

THE MAST

Pacific Lutheran University



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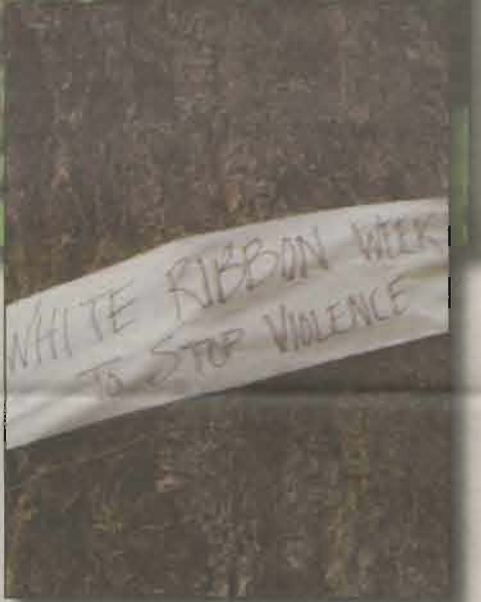
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VOLUME LXXXIX NO.9

White Ribbon Campaign



Top: PLU alumna Liisa Nelson helps to wrap trees in Red Square with white ribbons that signify the White Ribbon Campaign. The events for the campaign were sponsored by Men Against Violence and were aimed at informing students about facts regarding domestic violence. Right: A tree in Red Square bares the words "White Ribbon Week to Stop Violence" in honor of the MAV efforts during the week's White Ribbon Campaign.



Photos by Jordan Hartman

Men Against Violence raise awareness

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The third annual White Ribbon Campaign for PLU began this week and ends today with a table outside the U.C. all week long. At the table, students were encouraged to sign their names as advocates against violence at the table, get their photo taken and use the photo as their Facebook profile to spread the word against sexual violence.

"We need to start talking about [sexual assault]," Grove said, "and say 'it is not okay.'"

The White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) began in 1991 after a Montreal man killed 15 women in a graduate school program. Today, the campaign runs in 47 different countries and is in its third year at PLU.

"When we started [the program] we had roughly 500 students take part in it," Grove said.

Students were encouraged to wear

white T-shirts, have their picture taken at the WRC table and wear white ribbons this week to show their support.

Statistics vary, but it is estimated between one in four and one in eight women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime - 85 percent of the time by someone she knows.

The statistics for Pierce County are even higher, with one in three women assaulted in their lifetime. Over the last two years, 74 women at PLU have gone to PLU Victim Advocate Jennifer Warwick for help after an assault.

One in six boys under the age of 16 are assaulted. Men and heterosexual family members or friends usually assault the victims. Also, one in 33 adult men report being raped each year, by heterosexual male perpetrators.

Grove stressed that most high school boys are simply taught, "Do not be a rapist," with no further discussion on the matter. This implies a natural evil in all men that needs to be restrained without further information on the different types

of assault and abuse.

He also stressed that sexist comments need to be addressed.

"You might be really uncomfortable with [something someone says]," Grove said. "You may be the only one who says anything, but I guarantee you, everyone else is thinking [the same thing]. There is a sense of 'I am not by myself in this,' [once something is said]."

Studies have shown that rape is about control rather than attraction, making everyone vulnerable. Only about four percent of men commit sexual assault, and this year's campaign hopes to make the other 96 percent more vocal in their opposition against assault. However, discussion has been difficult and the campaign's first event, "The Blame Game," did not garner a lot of student attention.

"Just based on how men are taught to be men, it can be hard for guys to get on board with [discussing] it," Grove said.

The other focus of this year's campaign is the community support needed for

putting an end to sexual violence. "What it means as a community," Grove said, "I think is super important"

The Men Against Violence Program works with the Women's Center on community outreach and student involvement.

"If we are all looking out for someone's loved ones," Grove said. "We are all going to be in a much better place."

Those interested in volunteering either for the men or women's program can find more information at <http://www.plu.edu/~womencen/>.

Anyone who is the victim of an assault looking for resources may contact Jennifer Warwick at the Women's Center.

Live literary arts: Saxifrage hosts "A River and Sound Review" exposing students to poetry and showcasing student talent

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Students gathered in the Scandinavian Cultural Center Wednesday night for "A River and Sound Review" hosted by Saxifrage, PLU's premier literary arts magazine.

"On your mark, get set, go!" exclaimed Jay Bates, PLU alumnus and creator of "A River and Sound Review." Pencils danced across note cards as students rushed to put together a poem in four minutes.

The winner of the best impromptu poem was PLU alumna Abigail Fagan, who earned a BA in English creative writing. She received the chance to read her poem in front of the live student audience and have her voice projected internationally through a Podcast.

An array of other poets, including junior Jacob Harksen and graduate Kolby Harvey, presented a

variety of sensual and thought provoking poems.

"Now its time for 'Name That Book,' the game that's taking the width and breadth of this room by storm," Bates said, following a selection of Harksen's poems. In "Name That Book," a lucky participant drawn at random had to identify the titles and authors of three different books after only hearing a snippet of historical context and its opening line.

"After I created 'River and Sound Review,' one of the first things I wanted to do was bring it back to PLU," Bates said, who has graduated from PLU three times, the last of which was through the creative writing MFA program.

"Jay Bates came to us with the idea and asked us to sponsor it on campus," Saxifrage co-Editor Jake K. M. Paikai said. "It was a solid crowd that was really responsive, and I am really happy I got to read." Saxifrage is accepting fall submissions to the its publication until Dec. 1 and submissions for Spring until Feb. 27.



Photo by Ted Charles

From left: first-year students Jessica Reiter and Jamie Baits at the Saxifrage event participate in impromptu poem writing. The Saxifrage event, "A River and Sound Review," gave students the opportunity to experience literary arts and watch an open mic piece that showcased student poetry.

STATE, NATION and WORLD BRIEFINGS

Local to Global

Clinton weighing cabinet post



AP Photo by John Raoux

In this Oct. 20, file photo Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton greet supporters at the end of a rally in Orlando, Fla. President-elect Barack Obama is currently considering her for secretary of state.

Beth Fouhy
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO (AP) - Associates of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton said Wednesday the former first lady is weighing whether to leave the Senate and become Secretary of State in the Obama administration, a job they say she believes is hers if she wants it.

Transition officials for President-elect Barack Obama said other candidates have been vetted for the job. But the New York senator has emerged as the leading contender and the vetting of former president Bill Clinton has been particularly intense.

Associates say Hillary Clinton has been told that Obama wants her to be secretary of state, although accounts differ on how bluntly and directly Obama made the overture. The associates would speak only on grounds of anonymity because of

the private nature of the negotiations.

Face-to-face meetings between the transition team and lawyers representing the Clintons have ended, but aides to the president-elect said some final vetting is still under way.

Hoping to ease concerns about possible conflicts of interest, Bill Clinton has shifted a long-standing policy. He agreed to publicly disclose the names of all donors who have given more than \$250 to his presidential library and foundation. Officials were trying to work out the details on how to handle those who gave money on the condition that their names would not be revealed.

Friends said Hillary Clinton is torn about leaving the Senate, where she served for nearly eight years and where she had hoped to be a leading voice on health care and other issues. She is expected to make a decision very soon.

Democrats seek to lower expectations for bailout

Ken Thomas
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) - Top Senate Democrats suggested Wednesday that a bill to rescue Detroit's Big Three automakers was stalled. They challenged the Bush administration to take steps to save the industry if congressional efforts falter. The White House quickly rebuffed the suggestion.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada sought to lower expectations of reaching a deal on the \$25 billion proposal before Congress quits for the year.

President George W. Bush and Republicans in Congress have been reluctant to use the Treasury Department's

\$700 billion financial bailout program to finance the loans.

The White House wants Congress to draw the \$25 billion from an Energy Department program established to encourage production of fuel-efficient cars.

Perino said Wednesday the administration supports legislation to authorize just that, but will not go along with the proposal by Democratic leaders that an additional \$25 billion be taken from the government's existing \$700 billion Wall Street bailout fund.

A Senate vote on an automotive bailout plan, which would also extend jobless benefits, could come as early as Thursday, but it clearly lacks the necessary support to advance.

Calif. Supreme Court to take up gay marriage ban

AP News Wire
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - California's highest court has agreed to hear legal challenges to a new ban on gay marriage, but is refusing to allow gay couples to resume marrying until it rules.

The California Supreme Court on Wednesday accepted

three lawsuits seeking to overturn Proposition 8. The amendment passed this month with 52 percent of the vote. The court did not elaborate on its decision.

