take place at the University of Southern California on April 6 at 7 p.m.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL DIEBEL

HERmonic rehearses in the Mary Baker Russell Music Center after placing second in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella. Both PLUtonic and HERmonic are advancing to semifinals in California this April.

"No matter how big or small I think it's a big thing to be a part of PLU's success."

Hannah Voss
Senior, HERmonic Vice President



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A night at The Oscars

The nominees least likely to go home empty-handed

By RACHEL DIEBEL
A&E Writer

Every year, pretty people in fancy dresses and tuxes gather together in a mystical land called Hollywood and receive shiny golden awards.

Everyone agrees that the Oscars are voted on primarily by old white men and don't necessarily represent the best movies of the year, but we keep watching them anyway.

We can't get enough of the splendor of this swanky event, the enjoyment of seeing what the crazy celebrities will say next or the fun of trying to predict who will win.

This year, there is the usual mix of some categories that are considered "locked" and some that will be up in the air until the moment the envelope is opened onstage.

Best Actress falls into the "locked" category.

Jennifer Lawrence has won the category in every major award show so far and will

likely clinch it again come the big night. She portrays Tiffany, a widow with a lot to say in "Silver Linings Playbook."

Quvenzhané Wallis won't be winning for her role in "Beasts of the Southern Wild" this year, but she set a record as the youngest actress ever to have been nominated in the category.

Anne Hathaway, nominated for her role in "Les Misérables," is a probable winner in the Best Supporting Actress category. Hopefully "Les Mis" will win for makeup and hairstyling too, considering that Hathaway's stylist had to dress in drag to appear on camera in order to shave her head in real time.

Less certain are the male equivalent awards for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor.

Daniel Day-Lewis and Hugh Jackman took home the prizes at the Golden Globes for "Lincoln" and "Les Misérables" respectively, where dramas and musicals are judged separately, so it's a good bet that one of them will win at the Oscars as well.

Day-Lewis has received the Oscar love previously, winning twice in the past, most recently for

"There Will Be Blood." Jackman, however, is a first-time nominee, which could work in his favor.

The other nominees — including Bradley Cooper, Joaquin Phoenix and Denzel Washington — haven't received much buzz and will likely come home empty handed.

While the award for Best Picture isn't exactly a lock, "Argo" has been receiving a late push, winning several awards and showcasing Ben Affleck's directorial skills enough to win him a Golden Globe.

Ironically, Affleck didn't even get nominated for the Best Director category at the Oscars, making him one of the most talked-about snubs at this year's awards.

"Argo's" late success, combined with Affleck's Golden Globe, will probably give the film the boost it needs to win Best Picture.

"Lincoln" is a close runner-up. Academy voters tend to love historical dramas, and Lincoln has been getting mostly positive hype.

The awards ultimately don't matter and some of the winners

will sink back into obscurity as soon as they have their statuettes — name one past winner for best documentary short for example.

However, The Oscars continue to provide generations of people with an escape into the glamorous fantasyland of Hollywood.

The Oscars
air on
Feb. 24
at 4 p.m.
PST
on ABC.



Reader's Digest

February's top stories in review

By **BENJAMIN QUINN**
Photo Editor

TOP MIDDLE: Pope Benedict XVI announces his impending resignation, continues his farewell tour. (AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

TOP RIGHT: The Carnival Triumph cruise ship arrived late Feb. 14, in Mobile, Ala., after an engine-room fire left the ship powerless off Mexico last weekend. A tent city is built on the disabled ship for people to use to escape the lower deck stench. (AP Photo/Don Hoggatt)

MIDDLE LEFT: New Secretary of State John Kerry, greets Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., after he was sworn-in in as the 68th secretary of state in a ceremonial swearing-in at the State Department in Washington, Feb. 6. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