All three cases claim the ban abridges the civil rights of a vulnerable minority group. They argue that voters alone did not have the authority to enact such a significant constitutional change.

Code of conduct confusion

Students respond to citations through associations

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According to the Pacific Lutheran University Code of Conduct, if a person is written up for something it is a possibility for that person's roommate to face consequences as well. It is possible that Campus Safety can issue write-ups based on association with the person in question.

If you are out-of-state or simply out-of-town and your roommate gets written up you are written up as well, not as an accomplice, but for actually violating the conduct code of PLU. An individual is considered guilty until proven innocent, as the PLU standards state.

The policy directly states "Employees of the university have the responsibility to support the policies, rules and regulations of PLU. Students, as members of the community, have the right to address issues that may be incongruent with university policies, rules and regulations. Therefore, when a student's conduct appears to be in violation of university policies, rules or regulations, any student, staff, or faculty member may submit an Incident Report." Association aligns with those students who appear to be in violation of the university's policies.

Under the policy, if a person is present in another's dorm room, that is not his or hers, and Campus Safety issues a write-up, those charges can extend to any party within that dorm room. Whether they are a resident or of that room or not, they are required to attend a

hearing to prove his or her innocence.

"So, are students to search their friend's room to ensure their safety from a write up and further disciplinary action?" first-year Stephany Josey asked.

This issue is problematic, since some students have scholarships that can be put in jeopardy because of consequences from this association policy. If association is considered sitting in the room, then students are very susceptible to situations that could drastically effect their standing in the university's Code of Conduct system.

"If you are not present or not even part of the problem, then you should not be pulled in," an anonymous student said. "It is difficult to understand why a student who is not involved or part of the problem is written up."

Another student, who wished to remain anonymous, felt similar.

"It is unfair that you can be written-up automatically without being consulted by Campus Safety first," the anonymous student said.

Campus Safety takes all precautions in a given situation, which is the foundation of this policy. However, some students see problems with associating everyone who could be involved with the violation, writing them up and not allowing one person take the blame.

Some students feel there should be adjustments to the policy to make it more transparent.

"Make [the] citation process more clear," first-year Ikea Crawford said.

"Specify the specific rule broken rather than just placing everything under one big category, such as just 'alcohol,'" sophomore Courtney Hills said. "I believe this would make punishments more specific and fair."

To access information regarding this and other Campus Safety policies, visit the Campus Safety website www.plu.edu/campus-safety or e-mail them at campussafety@plu.edu.

Non-traditional turkey day

PLU students find alternative ways to spend the holiday

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Thanksgiving has been a traditional holiday most of us have spent with our families since before we can remember. If you ask one of your friends about a Thanksgiving memory, he or she would talk about his or her dad carving the turkey, fighting over the wishbone with siblings or helping his or her mom bake the pumpkin pie.

But now that we're in college, that changes for some people. With the economy and gas prices being as erratic as they are, not every PLU student will be able to make it home to family and friends for the long weekend.

For example, Kristen McNamara is unable to head home to Anchorage, Ala. for turkey day, so she plans to head to her friend Stephanie Stout's house in Bremerton, Wash. to spend the holiday with Stephanie and her family.

"We will probably be relaxing and helping Steph's mom cook," McNamara said. "But I have a biology exam the Tuesday we get back."

The luxury of having a good friend to spend the holiday with is not the case for all out-of-state students. Sophomore Allison Zumalt is unable to fly home to Sacramento, Calif. for Thanksgiving because plane tickets are too expensive for the holiday weekend. Instead, Zumalt will be spending the holiday on campus.

"I think something [that makes it difficult to stay on campus] is that the U.C. closes," Zumalt said.

Except for dinner on the night of Thanksgiving, the University Center dining hall closes at 1:35 p.m. Wednesday night and stays closed until Sunday.

Zumalt encourages students who will be on campus to have a plan such as finding friends to eat with.

Whatever you are doing for the long weekend whether it is spending some time studying for an upcoming exam, spending time with family and old friends or even spending the holiday here on campus, have a fun, safe and relaxing holiday.

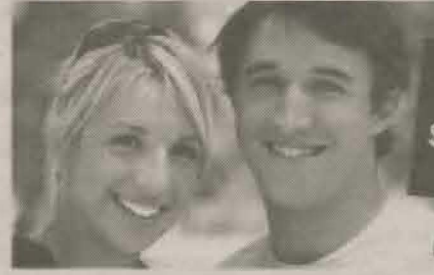
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'The Giving Tree' project gives back

PLU Rieke scholars provide the opportunity to sponsor a local child for the holidays

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As the holidays approach we are often distracted by shopping and parties. As a result we tend to forget those in need around our community. This holiday season, a team of Pacific Lutheran Rieke Scholars are providing a chance for PLU students and faculty to become involved.

"The Giving Tree" is a project designed for individuals to sponsor a child in the

Tacoma, Wash. community and buy him or her a gift for the holidays. The gifts are given to a local program through the Tacoma Rescue Mission called "Need-A-Break."

The program is designed for families who can't afford to give their children gifts for the holidays. Sandy Miller, an active volunteer at the Tacoma Rescue Mission, explains that "Need-A-Break" is meant to fill in the gap that the Tacoma Rescue Mission can't. She says that around the holidays the mission is at its busiest and they could use all the help they can get.

The families go through an application

process that allows the program to see if the families are eligible for donations. Miller explains that most of these families consist of single mothers who can't afford to purchase gifts for their children. The program is expecting a huge outcome of families to come in this year, especially with the way the economy has been.

"The Giving Tree" has been tabling the last couple of weeks in the University Center and is allowing students and faculty to sign-up to donate a gift. The gifts will be collected Dec. 1 - 6 in the Diversity Center and will be distributed to the Tacoma Rescue Mission the following week.

If you would like to find out more information on how to donate a gift, please contact Katelyn Umetsu at umetsukk@plu.edu.

If you wish to get involved in other ways, please contact the Tacoma Rescue Mission headquarters or visit its website at www.trm.org. Volunteer opportunities include helping kids in the transition centers, serving food and other types of programs.

"It's great to see the community come together," Miller said. "I love doing this. I absolutely love every part of it. If I didn't have to work, I'd just do this."

Embracing global education: PLU celebrates global academia with week of informative events

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This week, Pacific Lutheran University celebrated International Education Week. Though in its ninth year, it was the first year that the Wang Center, the Diversity Center and International Student Services came together to observe the event. Nationally, it is a joint effort through the Department of Education and the State Department.

The national theme was "International Education: Fostering Global Responsibility and Leadership." Here at PLU, fostering global responsibility and leadership is not a problem.

Currently, 236 international students study at PLU. In addition, 127 students are spending a semester abroad this year, which is higher than the national average of 2 percent.

"In today's world, and to be truly educated, I believe it is important to have a global perspective on your own major that you are studying, just to have this cross-cultural perspective or view on the world, Study Away Advisor for the Wang Center Megan Murphy said. "Studying away, or getting involved in international activities, opens your eyes to different people, different cultures and different languages. I think that's extremely important.

PLU has such a commitment that it's just the student taking the initiative or the dedication for that to really come full-force during their time here on campus."

Throughout the week, students had the opportunity to receive information about studying away during lunch. Also the University Center featured a display created by Sojourner and Diversity Center Advocates.

"Culture Talk!" was an event held on Wednesday where international and prospective study away students came together. Such discussion topics were what it meant to be an "international" student and what it was like to live in some

of the countries students might be travelling to.

The second "Gender and Sexuality Abroad: Get Prepared Before You Go!" session was held Wednesday, as a cooperative effort by the Wang Center and the Women's Center. Senior Tara Fouts' planned this forum as her Capstone project. It addressed the important issues regarding gender and sexuality differences between cultures.

"The one thing that I hope students take away from the forums is that PLU is here to support them while they study abroad and become a global citizen," Fouts said. "If they do experience catcalls, harassment, assault or rape there are resources on campus

that they can utilize while they are abroad and when they come home."

Such resources include host families, the Wang Center, PLU's Victim Advocate Jennifer Warwick, the Health Center, Student Life and Campus Ministry.

"The students have a strong support system and they need to know that we will believe them, respect them and we will not judge them," Fouts said.

"Global Get Down" is an event taking place tonight in The Cave from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. International music, local musicians and Korean, Finnish, Russian, Hawaiian, Chinese, Japanese and Trinidadian performances will be featured.