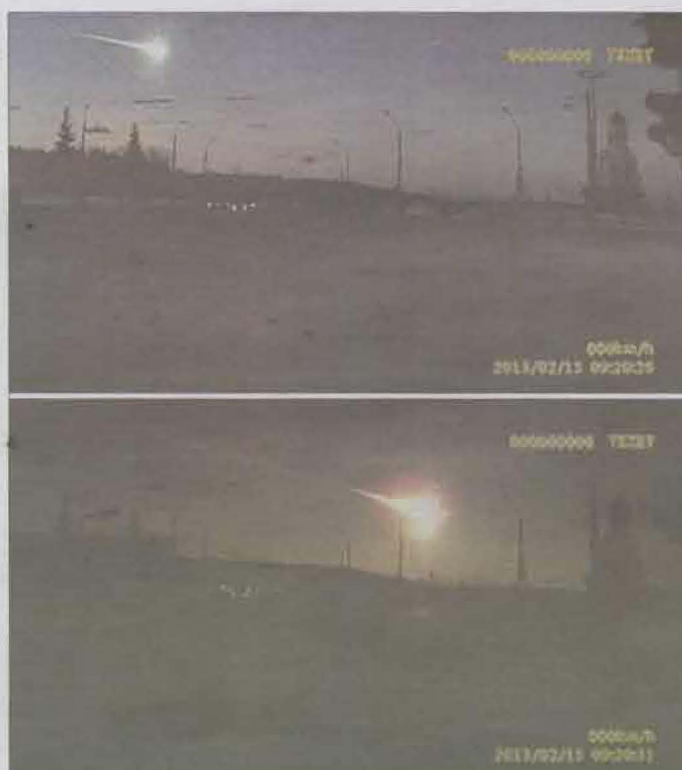
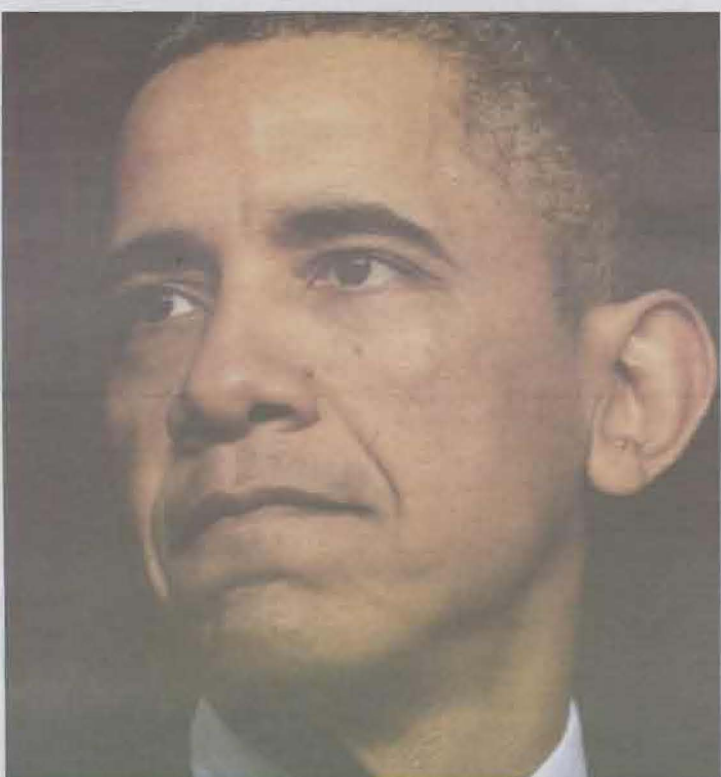
CENTER: Somalian refugees and members of the Refugee Women's Alliance gather during the Refugee and Immigrant Legislative Day rally on the Capitol steps in Olympia, Wash., on Feb. 14. (AP Photo/The Olympian, Tony Overman)