PLU reveals 'dirty little secrets'

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More than 75 students gathered in the Regency Room Monday night to discuss the taboos and stigmas surrounding sex. It was during the "Dirty Little Secrets" panel, hosted by students in Dr. Teresa Ciabattari's Introduction to Women and Gender Studies Class.

The panel included seven members of the Pacific Lutheran Community, including two students, three professors and two staff members. The panel discussed several topics involving sexuality and how it affects society - including pornography, religion, gender, sexual orientation bias and familial expectations.

Senior Salome Valencia, who led the planning of the event, said that she and her partners decided to host this panel to impact the entire PLU community positively.

"The goal of the panel was to make sexuality into something that can be discussed, and not something to be ashamed of," Valencia said.

Valencia chose the topic of stigmas partially because of the gender bias of U.S. society, including the degradation of sexually active women.

"I don't think we give women enough freedom to express themselves freely," Valencia said. "If a woman speaks out about sex, people think she's a slut or a whore."

Junior Breona Mendoza who also coordinated the event said that the panel re-evaluated the "idea of what 'dirty' means, why, and whether it's right." Mendoza and Valencia both shared their own enthusiasm for the project.

"I'm really excited to actually be talking about sex and see the reaction of the student body," Mendoza said.

The response from the student body was notable even before the event. Many students sent e-mails asking for more information, but others expressed dislike or disgust of the event's topic. Some students tore down posters promoting the event, which included samples of confessions about sexuality, like "When my roommate falls asleep, I have phone sex." Additionally, the Red Carpet Club encountered some problems with

the promotional signs because parents taking tours expressed confusion and concern about the signs.

The panel discussed a multitude of subjects related to sexuality and its stigmas. There was also additional comments and questions from the student audience, as well as the student coordinators. Subjects included the historical basis of the current U.S. view of sexuality, and biases about gender and sexual orientation - especially in pornography, questions of dominance and masturbation.

Dr. Ciabattari noted that sexual pleasure versus sexual reproduction remains particularly taboo. She said that the public often sees sex for pleasure as "indulgent, selfish, even gluttonous." Nick Martin, a senior religion major, added that this stigma often forces people to turn to popular media for discussion about sex.

"Sexual pleasure is being turned into something silly, rather than emotional or intimate, so that it's okay for it to be discussed," Martin said.

The panel also discussed the possibility of 'realistic' pornography to increase diversity and lessen the dominance and degradation common in pornography today.

After the event, the audience responded well to the panel.

"The event was fantastic," senior Teddy Krogh, another contributor to the event, said. "Questions that needed to be addressed here at PLU and this collegiate atmosphere were, and that's amazing."

Mendoza said that the entire WMGS class did projects to raise awareness on sexuality, including events on the question whether to have sex and men's sexual health. Mendoza and Valencia are also participating in a related project, Post Secrets. Like the popular online site, Post Secrets is accepting notes containing private thoughts and confessions, especially about sex. Valencia said that the group is hoping to receive enough to decorate the walls of The Cave during a HUMP in December.

The secrets can be sent anonymously via campus mail to "Dirty Little Secrets" in the Psychology Department or dropped off in the Post Secrets box in the Psychology Department foyer in Xavier.

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From the editor

Avoiding the art of avoidance

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I recently began step aerobics, my first physical education class since my stint in PE 100 as a first-year. I was dressed in my finest sweats for what I expected to be a dreadful experience. I remembered PE circa junior high, which can be summed up in one word: awkward. I didn't expect much to be new.

I was wrong.

Step has changed my sour attitude to one of awe and appreciation. Why had I waited until my last year to take advantage of a class so beneficial to me in so many ways?

Many times in my academic career at PLU, I have found myself griping about GURs and other 'have to's. I subsequently tried finding alternative methods of maneuvering around them. I used to believe that was what I wanted. To stay with the familiar.

Here I am, about to graduate in May and I have finally realized that I have missed out. Instead of agonizing for the past years about fitting in time to work out or finding a place offering diverse workout classes, I could have easily achieved those things by taking aerobics classes at PLU, and received credit too. Ever since this realization a few weeks ago, I have been wondering about what other opportunities I almost missed.

I applied to be LuteLife editor of The Mast at the end of my sophomore year. But, right before the beginning of the school year, I panicked. Why did I do this? I had no idea what I was getting myself into until that first layout night, which could have been one of the most stressful nights of my life.

But I stuck with it. I continued despite the feelings of fear and the unknown. If I had quit, I would have missed out on multiple opportunities. Including the privilege to be co-Editor-in-Chief and continue to learn, write and invoke change at The Mast.

And if I had stuck to only the familiar, I would also have missed out on other valuable life skills and experiences. I would have missed out on former hated delicacies like sushi because I had a huge prejudice against seafood. But when a good friend started working at a sushi bar, she made me try it. And, oddly enough, I enjoyed the roll with fried eel.

As students we rejoice when class is cancelled. We love finding out that we met that math requirement in high school. Some of our proudest moments come in figuring out ways to get things done with the least effort and time involved.

Yet, what are we missing the day class is cancelled? And furthermore, are we really gaining anything by not pushing ourselves and reveling in uncomfortable experiences?

We can't stay here forever. But while we are here, are we doing it right?

My own journey at PLU has had its ups and downs, much like the crunches I have grown to crave in step aerobics. And I really wouldn't change any of those extremes. If I could go back though my time here, I would change the way in which I sometimes let my sour attitude dictate my decisions—decisions that were based on preconceived notions and fear of being uncomfortable. After all the initial PE dread, I have come to love step and Professor Susan Westering's contagious attitude toward working out. I appreciate her motivational leadership so much I have enrolled in power aerobics for J-term.

Don't be fooled by those GURs and scary but intriguing possibilities, Lutes. My advice is to begin to see classes, jobs, and everything else you come across as opportunity. The more you experience, the better. You may even be able to chat about those experiences—your new favorite food, perhaps frog legs or rocky mountain oysters. Live in the realm of fearless possibility because you will walk across that stage sooner than you think. And when you do, there will be more to show for your time here than unknowingly cheating yourself.



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Comic by Aubrey Lange

Adopting a new strategy for...

Extinguishing U.S. racism

Forays into dissent



We all knew that this was coming. At first it may have been in the form of graffitied slurs on newspaper editorial cartoons in the café where I work. Then there were Mike Norman's Obama '08 T-shirts with Curious George on them. He swore they weren't meant to be racist. Diane Fedele of the Chaffey Community Republican Women said the same thing about her Obama Bucks—fake money with Obama's head photo-shopped onto a donkey surrounded by food that African Americans stereotypically like. I knew people who thought it was just a Southern problem. These are the opinions of a disturbed minority, they said.

But I think that the worst reaction we could possibly have at this point is to be dismissive.

This is not just a Southern problem. Here at PLU we've already had two students sent to student conduct for inappropriate (i.e. racist) remarks made about our president-elect, and it's not always reported. These two students are not the only ones. Which begs the question: what good does it do to send them to student conduct? Nov. 5, a school bus full of second- and third-graders in Idaho chanted

"Assassinate Obama." For some of them, maybe it was peer-pressure. You can even argue that a few don't know what assassination is. But in a nation with a long and tragic history of assassinating political figures, we should worry because they heard it somewhere.

The fact of the matter is that we're in college. The unnamed students who said whatever they said about Obama have their own opinions. They aren't some 7-10-year-olds spouting whatever their parents have said around the dinner table. You can bet that they believe what they said based on their own experiences and (mis)information.

The U.S. has had a history of racism and a history of assassination attempts. This is not a problem of the southern U.S., but the entire country. And it won't be solved by a slap on the wrist by student conduct or by government agents coming to investigate assassination threats. These are opinions that people have. They are opinions that they raise their children by.

I do not presume that I have the answer to a problem that's been around since the beginning of civilization. There's a possibility that you can no more persuade a bigot to be open-minded than you could persuade me that women are an inferior sex. They are beliefs that we hold based on our own experiences, up-bringsings and acquaintances—among other things. But part of me has to believe that there is some form of rationality inherent in people.

I come from a Southern family. I myself am from Washington, but I know these people. Sometimes they're funny, they usually have a family that they love, they might volunteer within their community.

I have never viewed my Uncle John the same way since he first called White Castle's "n-word food." I was about 16. It made me sick to my stomach. But he loves me. And I think—I hope—that if I were to talk to him about how Obama makes me feel, about that feeling of hope, of pride that he makes me feel for my country, that he might listen. I might at least persuade him that Obama was elected by a majority in a democratic society and that to assassinate him (not that my uncle has ever threatened it) is to sully what makes this country wonderful and different.