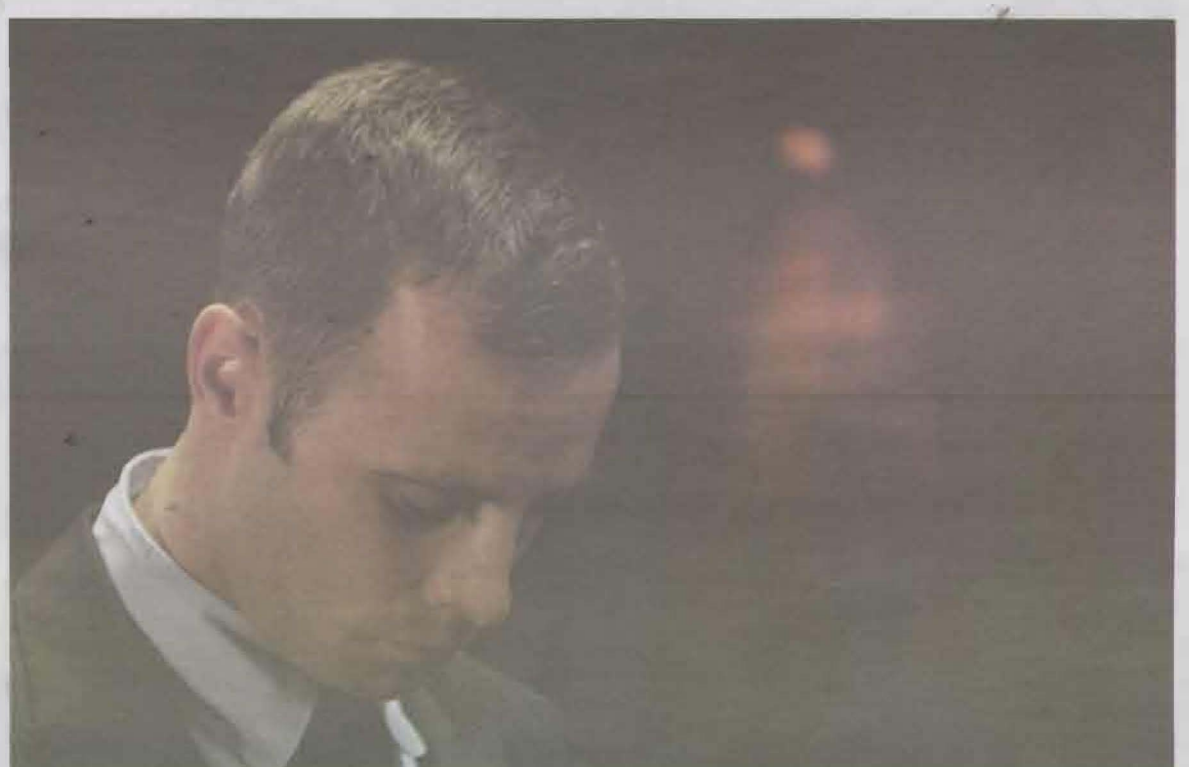
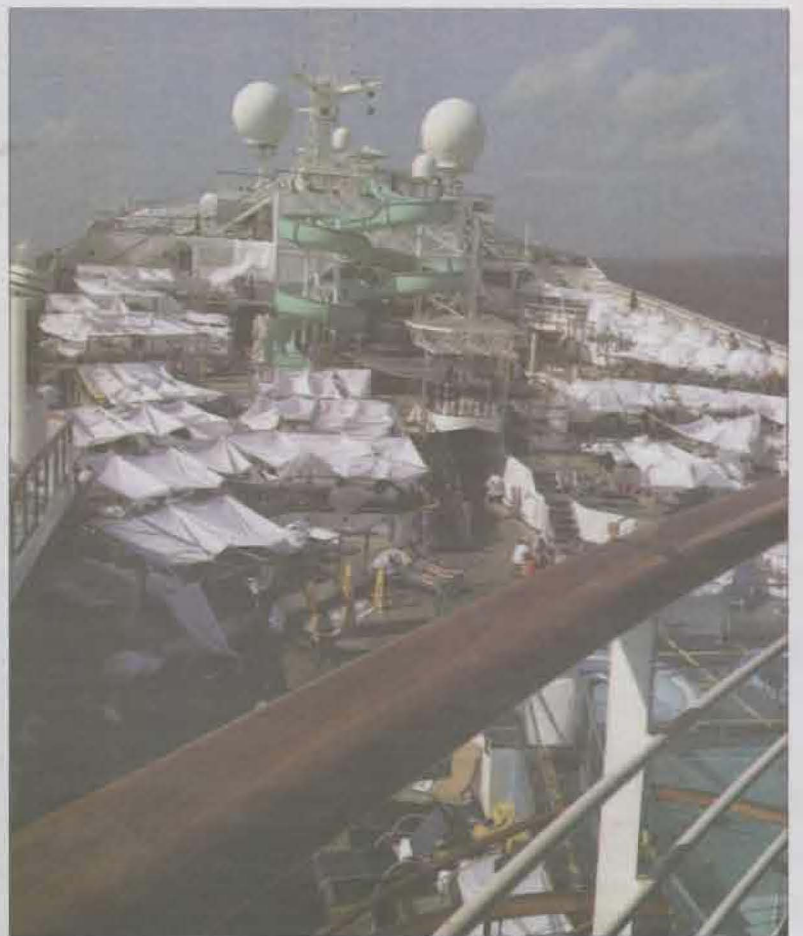
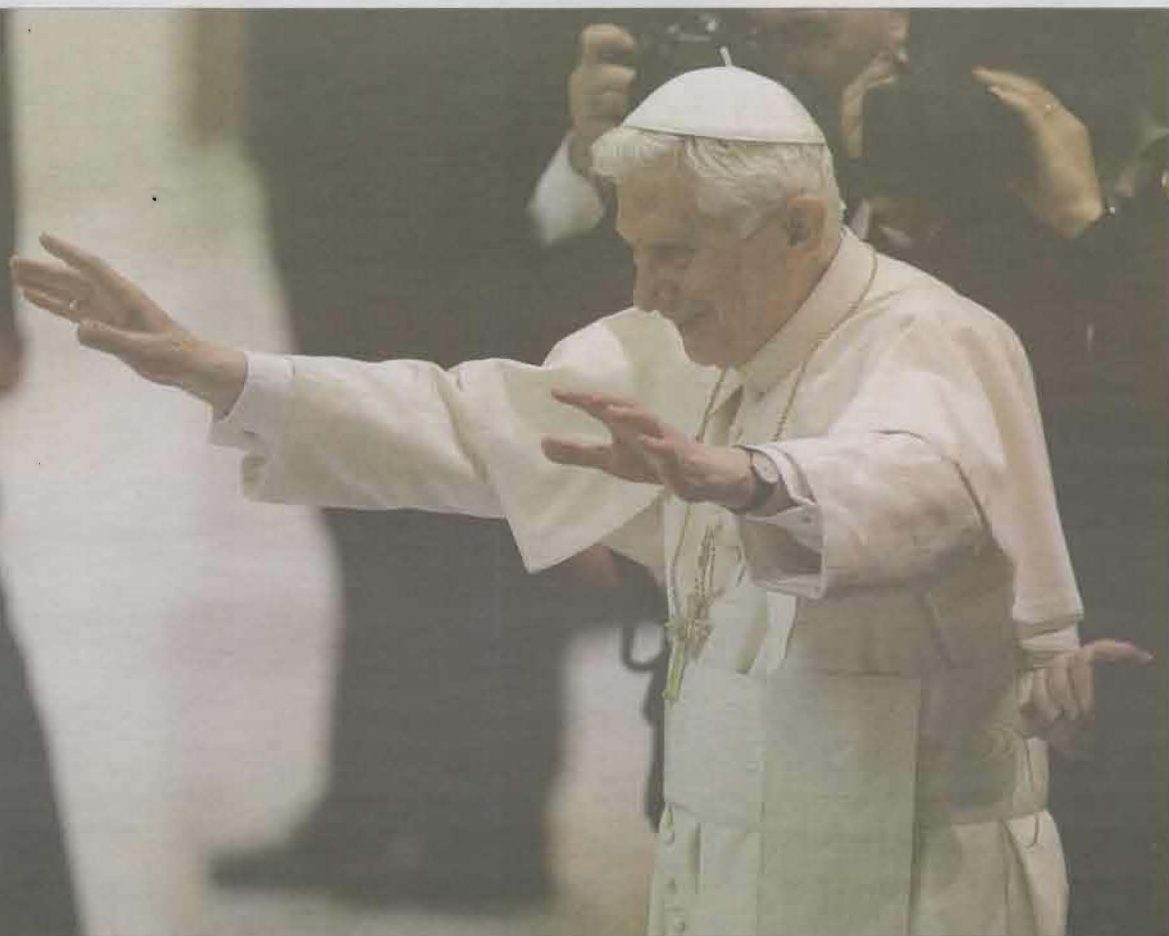
MIDDLE RIGHT: Rep. Bob Gardner, R-El Paso County, speaks against a bill that would limit the size of ammunition magazines at the Capitol in Denver, Colo. on Feb. 15. (AP Photo/Ed Andrieski)

BOTTOM LEFT: President Barack Obama speaks about the sequester on Tuesday. The White House says workers, including emergency responders, could be affected if state and local governments lose federal money as a result of budget cuts. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

BOTTOM MIDDLE: In this combo made from frame grabs from dashboard camera video, a meteor streaks through the sky over Chelyabinsk, about 1500 kilometers (930 miles) east of Moscow, on Feb. 15. (AP Photo/AP Video)

BOTTOM RIGHT: Olympic athlete Oscar Pistorius, who is accused of killing his girlfriend, stands at his bail hearing in Pretoria, South Africa, on Wednesday. (AP Photo/Themba Hadebe)





LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Stereotyping is an inevitable practice for all

By **KELSEY MEJLAENDER**
Copy Editor



In a country suffocated by political correctness and extreme sensitivity, every student of our generation has been warned about the danger of stereotypes. Whether it's from school, parents or even us here at *The Mooring Mast*, strict orders blare to avoid stereotyping at all costs.

While the advice is not out of place, it can suffer from what the very definition of a stereotype embodies — oversimplification. The sheer number of stereotypes guarantees that no matter how you try and characterize someone as a unique individual, that person will fit in with at least part of a standard image.

All stereotypes have a source, though only some find that origin in an honest case. It might have been born of an example that is simply the easiest to see when one doesn't try and examine too deeply — like the idea Asian American kids have strict parents.

It might be a complete fabrication to validate evil — like the illusion

of the angry, sexually deprived black man, which partially owes its creation in America to those who struggled to explain the existence of relationships between black men and white women.

Stereotypes are for the first impression. They are how we organize people in our heads and sort them as we, for some reason, feel the need to do. Once you come to know a person, stereotypes rarely have any further practical application.

Until that point, however, stereotypes flourish. A diverse and extremely varied population necessitates a wide range of stereotypes, which, cut and pasted together, form a collective patchwork of humanity.

Even people who try and defy norms have their own set of stereotypes: the rebel, the outcast, the hipster.

Take, for instance, this fictional character Alex. Alex is an incredibly strong bodybuilder with huge muscles who is always in the gym. Right now, you might be envisioning Alex as your standard muscle-headed giant who doesn't have enough brains to fill a teaspoon.

Actually, Alex is incredibly ambitious, and uses that unique muscle mass to stand out and try and achieve national fame, perhaps through one of many available reality television shows. Now you're envisioning professional wrestling and a sweaty man thumping his

chest, roaring at the crowd. Except Alex is a woman.

At once the image changes, and it can go two main ways. One, she's a hungry-for-fame, conniving woman who only differs from the stars of "The Real Housewives of Miami" in her method of achieving national prominence. Or she's a lesbian, because she's female but also extremely muscular.

For every unique trait, for every unexpected twist in a person's story or character, there seems to be a stereotype laid out ready to entrap them.

The success lies in the ability of stereotypes to be both vague and specific. There is the nerd with glasses and pimples and the bad boy with a leather jacket and motorcycle — both can also fit in the outcast category. There's a stereotype for everyone.

I can now give the same tried and true and tired advice: stereotyping is a problem that lessens our ability to see each other as individuals.

But perhaps we can take this one step further.

Don't try and simply avoid stereotyping — that is impossible. Instead, recognize that one stereotype cannot contain every aspect of one human. Stereotypes splinter — they shatter when they encounter the human identity. Bits and pieces of several stereotypes may stick, but rarely will you find a person with whom one stereotype blended perfectly and enveloped seamlessly.

But if you catch yourself thinking how your best friend fits the mold, how your parents are so typical, how you yourself seem to conform to one of our many stereotypes, don't despair.

Recall that we do not change to fit stereotypes — they multiply in the attempt to encompass us.

"Recognize that one stereotype cannot contain every aspect of one human."



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a feminine critique

Oral birth control pills may soon be an option for men

By **RUTHIE KOVANEN**
Guest Columnist



Imagine a world where men, rather than women, take a monthly birth control pill. This world is closer than you'd think.

Recent research on BRDT — a protein required in sperm production — reveals the possibility of an oral birth control pill for men. Yes, you read correctly.

BRDT is a protein that is required in spermatogenesis, the biological process that creates sperm. A team of scientists, however, discovered that a substance named JQ1 could inhibit BRDT, which would in turn obstruct the production of sperm.

Research on mice has shown that this hormone-free method of contraception is effective, totally reversible and has no visible long-term effects.

To date, no research has been done on humans. For this reason, many scientists await further research in order to examine the effectiveness and safety of JQ1 in humans. The findings were published in the scientific journal "Cell" in August 2012.

If you can believe it, this is not the first method of contraception for men. Well-known methods include condoms and vasectomies, but hormonal gels and injections exist as well.

The idea of birth control for men is perceived by many as controversial. Some believe that "the pill" for men — a possibility thanks to the research mentioned above — would be unnecessary since many different forms of contraception already exist. With condoms, birth control pills for women and injections to name a few, many believe that an additional method is redundant.

Others assert that a contraceptive that actually inhibits sperm production is logical. It seems sensible to stop the production of sperm at the source rather than obstruct its entry.

One of the principal questions is, "would people really use this?" Many researchers believe that men who already use methods of birth control, such as condoms, would be ready and willing to accept their own birth control pills.