So please, if you hear a racist remark, by all means report it. I'm not saying to accept racism or that it shouldn't make you angry, I'm merely recommending a new strategy.

But you might first decide to have a conversation. And it might begin—angry as you might be at the person for her or his remark—by trying to understand, by having a conversation instead of an argument, by believing that the person you're talking to has a family he or she cares about and a whole series of experiences different than your own. Maybe then, through words instead of violence and anger, we might begin to make this world better.



ASPLU informs you about the issues

Lauren Buchholz
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Thanksgiving is right around the corner and we all know what that means: Free Airport Shuttles sponsored by ASPLU!

There is no need for you to find a ride to the airport this week because ASPLU wants to give you a ride for free. Shuttles will leave based on your flight plan.

E-mail asplu@plu.edu or stop into the ASPLU office to give us your information.

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The Mast Staff 2008-2009

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The Mast adheres to the Society of Professional Journalists' code of ethics, which includes the guidelines to "seek truth and report it," "minimize harm," "act independently" and "be accountable."

The Mast encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be submitted to The Mast by 5 p.m. the Wednesday of publication. Letters without a name, phone number and identification for verification will be discarded. Letters should be no longer than 500 words in length and typed. The Mast reserves the right to refuse any letter. Letters may be edited for length, taste and errors.

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Small town in the 'Big Smoke': Venturing to get Amsterdam-ed



Op-Ed Columnist

**Shannon
Schrecengost**

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On an island of its own, London remains only a brief flight from many ideal European hot spots. With RyanAir flights (affectionately "The John Denver Experience") starting at 10 pounds, even the poorest U.S. student studying abroad in London can afford a weekend get-away.

It is a mere 50-minute flight from the London Heathrow International Airport to the bizarre funhouse in Holland known as Amsterdam.

After the flight, I found myself in the grimy, historic land of giant wooden shoes and cozy coffee shops.

Amsterdam is an amazing land of culture with historical sights like the Anne Frank House, fabulously flawed architecture and colorful museums filled with outstanding works by Dutch artists like Rembrandt and Van Gogh. Amsterdam has something to offer everyone.

Wandering through the canal cut, labyrinth-like streets of Amsterdam, it is easy to find oneself lost, in a cloud of marijuana smoke and/or accidentally window-shopping for prostitutes in the historic Red Light District.

Despite its often uncomfortable, seemingly sketchy atmosphere, the Red Light District is not nearly as dangerous as one might think.

In spite of an off kilter reputation, Amsterdam is no different from most parts of the world. Like most cities, Amsterdam has prostitutes and drug use. Unlike most cities, Amsterdam's drugs are widely available in specialty stores and coffee shops and its prostitutes sit nearly nude in windows basking under the glow of red lights.

The typical "body-for-bucks exchange" sign can be seen from coffee shops throughout the city. The going rate seems to be about 50 pounds for 20 minutes in the small booth with curtains drawn.

According to the all-knowing and always trusty guidebook "Lonely Planet," Amsterdam prostitutes rent their windows for 100-150 pounds for an eight hour shift. If the working-woman is busy, she will take in more than 500 pounds for a days work.

Despite reported shrinking of the Red Light District, prostitution has not disappeared from Amsterdam. Window boxes remain present but prostitution is slowly being pushed underground.

Although Amsterdam is dripping with sex, it is often far from sexy.

Sex shops line the streets, but it is not the normal large-jugged blond girls that front the plastic boxes lining the shelves. Instead eager shoppers can pick up all their favorites, like golden showers of the Robert Kelly variety, French S&M, poo-doo play and Enumclaw-style horseplay. It is all there, legal and readily available.

After the shock and horror of seeing women play with what I would imagine to be the furthest thing from catch with a dog and a tennis ball, one may need to stop at a coffee shop for light refreshments.

While the remainder of the world wastes billions of dollars on a war against drugs, Holland views drug use as a health issue and not a legal problem. As opposed to locking up thousands of non-violent drug users, the Dutch turn a blind-eye to coffee shops where small amounts of marijuana can be purchased.

Be it spacecake, pre-rolled or loose leaf, marijuana can be ordered from bartenders in most coffee shops and is legal to smoke everywhere in Amsterdam.

The importance of lung conservation is not forgotten and non-smokers have some tasty options. From delicious chocolate hash brownies to muffin-like spacecakes, one can get their high on without smoking.

Although drugs are often associated with stupidity, Amsterdam has many shops peddling what are considered "smart drugs." Somewhere between the category of soft drugs and hard drugs, legal smart drugs are herbal and satisfy a large market in Amsterdam. The most common of the smart drugs are hallucinogenic mushrooms.

Respectable smart shops sell a wide variety of magic mushrooms to eat or boil for tea. For first time trippers, friendly staff offer advice ranging from quantity to tripping tips ensuring a safe and pleasant experience.

Although the popularity of coffee and smart shops live on, the businesses have remained under constant attack from Christian and conservative groups. Who knows? Maybe the conservatives are right and Holland should criminalize drugs. It has worked to eradicate drug use in the U.S. and other European countries, right?

Often compared to Las Vegas, Nev., Amsterdam is not the ideal destination for good, clean family fun. The bohemian atmosphere mixed with horrific consumption, smoke and red lights create a carnival ride feel.

But it's not all red lights, smoke and mirrors. In a land where nearly everything seems to fly, it is almost too easy to have fun. Or, as I like to call it, getting Amsterdam-ed.

Food for thought Local foods inspire

Amanda Peterson
GUEST OP-ED COLUMNIST
petersae@plu.edu

At 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13 students started to trickle into the room, with apprehensive glances at peers who had already gathered. All had surprised stares at what lay, thoughtfully displayed on their seats. What type of an event were they attending? A cheese tasting, of course.

Erick Swenson PLU's Culinary Operations Manager and self-declared "food snob," who could spend hours talking about what might seem to be minute details in a dish or food presentation, led the latest program in the Culinary Adventure Series. A couple of weeks ago it was Bizarre and Ghoulish Foods, but this past week Dining Services turned to Northwest Artisan Cheeses—a safer fare, though no less complex or remarkable.

Swenson started off the evening with dialogue about the different types of cheese, from blue to golden cheddar. He moved on to explain to the students about what cheeses and accompaniments lay on the trays before them. Represented were Gothberg Farms Chevre from Skagit Valley, Wash.; Rollingstone Aged Chevre with anise and lavender from Parma, Ida.; Samish Bay Organic Fresh Gouda from Bow, Wash.; Pleasant Valley Gouda from Ferndale, Wash.; Cougar Gold from the Washington State University campus in Pullman, Wash.; Beechers Smoked Flagship from Seattle, Wash. and a moldy outlier made from vegetable ash and salt called Sea Stack from Mt. Townsend Creamery in Pt. Townsend, Wash.

While plenty of other cheeses could have been included, only cheeses within around 100 miles of PLU's campus were used. By choosing these cheeses, PLU is directly supporting local farmers and creameries. Cheese from cows in the Provençal region of France is tasty. Yet knowing that the Gouda I just tasted came from an organic farmstead where the milk comes from locally raised cows and the cheese is artisan makes a world of difference to me.

The founders of the Mt. Townsend Creamery write on their website that, "our cheeses are inspired by this place. Our milk is the direct product of this land we inhabit."

Along with an evening devoted to exploring and savoring delicious food, Dining Services sentiment echoes one aspect of what I hope students were able to take away from the event.

"The day is coming when a single carrot, freshly observed, will set off a revolution," Paul Cezanne a French Post-Impressionist painter said.

Hopefully, Thursday gave students that carrot in the form of a fresh chevre or gouda.

Letter to the Editor

Newsworthiness comes from community voices

I am writing in response to last weeks' letter about Proposition 8 (11/14/2008) not receiving proper coverage in The Mast after Election Day. I want to make it very clear that I did not decide against assigning a story about Proposition 8 as if it was unimportant. I did not dismiss the importance of this issue. My job as an editor is to assign stories that I believe relate to the students on this campus. The angle I took in my Election Day front-page selection was based on what affects PLU. The obvious material was the local races and local initiatives. One important news value is relevance and these were the main issues that I believed were relevant to print.