Others are not so sure. When interviewed by ABC News, web

editor Amy McCarthy said she would continue to use additional means of birth control when "dating around," because "there's no way I would trust someone that I'd been on just a few dates with [to take the pill]."

This statement reiterates the importance of discussing contraception with your partner. In any relationship, including when you're just "dating around," birth control should be discussed and not just assumed.

Clearly, opinions are varied, and more research needs to be done before this type of contraception becomes widely available.

Ruthie Kovanen hails from the great state of Michigan, is a sophomore at Pacific Lutheran University and is studying anthropology, Hispanic studies and women's and gender studies. Aside from reading and writing about feminism, Ruthie enjoys chatting over a cup of coffee, baking bread and spending time outdoors.

What are your opinions on a birth control pill for men?

Would you use it?

answer our poll at facebook.com/mooringmast

Scandals keep sports stars from being heroes, role models

By **BRIAN BRUNS**
Columnist



The Miami New Times broke news in late January that a Miami clinic was peddling performance-enhancing drugs (PED) to some big name

professional athletes.

Alex Rodriguez, third baseman for the New York Yankees, is the biggest name on the list.

Rodriguez stands to lose millions of dollars based on agreements he signed with the New York Yankees after already admitting to using PEDs in a 2009 press conference.

The sad thing is this story is nothing new. The narrative of the disgraced athlete has become commonplace and only continues to remind society that athletes are not heroes.

Sometimes they're not even good people, but that doesn't stop many of us, it is writer included, from respecting and often idolizing them for their amazing accomplishments.

Part of our idolization of athletes stems from the value we place on entertainment in our culture. We spend more money keeping ourselves entertained than any other country in the world.

Their personal stories of triumph or overcoming tragedy also mesmerize us.

Lance Armstrong is a great example. A cancer survivor and founder of the cancer support foundation Livestrong, Armstrong won seven consecutive Tour de France titles. We wanted desperately to believe his story was true.

Armstrong was stripped of those titles and banned from cycling due to his use of performance enhancing drugs. Armstrong now faces multi-million dollar lawsuits from every

direction and will likely owe the federal government millions as well.

A more recent story is that of Paralympic sprinter Oscar Pistorius. Pistorius was one of the famed athletes of the 2012 Olympic Games in London. A double amputee since age 11, he made history and headlines just for showing up. Blade Runner, as he is called, is considered one of

the greatest Paralympians in the world.

Pistorius now faces murder charges in South Africa after authorities allege he shot his girlfriend four times through a bathroom door in their house.

The list goes on and on. Professional athletes are capable of things that 99 percent of us are not. It's hard not to be in awe of someone who can run

faster, jump higher or lift more than we could ever dream.

However, we take it too far when we assume these physically exceptional human beings are exceptional in all aspects of their lives.

When we're really looking for are the sports heroes our parents grew up with. More accurately, we want our own sports heroes to mirror the perception we have of our parents' heroes. We want their character to be as solid as their performance is on the field.

The only thing we can assume about great athletes is that they're simply just that, great at letes. We can't assume for a second that Most Valuable Player translates at all into Most Valuable Person.

Brian Bruns is a father, a husband and a U.S. Army veteran. Sarcasm, wit and a good cup of coffee are all keys to his success. He can usually be spotted Thursday night working for Mast TV's News @Nine or Friday nights hosting Lutes, Listen Up! on LASR.

"It's hard not to be in awe of someone who can run faster, jump higher or lift more than we could ever dream."

Courageous or cowardly: motives behind anonymous compliments and confessions

By **ANNA SIEBER**
Columnist



They seem like any other Facebook newsfeed — until you start to read. One newsfeed's post says, "Soooo, I'm

a girl and I think it's best to have an amazing sexual relationship with myself. I only include men when they behave themselves. :)"

The second newsfeed has a post that reads, "Girl in the gym with your hair up, in a white adidas shirt with green lettering and black adidas shorts. Watching you work out was breathtaking, I had to retake my inhaler when I saw you. :)"

If you don't know what I am talking about, then either you are social media-free or have been living under a rock for the last month.

Pacific Lutheran University Compliments began in early December and P Lutheran U Confessions started in late January. Since the end of J-term, there has been a boom of activity on these pages.

Like any great social media phenomenon, Compliments and Confessions come complete not only with grammatically incorrect "yours" and "theres," but also a great deal of entertainment for those who tune in, no matter how unrealistic some of the confessions may be. Honestly, no one is going to believe that

people like to lather themselves up in Vaseline and roll around like a slug, especially when it is a recurring post for confession pages.

It is not worth asking why students are following these pages. People are sick and twisted and want to know what sort of sick and twisted things their peers are doing. People are curious, and perhaps looking for a pick-me-up, so they want to see who is getting attention from anonymous compliment posters.

Students are posting things anonymously rather than simply spreading the love — or the secrets — in person, with a clear signature. Saying something "risky" to someone's face is scary. So. Very. Scary.

But, if it is something that needs to be said, then there is no reason not to simply say it in person. The way I see it, there are two reasons why people are resorting to these anonymous forums: passivity and entertainment.

People are, by nature, not particularly courageous about saying what they really feel, especially when it is something nice or something embarrassing. These things do not have to be said, but sometimes it feels good to get it off the chest, like unloading some shameful burden.

There is a certain level of awkwardness — and some serious guts — involved in telling someone they are attractive, or have a heart of gold, or that they give you butterflies every time you see them — or that you puked on their doorstep last weekend.

However, it is easy, and much lower-risk, to tell an anonymous Survey Monkey — the site

through which the posts are run. Maybe by doing so, it will give the other person — perhaps the object of your affection — the courage to come to you. You don't have to do any of the real work.

Then there is the entertainment factor.

People write outlandish stories — or share real ones — as a way to entertain people. It provides something to read instead of studying. It gives people something to talk about in line at Old Main Market. The weird things people do — and the weird ways they go about complimenting others — are endlessly fascinating.

Oh, and maybe there is a third reason, too: ego. People want to know if someone is writing about them or someone they know. It adds the mystery of "who wrote this?"

Anonymity may not even be entirely the point. A number of the posts end along the lines of "xoxo your love." The signature is in the hands of the poster.

Maybe people want others to know what they did last weekend or who they have a crush on. Maybe they are hoping someone will find out. Maybe these pages will spread the love and honesty.

As the administrator of Compliments posted, "Hopefully at that moment when you click submit on the survey or post on the message, you can feel that you took that one step towards making someone's day. It's what this is all about and it should spread beyond the glare of a computer screen."

Then again, people probably have their ulterior motives.

Anna Sieber is a first year social work and English double major with a possible minor in philosophy, political science or some other subject. We'll see how it goes. She likes long walks on the beach, candlelit dinners in residence halls and enjoys sunbathing on the dark side of the moon. Over J-term she found the tunnel to the bomb shelter under Red Square—she'll tell you about it too, but only if you ask nicely.

"There are two reasons why people are resorting to these anonymous forums: passivity and entertainment."

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1	M	2	A	3	R	4	E	5	S	6	M	7	I	8	L	9	A	10	R	11	O	12	S	13	A
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64	S	65	T	66	E	67	M	68	L	69	O	70	P	71	S	72	S	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Baseball

Upcoming Games
 Today at Corban, 2 p.m.
 Today at Linfield, 5 p.m.

Previous Games
 Win(7-3): Feb. 10 at Whittier
 Win(7-4): Feb. 9 at Redlands

Softball

Upcoming Games
 Tomorrow at Pacific, 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m.
 Sunday at Lewis and Clark, 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m.

Previous Games
 Win(3-0): May 21 vs. Linfield (National Championship game)

Men's Tennis

Upcoming Matches
 Today at George Fox, 3 p.m.
 Tomorrow at Willamette, 11 a.m.

Previous Matches
 Win(5-4): Feb. 16 vs. Pacific
 Win(8-1): Feb. 15 vs. Linfield

Women's Tennis

Upcoming Matches
 Today vs. George Fox, 3:30 p.m.
 Tomorrow vs. Willamette, 1 p.m.

Previous Matches
 Win(7-2): Feb. 16 at Pacific
 Win(5-4): Feb. 15 at Linfield

Track and Field

Upcoming Meets
 March 1-2: Linfield Erik Anderson Icebreaker

Previous Matches
 (none)

Tennis talk

- The women's tennis team picked up its first conference win in more than two seasons, last Friday, against Linfield. The Wildcats won the NWC regular season title last season.

- Senior Tina Aarsvold was named the NWC Student-Athlete of the Week for women's tennis. The first from PLU since 2007.

* * * ATTENTION STUDENTS * * *

NON-DISCLOSURE OF "DIRECTORY INFORMATION"

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, popularly known as the "Buckley Amendment" and carrying the acronym "FERPA," governs the University's collection, retention, and dissemination of information about students. (The document appears in the Student Handbook.)

One category of information covered by FERPA is called "directory information." Pacific Lutheran University has designated the following items as directory information: student name, local and permanent addresses and telephone numbers, E-mail address, date and place of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, class standing, previous educational agency or institution(s) attended, major and minor fields of study, anticipated date of graduation (if that has not yet occurred), and degree(s) and award(s) conferred (including dates).

The PLU FERPA policy appears on the Student Handbook website for your review at: <http://www.plu.edu/student-handbook/code-of-conduct/FERPA.php>.

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If it is your wish that PLU NOT disclose "directory information" about you under any circumstance, you must come to the Student Life Office, Hauge Administration Building, Room 105, on or before February 20, 2013 to complete the appropriate form and meet with Laree Winer to understand fully the impact of the restriction. This restriction will remain in effect until the 10th day of the fall semester of the next academic year, unless you revoke it in writing.

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SHOUP SHOTS

Why did the basketball teams struggle?

By **NATHAN SHOUP**
Sports Editor

Well, this is awkward. There are no PLU basketball games this weekend. After three months of Lute basketball – it is over.

The men's and women's basketball teams wrapped up their 2012-2013 seasons last weekend against George Fox and Lewis and Clark.

The men (8-17, 6-10) finished in sixth place in the Northwest Conference (NWC) and the women (6-17, 3-13) finished in seventh place in the NWC.

With a combined record of 14-34, what went wrong?

Men's basketball

The Lutes lost career program assists leader James Conti to graduation last year, and it cost them.

Head coach Steve Dickerson experimented with the point guard position all season, and the offense never formed an identity.

Last season, the offense ran completely through Conti. The shifty point guard could penetrate defenses and create his own shot or hit an open shooter after drawing extra defenders.

Conti was also the team's leading scorer, scoring just under 14 points a game.

That is not to say the Lutes didn't have solid pieces in place this year, because they did.

Senior Cameron Schilling made a push for First Team All-NWC honors scoring 15.3 points per game (seventh in NWC) and grabbing 7.7 rebounds per game (third in NWC).

Seniors Andrew Earnest and Cam Reister provided an intimidating three-point threat. Earnest shot 43.1 percent

from behind the arc (fourth in NWC) while Reister shot 31.4 percent (20th in NWC).