However, I do apologize for dismissing Proposition 8. It does affect us. It is relevant. I apologize for leading anyone to believe that I did not think it was important enough for election coverage. If anything, I kick myself for not highlighting the intense irony behind the themes in this election. Our first black president, overcoming decades of oppression to rise to one of the most powerful posts in the world, comes at a time where we see institutionalized discrimination. This discrimination is not only occurring in California with Proposition 8, but in other states such as Arizona, Florida and Arkansas where couples that are not married are no longer

allowed to adopt children. In no way did a lack of coverage on Proposition 8 reflect any belief on the part of our publication that gays and lesbians are second-class citizens. It was an issue of not seeing the bigger picture, and I apologize deeply.

As News Editor of The Mast, I feel as though I have the power to invoke thought and provoke action through the proper coverage of important issues. In this case I feel as though I missed an opportunity to fully capture this issue and inform the public of what this means.

So, my challenge to everyone reading this is to be a part of our mission. The Mast is a learning laboratory and it is the

people like the ones who wrote that letter that we want. People that are passionate about things—they can tell the story best. Tell me what you want to read. Tell me what you think is important. Tell me what it is you want covered. Better yet, write about it. If the system worked that way I think we would have an incredibly diverse and thought provoking paper that would never miss a beat.

Don't let me miss a beat again. I want to hear your voice.

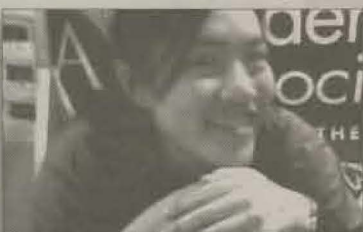
Kari Plog
MAST NEWS EDITOR

Sidewalk Talk

What's your favorite Thanksgiving tradition?



Cranberry sauce that comes in the shape of a can. About as artificial as you can get.
Bryce Danz
sophomore



Breaking turkey wishbone with grandpa.
Shayna Doi
senior



I enjoy all the fixin's.
Jordan Schmidt
junior



Eggnog...YUMM!
Nolan Adams
senior



The best part is indulging in my grandmother's phenomenal culinary artistry.
Tim Ramberg
junior

POETRY CORNER

Lute poets contribute some of their



Paikai

Senior Jake K.M. Paikai is an English literature and German double major. He enjoys writing poems and stories for pleasure and publication. He is this year's Saxifrage co-editor and the design editor for *The Mast*. In addition to creative exploits, Paikai cares deeply for social justice issues and carries out that work as the Rieke Scholar Liaison in the Diversity Center, where he has the pleasure of working with over 40 student leaders. Paikai has been a part of many poetry readings over the years such as last year's poetry slam and this year's Sound and River Review. He is also a member of Harmony, PLU's Queer Awareness Organization, *the Mark*, a Writing Workshop and Aliyah Jewish Club.

Jake K.M. Paikai

Mother Tongues

Hebrew

The zippered teeth on the pages of my grandfather's tattered war-time haggadah peeped at me from across the table as my grandmother punched her fist into the slippery cavity of a fat, spring chicken. There wasn't much left to do—the charoses mashed up in a bowl, the marror picked clean, right out the garden. I watched the z'roa roast and the leg burn black and brown; the crispy tanned egg spin on its plate. I tugged her apron and she wrote the words, backward, in residual chicken blood from right to left. I mouthed those *alephbets*, unaware of the blackened teeth that came before.

English

I sit outside and imagine the other names for things, the lost eddies of the tongue that were resigned for other epithets. I make myself Adam, and see the warbling birds and name them something else, and delight in the new names I conjure. See that old dog? He knows how deep the yearning lies, to bark out the old forgotten syllables that our predecessors gave up. I don't. I write their new names in the air, and hold a candle to their new beginnings: each of us, if we could be new named,

would reach back into our histories and find the moment where it all had changed.

Poetry Previously Published in Saxifrage Vol. 34

Die Arbeiterin

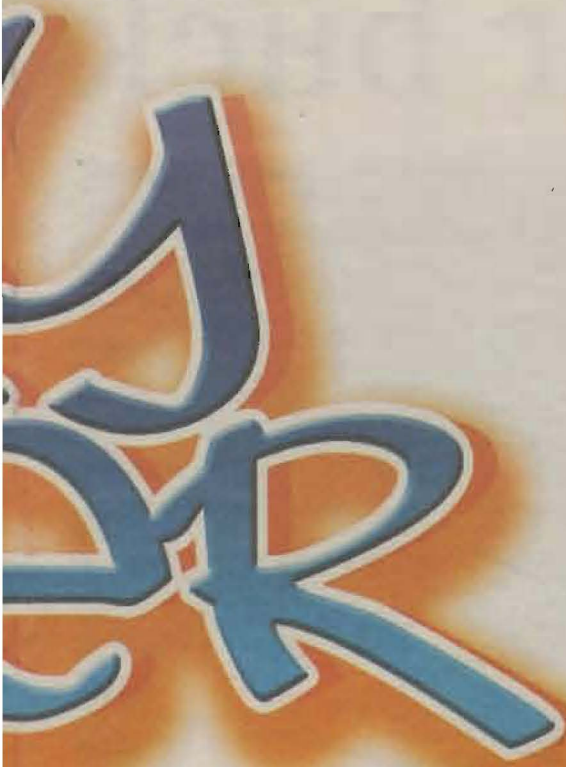
My numbered arms
sift stones out sweet Spring's
decaying soil, fresh with
flowers and baby limbs.

Children and men
ground into graphite earth,
grey soot in which they write
Arbeit macht Frei.

*und arbeite ich, arbeite
ich*—stitch marks with my rake
into icy Poland's face.

When I was four,
on a lark, I
jumped off a rooftop,
thinking I would fly.

Now I hold this plough,
my insides aching with child—
is it fair to wish
my life had ended
with a splendid dive?



favorite work



Tanner

Senior Jessica Tanner has loved to write poetry to relax and get her feelings out for as long as she can remember. Along with writing, Tanner has a great passion for travel. She has taken advantage of the PLU study abroad program and has gone to Trinidad, Russia and China for a semester each. Tanner's caring heart for people has motivated her to participate in the violence for women club and j-term on the hill with the PLU program. This is Tanner's first publication of her poetry.

Jessica Tanner

Beggar

I watch their eyes
They are a purgatory of lost souls-
Watching, pleading,
Searching for a donor

Beg...for a dollar, two
A bottle
A moment?

Pulling, tearing
The shaking of a cup,
A hand on my arm
A fist full of rage
and desperation
"Money?...Hello!"

Is this all you have?
Is this all you are?
Can my dime really make a
difference
in your life?
If so, take it
And so live
To search, to pry,
To beg.



Harksen

Junior Jacob Harksen is an English writing major and his poetry has been published in Saxifrage numerous times. Harksen read some of his poetry submitted in this section of *The Mast* in this Wednesday's Sound and River Review. Last February he was the winner of the Saxifrage sponsored event Poetry Slam, a performance of poetry and competition at PLU. Poetry Slam is a competition where contestants read or recite either their original work or the work of others. Harksen got the idea from one of his favorite poets, Saul Williams, who was the Grand Slam Champion in 1996 in the Portland, Ore. competition.

Jacob Carl Harksen

The Apartment of a Poet

I am in your apartment without you tonight. I am trying to find that space where your thoughts keep their valuables. I take notes on the books of letters, the books of photography piled in every room, the boxes to cigarettes and matches, a dragonfly encased in glass, many pictures of men. Cézanne, Creeley, that picture of Berryman on the Irish coast (the very one I have hoped for). Your neighbors are going up and down stairs. Are they in these poems? I sit at one of your desks and wait. Yeats looks over my left shoulder and I lower my eyes. Your dictionary is open. *Instrumentation*. The lamp rattles and your floor is cold. Were you looking up *inspire*, too? Or *insulation*? When I use your bathroom I close both doors anyway. I lie in the middle of the floor, hope for all of this place to carve into me whatever *intaglios* you may have left here. At eleven, I leave.

Fault Line

We are dreaming of California gone,
the entire state breaking away
and floating off into the Pacific.

We will write you letters, California.
Send us many postcards when you reach Japan.
We have always wanted to go there.

Pornographic

We collide. Our hips will bruise
to the color of her eyes and the look
in them, when she says *This is the scene
where we fuck in the bed*. The pretty obscenity
of her saying this. The most un-puritan of panties
are thrown over the picture of her husband
in this room, and she is calling me by his
name, which I did not know before.
We can not hide

that we are bored.

This sex is a blunt object beating our
temptations out of us. We don't know
what to say. We stare out of the page
and you, our unsatisfied pornographer,
stare back. What do you want us to say?