As a team, the Lutes shot a .422 from deep. That was significantly improved from the .386 clip the team shot at last year.

First-year post Bryce Miller had the third most starts on the team (21) averaging 4.6 rebounds per game (second on team) and scoring 6.4 points per game (fourth on team).

The team was better than its record showed, but they were a James Conti short of advancing to the NWC Tournament. The top four teams in the conference advance to that tournament.

Each of the Lutes' final five conference losses were by six points or fewer. If they found a way to win five of those games, they would likely be playing in the NWC Tournament this weekend.

The 2012-2013 men's basketball team was formidable, but Conti left a irreplaceable crater in the Lute's lineup.

Schilling, Earnest and Reister are joining Conti in the alumni category next year. The 10 underclassmen on the roster will be needed.

Women's basketball

For the third consecutive season, the women's basketball team finished in the bottom third of the Northwest Conference.

The struggles for the 2012-2013 women's basketball were highlighted by youth – the team didn't have a senior – and by a lack of weapons – the team finished seventh in the conference in scoring (52.2 points per game).

Not scoring many points can pass if the team plays solid defense, but that was not the case. The Lutes were also seventh in the conference in scoring defense. Opponents scored more than 65 points per contest.



PHOTO BY HEATHER PERRY

Senior Cameron Schilling wrestles for the ball during the Lutes' 55-50 season-ending loss to Lewis and Clark. Schilling was named Second Team All-NWC. He led the team in scoring (15.3 points per game) and rebounding (7.7 per game).

When the team is scoring just more than 52 points per game and allowing 65 points per game, it is going to be a long season – and it was. The Lutes started the season on a six-game losing streak and finished the season on a 10-game losing skid.

A blaring sign of youth on a basketball team is turnovers, and the Lutes turned the ball over almost 19 times a game. Only Willamette was worse in the conference.

Junior Samantha Potter was a bright spot for the Lutes, scoring 13.4 points (fourth in the conference) and grabbing nine rebounds (second in the conference) per game.

Six of the 11 players on the Lutes' roster this season were first years.

Victory lap

On Tuesday, Schilling was named Second Team All-NWC. Last year he was named to the Honorable Mention team.

A strong case certainly could have been made for Schilling to join the first team. He finished seventh in the conference in scoring and third in rebounds.

"I was definitely hoping in the back of my mind that I would make first team because of the individual success I had," Schilling said. "A lot of the league voting stems from team success too, and most of the guys, if not all of them, that are on first team play for playoff teams."

Five of the six players named to the first team are on playoff teams.

The Mast Spring Sports pick 'em

By **NATHAN SHOUP**
Sports Editor

Swing and a miss. The entire Mast Spring Sports pick 'em league said the men's basketball team would down Lewis and Clark in the season final Saturday. The entire league was wrong – PLU fell to the Pioneers 55-50.

So count last week as a bye week for the entire field. Everyone is tied for first place. Everyone is tied for last place. That will change this week however.

On Saturday, the Stanford Cardinal (15-11, 6-7) travel to Eugene to play the No. 23 and Pac-12 leading Oregon Ducks (21-5, 10-3).

Five members of the league picked Oregon, leaving Hegge, Tacuyan and DenAdel with Oregon.

It is no secret there are a large number of Duck fans on campus, so this game is relevant, and meaningful in the Pac-12 standings. Oregon owns a one-game lead for first place over

Arizona and UCLA.

Oregon has won six more games than Stanford and judging the overall records and national rankings, Oregon is the smart pick – right? Not so fast.

After jumping to No. 10 in the Associated Press poll on Jan. 28, the Ducks dropped three in a row. It is only fitting that Stanford was the team to start Oregon's three-game skid – by 24 points.

Tipoff is at 5 p.m. on Saturday. Someone is guaranteed to get it right this week.

**Stanford
Cardinal**

at

**No. 23 Oregon
Ducks**

Kyle Peart
track thrower
pick: Ducks
record: 0-1

Peart didn't just pick Oregon. He picked them by 15. That is a confident choice for someone who is 0-1.

Melanie Schoepp
Lute sports fanatic
pick: Ducks
record: 0-1

Schoepp owns more University of Oregon gear than PLU gear. So her Duck prediction was foreseen. "Are you really even going to ask me!?" she said.

Jacob Olsufka
baseball player
pick: Ducks
record: 0-1

Olsufka may take the most pride in game research out of anyone in the league. He chose Oregon because they are 15-1 at home. They have also dropped three of their last six games including their lone home loss, Jacob.

Alan DenAdel
cross country stud
pick: Stanford
record: 0-1

I questioned last week if there was a correlation between cross country running and game predicting, and DenAdel is 0-1. Then again, the entire league missed last week, so the verdict is still out.

Dustin Hegge
NWC golf MVP
pick: Stanford
record: 0-1

"Couldn't care less. Go Dawgs [University of Washington]! I guess Stanford though. I want to see an upset," Hegge said. At least he picked a school in the same conference. Golfers.

Haley Harshaw
softball standout
pick: Ducks
record: 0-1

Like Olsufka, Harshaw picked Oregon on the basis of home-court advantage. Her schedule gets much busier with the softball team opening its season this weekend. It could be a factor. The fall champion, Allison McDaniel, was a non-athlete.

Arvid Isaksen
basketball player
pick: Ducks
record: 0-1

Unfortunately for Isaksen, he doesn't get to pick any more PLU basketball games, as his season ended last weekend. He does have more time to research matchups though. Look out.