In Your Smoking Dream

The cigarettes of years and years
do not hurt you. You pick them
for the smell you'd like today.
Peat. Or pine. You smoke wherever
you damn well please. You are the new
James Dean. You are leaning against
a brick building on the corner
of a street in Ireland. The collar
of your coat is turned up and you are
waiting for the girl with green eyes.
The motorcycle starts. Your cigarette
is flicked away. It never rains.

Saxifrage 35

Saxifrage is PLU's premier annual literary arts magazine, entering its 35th year. The publication's content is diverse and widely varied across many mediums, accepting submissions of poetry, short fiction, essay, drama, sheet music, artwork and photography. Saxifrage is completely student produced, from its content, to the judging process, to the production of the publication. It is a deeply imbedded facet of the PLU community,

hosting events on and off campus such as open mics and poetry slams.

This Wednesday night, Saxifrage partnered with "A River & Sound Review", a community reading series, to put on live literary arts entertainment.

Saxifrage is accepting submissions Dec. 1 through Dec. 12 and Feb. 9 through Feb. 27. Look forward to our annual open mic at NPCC Jan. 20.

Less Bond for your buck

'Casino Royale' follow-up fails to stack up



Director Martin Campbell rejuvenated the James Bond franchise in 2006 with the stellar "Casino Royale." Actor Daniel Craig took up the part of 007 and ran with it. He brought us a raw, brutal Bond who could hurt, be hurt, love and even die. For the first time in a long time, James Bond felt human and tangible. He thrived as a character.

So, I was excited to see what new director Marc Foster could do with the follow-up to "Casino Royale," entitled "Quantum of Solace." Sadly, though it does pack quite the punch, Foster's sequel fails to ante up. The result is a lackluster action film that feels less like Bond and more like Bourne.

"Quantum of Solace" begins mere moments after the cliffhanging conclusion of "Casino Royale" and rides the coattails of its predecessor for much of the first act. Craig returns as Bond, who's broken up about the death of his girlfriend at the close of the last film and decides to seek revenge.

He joins up with the feisty Camille (Olga Kurylenko) and takes on a sleazy environmentalist, aptly named Dominic Greene (Mathieu Amalric), who plans to seize control of Bolivia's water supply.

In terms of tone, "Quantum of Solace" is very similar to the Timothy Dalton era of Bond films (which isn't necessarily a bad thing). Like Dalton's dark and unique portrayal, Craig's Bond defies duty and seeks Greene for personal reasons. He maintains a sort-of

FilmReview
Quantum of Solace (2008)
Directed by Marc Foster
Starring Daniel Craig
Rated PG-13, 106 minutes

cop-on-the-edge mentality throughout. He is even hunted by his own outfit at one point.

But Bond's motives are unclear for the most part. He acts generally on impulse, not allowing the audience ample time to catch up. The middling plot doesn't aid matters either, jumping jarringly from action scene to overdone action scene throughout the film's 106-minute running time.

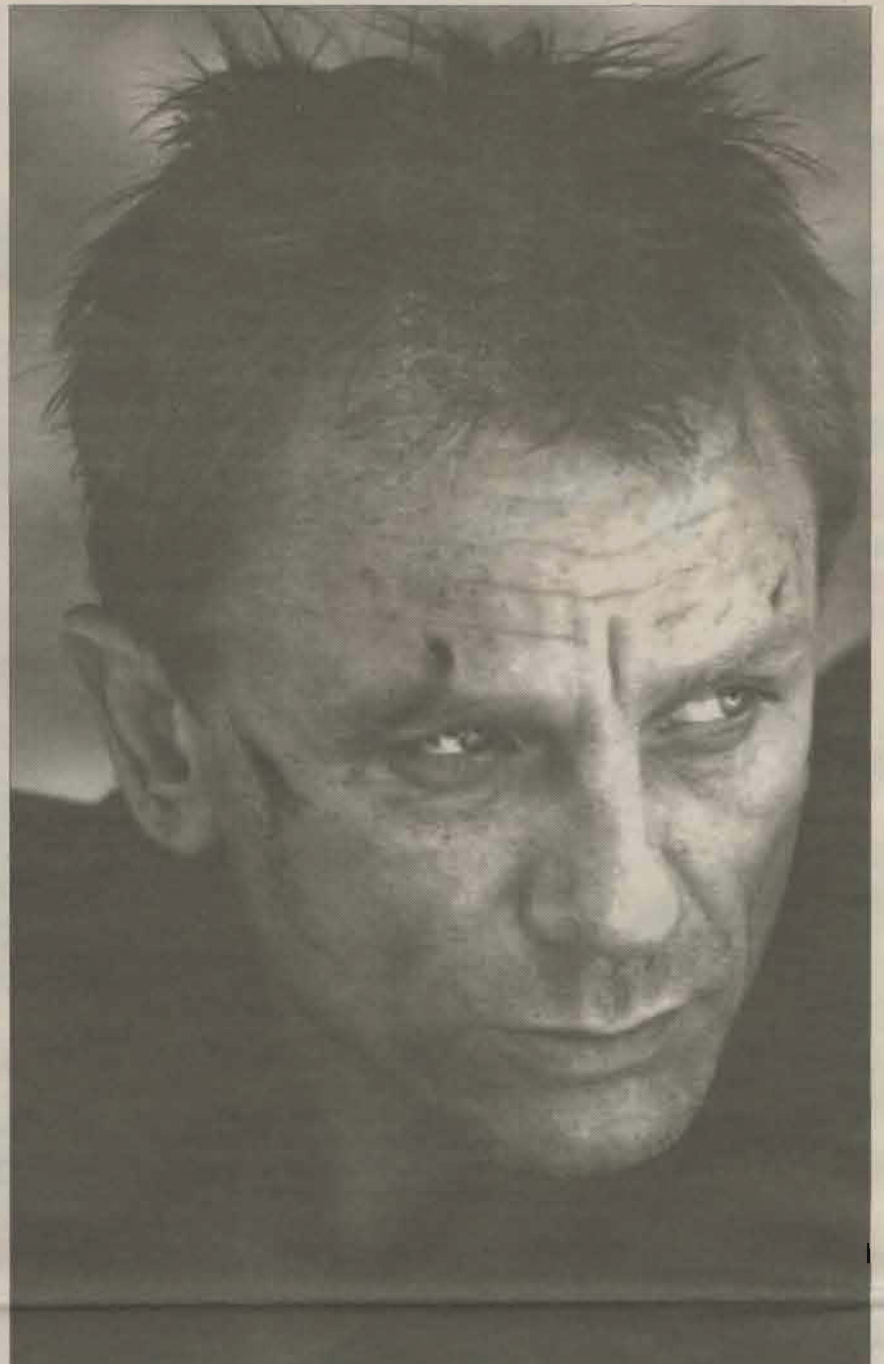
The action is fast-paced and vicious, and there is certainly plenty of it—the film is brimming with chases, shootouts and brawls. And while I might be the last person to complain about too much action, "Quantum of Solace" brushes against that line.

In the first 30 minutes alone, there are four major action set pieces and much of it feels forced. Whereas Campbell's action was taught and well choreographed, Foster resorts to shaky camera techniques, CGI and wirework. Many scenes are more disorienting than exciting.

If Foster had set out with the intention to make his own unique contribution to the Bond mythos, he should have done so. As it stands, "Quantum of Solace" feels like an unsatisfying "Casino Royale: Part II." No real questions are answered and Bond's redemption is sequestered to an off-screen, tacked-on conclusion. Granted, it's a thrilling bit of fun, but it's not the follow-up fans need.

I am appreciative of Foster's attempt to bring the Bond franchise back to its roots. There's a little more camp flavor, a few more gadgets, plenty of chases and even an overt homage to 1964's "Goldfinger."

But the problem with "Quantum of Solace" lies in its inability to separate itself from "Casino Royale." It cannot exist as a good film without its prequel. Though it tries to be, ultimately, "Quantum of Solace" is not "Casino Royale."



AP Photo
Daniel Craig reprises the role of James Bond in "Quantum of Solace," the follow-up to 2006's "Casino Royale." Despite having a competent director at the helm, the film is inferior to its prequel.

Band attempts pop-punk revival

Hit The Lights' album falls short of pop-punk predecessors



Back in the good ole' days of junior high, my friends and I had one love when it came to music - pop-punk. If it was catchy, energized and fun, we rocked out to it with our spiked hair and baggy pants while skating after school. We were the most rebellious thing since the wallet chain.