Andre Tacuyan
swimming torpedo
pick: Stanford
record: 0-1

Similar to Isaksen, Tacuyan's season ended two weekends ago at the NWC Swimming Championships. Can the torpedo do damage this spring out of the water?

FROM HOBBY TO CRAFT

Tacuyan aids strong PLU swim team

By SAM HORN
Sports Writer

For sophomore swimmer Andre Tacuyan, swimming is more than exercise or simple fun — it is about winning conference championships.

While the Lutes did not win the 2013 conference title in men's swimming, Tacuyan aided the team's achievement of a fourth place finish during the Northwest Conference Championships two weekends ago.

The men's swim team was ranked No. 46 in the country in a poll released Tuesday.

Tacuyan placed 17th in the 200 individual medley at the NWC Swimming Championships with a time of 2:02.11, 11th in the 400 individual medley with a time of 4:26.88 and 17th in the 200 butterfly with a time of 2:06.84.

Tacuyan improved on his 400 individual medley time from last year by nearly two seconds. The individual medley combines all four of the swimming strokes — butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle — into one brutal event that tests swimmers' endurance to their core.

"This season was amazing and it



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Andre Tacuyan performs the butterfly stroke at a meet earlier this year. Tacuyan is a member of the PLU men's swim team that was ranked No. 46 in the country on Tuesday. It is the first time the men's swim team has been ranked since joining the NCAA Div. III ranks in 1998.

exceeded everyone's expectations," Tacuyan said. "I didn't do as well as I wanted to do this season, but it will make me try even harder to improve and get a

couple of school records next season."

The off-season for athletes is a time to rest the body, to rehabilitate if the athlete has any injuries and to prepare for the upcoming season. This involves gaining

muscular strength and endurance in cardio-related activities in an effort to become faster on land and in the water. To stay in shape, Tacuyan is enrolled in head swim coach Matt Sellman's conditioning swimming class this spring.

Tacuyan started to swim competitively when he was 10.

"I just wanted to learn how to swim, but I thought it was so much fun," Tacuyan said, that "my parents put me in competitive swimming, and I instantly fell in love with the sport."

Tacuyan is a marketing major with minors in graphic design and computer science. He is the director of marketing and graphic design at "Sacks of Love," which is a Washington state nonprofit that spreads awareness and raises money for testicular cancer research.

"[Graphic design] has grown into one of my biggest passions, and it's something I would want to do for the rest of my life," Tacuyan said. "I want to make a big impact on the world, and working for a company that makes big differences would help me achieve that."

After graduating, he aspires to join the design team for one his self-acclaimed "dream companies" — Facebook or Appie.

'Luteball' ready to defend title

Softball team ranked No. 1 in preseason poll

By SAM HORN AND
CHRISTIAN DILLWORTH
Sports Writers

The Lutes landed themselves at the top of NCAA Div. III softball last year, winning the national championship over Linfield.

The question becomes: can they do it again?

Pacific Lutheran is certainly in a good position to do so.

PLU is atop the preseason polls, receiving all eight first place votes from the representative coaches in each region.

The Lutes have also been picked to win the Northwest Conference but only received five first-place votes. Linfield, last season's NWC champion,

received the other three. The Lutes went 6-3 against Linfield in 2012.

Last season, the Lutes finished second in the NWC behind Linfield. PLU then knocked off Linfield in the NWC postseason tournament, earning an automatic bid to the regional tournament.

PLU is without the unquestionable leader of last year's national champion team, Stacey Hagensen, who graduated last spring. Hagensen was the NWC Pitcher of the Year and the Softball College Championship's Most Outstanding Player. She compiled a record of 28-5 with a 0.97 ERA. The phenom also hit .363 at the plate, amassing a team-high of 65 hits.

Despite Hagensen's graduation, PLU has several seniors to take her place and possibly lead the Lutes to another title. One of those seniors is infielder Glenelle Nitta. She started 55 of 56 games last season and batted .267 with two home runs and 18 RBIs.

Senior Kaaren Hatlen, a pitcher and infielder, will also help round out the effort for a second consecutive national championship for the Lutes. Hatlen led the Lutes last year with a .426 batting average, 10 home runs and 56 RBIs to earn first-team All-American honors in 2012 as a designated hitter.

Amanda Hall will return for her senior year after leading the Lutes with an astounding .995 fielding percentage. Her batting average, .374, was the second-highest on the team.

Other first-team all-conference returnees for the Lutes is senior outfielder Montessa Califano and junior shortstop Lindsey Matsunaga.

Head coach Erin Van Nostrand brought in five first years to the program. Alison Behrends — an outfielder from Marist Catholic High School out of Eugene, Ore. — was a three-time all-state outfielder.

Kelli Crawford, a pitcher from Franklin Pierce High School in Tacoma, could see playing time in the pitching rotation. She won numerous high school awards, namely 3A South Puget Sound League Pitcher of the Year awards in 2009, 2010 and 2011 and the Most Valuable Player of the 2A SPSL in 2012.

The Lutes did not play any non-conference games before their conference and season-opener tomorrow at Pacific. However, the Lutes will be making mid-season non-conference trips to Texas and Georgia.



PHOTO BY FRANK EDWARDS

Senior utility player Melissa Harrelson practices on the new synthetic surface field during softball practice last week. The FieldTurf provides an outdoor practice facility when the dirt softball infield is unplayable.

2013 home series

March 16-17: George Fox

April 2: Puget Sound

April 6: Lewis and Clark

April 7: Pacific

April 13: Linfield

April 14: Willamette

* all games are doubleheaders

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