Listening to Hit The Lights' latest release "Skip School, Start Fights" reminds me of those simpler days when the only worries I had were the same things the band sings about - friends, girls and having a good time.

Throughout the first half of "Skip School, Start Fights," Hit The Lights takes cues from pop-punk pioneers like Blink 182, New Found Glory and The Ataris. Riffs from guitarists Kevin Mahoney and Omar Zehery play off of Nick Thompson's catchy melodies.

The band's first single, "Stay Out," carries the listener's attention with gang vocals and the same unbridled energy as the pop-punk predecessors. The band shouts its battle cry, "Stay out all night/Cause rest is for the dead!" The high-energy and infectious melodies continue on tracks like "Drop The Girl" and "Hangs 'Em High." In these songs the band touches on that topic all too prevalent in its genre - girls.

The band changes the pace a bit early on with "Tell Me Where You Are," but manages to keep the energy high with big riffs and a huge chorus. Later they try the same formula with the piano-laced "Don't Wait," but this time they get mixed results. Just after the crunchy-guitar driven track "Back Breaker," in which Thompson sings about leaving a small town to make it on his own, the album takes a questionable turn.

The energy heard early on in the record is

AlbumReview
Skip School, Start Fights (2008)
Hit the Lights
Pop/Punk
Triple Crown Records

nowhere to be found in the second half, with mid-tempo tracks like "Cry Your Eyes Out" and "Wide Awake."

The lyrics also take a turn on the second half of the record, lacking the same bite shown in the band's earlier tracks, particularly on "Statues" (by far the band's weakest track on the record). The song tries to call out the band's haters with, "They'll build statues in our likeness/They wanted to be like us/But did they ever like us anyway?" and limps along to the cringe-worthy chorus, "And I'll send postcards to enemies/Made sure to sign and date each one while singing/Wish you were here."

Most of Hit The Lights' established fan base will enjoy this record, as it doesn't drift too far from the established pop-punk formula. Of course, most of their fan base is made up of 13 to 16-year-olds (and guys like me who used to rock out to pop-punk). Sure, the album lacks maturity in its sound and lyrics, but what else would you expect from a record entitled "Skip School, Start Fights?"

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STARTS FRIDAY!
HAPPY-GO-LUCKY (R)
Fri: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
Sat/Sun: 11:00am, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
Mon/Tues: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
* A discussion will follow Saturday's 4:00pm show

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R)
Fri-Tues: 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:10

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES (PG-13)
Fri-Tues: 1:15, 3:40, 6:15

RELIGULOUS (R)
Fri-Tues: 8:40

2008 CHILDREN'S FILM SERIES

THE SECRET OF ROAN INISH (PG) Fri-Sun: 11:00am

Gamers harness power in 'Force Unleashed'

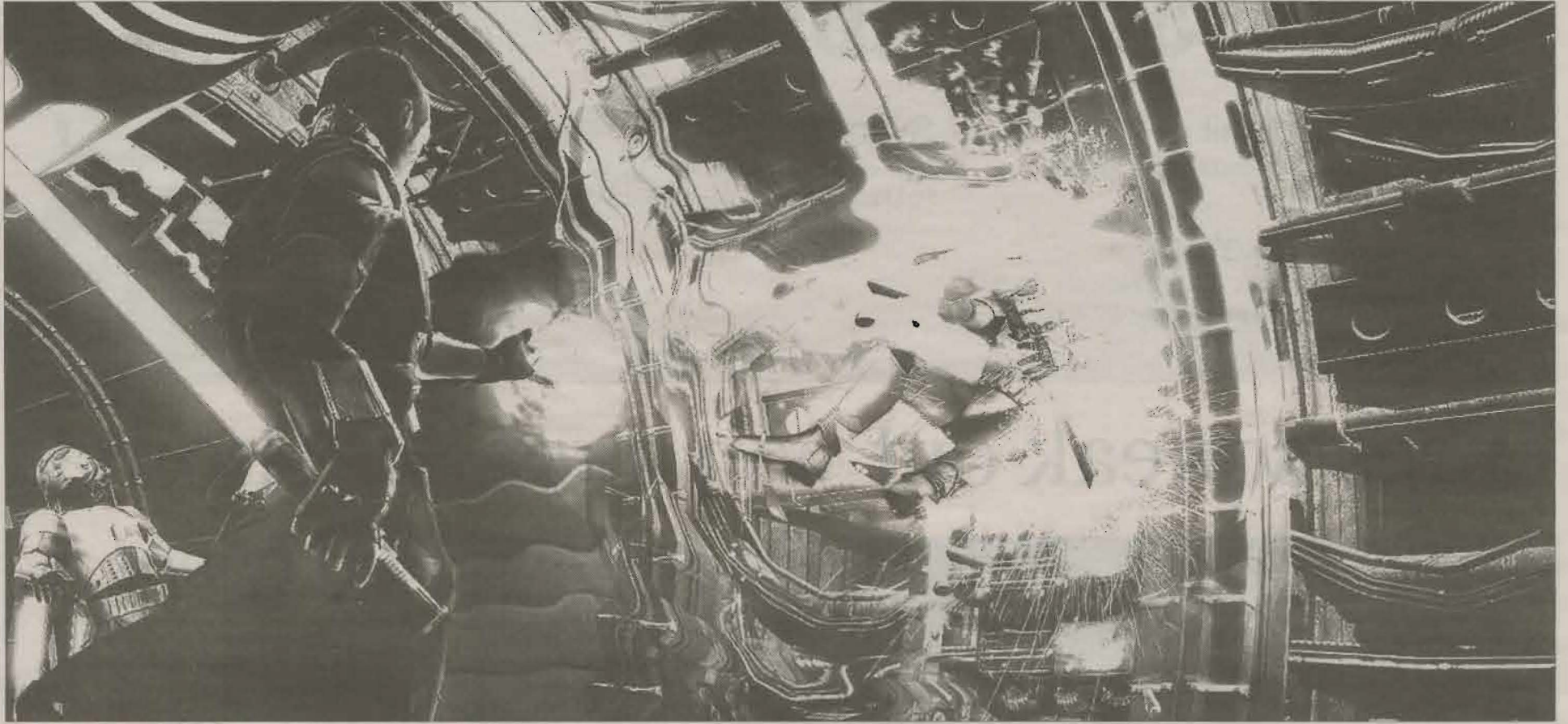


Image courtesy of Lucas Arts

In the new game "Star Wars: The Force Unleashed," players can take control of Starkiller, Darth Vader's secret apprentice. The game's rich story spans the years between the prequel and original trilogies of "Star Wars" films.

The Force is strong with this game

Stephen Koistinen
MAST A&E INTERN
koistisr@plu.edu

Being the Star Wars fan that I am, the thought of being able to control the Force has been a long-time dream. With the release of the new video game, "Star Wars: The Force Unleashed," developed and published by Lucas Arts several months ago, on the Xbox 360, PS3, Wii and PS2, I finally had a chance to experience the Force on my own. Overall, the experience was rewarding.

The story takes place between Episodes III and IV of the movie series, bridging the gap between the original

GameReview
The Force Unleashed (2008)
Developed by Lucas Arts
Xbox 360, Wii, PS2, PS3
1-player, Rated Teen

and prequel trilogies. The story is seen through the eyes of Darth Vader's secret apprentice, known as Starkiller, who is taught the ways of the Force and the Dark Side.

When Vader believes his apprentice is ready, he sends Starkiller out to find the remaining Jedi throughout the galaxy that escaped the Emperor's grasp. After picking them off one by one, he begins to realize that his destiny may not be as completely ideal as he once thought. The gamer is given the choice of joining the Alliance or becoming consumed by the Dark Side.

Surely, with a name like "The Force Unleashed," you'd expect to be given the incredible powers of Jedi and Sith, right? Luckily for us, we are given all of the

abilities seen throughout the movies and more: lighting shock, energy push, Force lifting (and throwing) and what I like to call the "lightsaber-boomerang effect."

Most of these powers are executed with simple button mashing on the controller, but with practice, these attacks can be strung together to create explosive combos and attack possibilities.

However, trying to keep the camera focused on a group of enemies, or even a single enemy can be difficult at times. When in a small corridor, I sometimes found myself cutting and jabbing at the air while Stormtroopers shot me in the back.

As you defeat enemies and bosses you can gain stronger powers, more abilities and extra items that allow you to customize your character, such as the color of your lightsaber and costumes.

Obviously, the storyline is compelling, the game play is fast-paced and interesting, and the overall experience holds true to the Star Wars universe. While much of this game has its ups, there are certain spots with certain faults that I found. First off, the single-player storyline in general seems very short,

spanning just about 10 to 15 hours of continuous play.

Of course, you can raise the difficulty to Sith Lord and try the same stuff over, but it still remains the same. Also, without the multiplayer element, the story mode gives the only real entertainment. I know that the storyline is engrossing, but I still would think that even some type of minigame would be available across Xbox Live or the Playstation Network.

Finally, two types of problems with the loading occur throughout the game. The first one happens whenever you try to change settings on the menu when the game is paused, which isn't exactly terrible—it just makes trying to change the volume more frustrating.

The other concern I had only occurred on one or two occasions when there were too many enemies on the map at a single time, causing the frame rate to slow and pause. However, the other aspects make up for the faults quite well.

Even though it was over sooner than I had expected, "Star Wars: The Force Unleashed" was a wild ride, giving a memorable experience to both fans of the movies and those just wanting a nice interstellar adventure.

PLUtonic exceeds already high expectations

Christina Smailes
MAST A&E INTERN
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The last song barely had time to hang in the silence before the crowd of more than 600 people exploded into applause for PLUtonic's men and women's groups, Friday, Nov. 14 in Lagerquist Hall. The audience jumped to its feet as if an electric shock had surged through their chairs as they gave a standing ovation to both men and women's groups.

Senior Alex Eli had been planning to attend the concert for months and said that it lived up to his expectations. "They really rose to the challenge of such a huge audience," Eli said. "Lagerquist Hall met its capacity of 500 people and still had about a hundred people standing or sitting in the isles."

The music selections for both the men's and women's groups varied widely and included everything from Billy Joel's "And So It Goes," to Flo-rida and T-Pain's "Low." These selections gave the groups the opportunity to showcase everything from their rapping skills to their dance moves.

Senior Alex Berg, the head of the men's PLUtonic group said that choosing pop music selections is one of the things he likes most about the group.

"They aren't just [singing] dead, white-guy music," Berg said. "It's fun to get a whole array of genres, and to try to hit has many target audiences as possible."

The audience was surprised when Bo Baskoro, former PLUtonic member and PLU student, came bounding out of the audience and rushed onto the stage during the first song from the men's group, "Get Ready" by the Temptations.

Sophomore Stephanie Stout enjoyed the performance. She attributed much of the energized atmosphere to the fact that the audience was able to be both entertained and engaged.

"I think the best part of [the concert] was when they sang 'Low,' because they started really slow and then jumped into it," Stout said.

The PLUtonic members seemed to enjoy the show as much as the audience.

"The minute everyone stood up [in a standing ovation] for our last song was probably the best moment in my college career," PLUtonic senior Renee Stupfel



Photo courtesy of Alex Berg

Members of PLU's men's a cappella group laugh during practice. They performed to massive crowds Nov. 14.

said. "I've never had a reception like that before. I felt like crying and laughing all at once."

Stupfel is one of only 11 women that made it through the September auditions and into the women's PLUtonic group.

"About 40 people auditioned at the beginning of the year," Stupfel said. "The auditions were tough."

If Friday's success is any indication of the future, the PLUtonics may have to find a larger venue for its March 6 and May 15 concerts in 2009. Stout said that these two concert dates are "going down on my calendar right now for next year."

Lutes SPORTS SCHEDULE

Men's Basketball

Walla Walla at PLU: Tuesday, Nov 25 6 p.m.

Women's Basketball

PLU at Concordia (Ore.): Friday, Nov. 21 7p.m.

Northwest at PLU: Saturday, Nov. 22 8 p.m.

Swimming

PLU at NW Invitational: Friday, Nov. 21 7 p.m.

PLU at NW Invitational: Saturday, Nov. 22 10 a.m.



Lutes squeak out win over St. Thomas



Photo by Ted Charles

First-year Sarah Backstrom takes a shot from near half court at the end of the first half of the Lutes game against St. Thomas on Saturday. PLU pulled out a two point victory over the Tommies to start the season with a victory.

PLU opens season with victory at home

Ellen Kanuch
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The PLU women's basketball team gave its season a jump start with a 61-59 non-conference win against the St. Thomas University Tommies Saturday afternoon at PLU's Olson Auditorium.

The game's final points occurred with only 22 seconds left on the clock. Senior Melissa Richardson made her second of two free throws, advancing the Lutes to a 59-59 tie. With 3 seconds remaining, senior Trinity Gibbons hit the final shot giving the Lutes the two-point victory.

"St. Thomas is a very good team expected to finish in the top of their conference and the fact that we not only competed with them," said head coach Kelly Warnke. "But beat them shows me the potential this team has."

Senior Emily Voorhies, a 6 foot 1 inch post, led the team in scoring with 23 points, going 9-for-15 from the field and five-for-nine from the free throw line. She also snatched 11 rebounds.

The Lutes stepped onto the court ready to play as they jumped to a 15-3 lead in the first five minutes of the game. St. Thomas improved its score to 21-14 on a lay-up by Kassie Robinson with 8:28 to play in the half. The Lutes achieved their biggest lead at 30-16 after Gibbons scored back-to-back baskets with 6:04 left into the first half.

Trailing 37-30 at the start of the second half, The Tommies made a come back to take the lead 57 - 54 with 3:58 left, at one point going on a 13 point run.

"We did let the game get closer than we wanted with only a two-point victory and we turned the ball over too many times, but we also forced 22 turnovers and out-rebounded the Tommies," Warnke said.

With a tight score on the board, the Lutes maintained their strong mental game. With seconds left in the game, St. Thomas still held the lead, but the score shifted in favor of PLU when Gibbons hit the game-winning shot followed by a turnover by St. Thomas with 14 seconds left.

"We did a lot of things well, but found a lot things we could improve on," senior Meghan Dowling said. "It's just encouraging because if we play with that intensity and heart, the possibilities of this team are endless and it will be exciting to watch."

Gibbons scored 15 points, shooting seven-for-14, and first-year Sara Backstrom had eight points and a game-high six assists.

PLU finished shooting 24-for-50 from the court, while St. Thomas shot 20-for-51. The Lutes also dominated the boards with a 33-28 rebounding advantage.

"Although we are picked to finish sixth in the Northwest Conference by other coaches and SID's, our sights are set much higher. We will be very disappointed with anything less than top four," Warnke said.

This weekend the Lutes play at 7 p.m. Friday against Concordia in Portland, Ore. and return home Saturday to play against Northwest University at 8 p.m. in Olson Auditorium.

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Photo by Chris Hunt

Senior guard Josh Dressler attempts to dribble the ball past a defender in a game last season. The Lutes opened the 2008-2009 season with wins over Macalester (Minn.) and UC Santa Cruz at the Allstate Cantillana Tip-Off Classic hosted by the University of Puget Sound and played at Foss High School. Dressler and sophomore wing Curtis Trondsen took home first-team all tournament honors. Dressler averaged 21.5 points per game over the two games. The Lutes work to continue their winning ways next Tuesday when Walla Walla visits Olson.

Wildcats beat Lutes

PLU football loses final game of season

Carrie Draeger
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A powerful defense and a strong offense led the Linfield College Wildcats to their sixth straight shutout over Pacific Lutheran this Saturday.

PLU (3-3, 3-6) fell to Linfield (5-1, 6-3) 45-0 Saturday to finish up the regular season.

"They are a very physical, very athletic team," head coach Scott Westering said. "On defense we were really banged up. We had a number of guys who didn't hardly practice during the week."

Linfield added two touchdowns in the second quarter to make the lead 21-0, including a seven-yard reception by Travis Masters from Franklin with two seconds left in the first half.

"Defensively, we can fight with the best, but we can only go so many rounds," Westering said. "That was the story all year long. They battled all day long."

Linfield finished the day with 464 yards offensively - 202 in the air and 262 on the ground. Franklin finished the day 15-26 with two touchdowns and no interceptions. Masters and Williams lead all rushers with 134 and 94 rushing yards respectively. Masters also added 79 receiving yards on five catches.

"We battled day long regardless of what the scoreboard said," Westering said.

Offensively, the Lutes finished the day with 197 yards: 195 passing and two rushing. Senior quarterback Michael Byrne finished the day 27-44 with one interception and no touchdowns. Sophomore receiver Greg Ford lead the PLU receiving core with 73 yards on seven catches.

The defense was lead by three seniors in their final game - Hayden Geinger had nine tackles, Neal Chalmers added eight and Justin Kelly had seven.

"(The seniors) have left their imprint on the program," Westering said.

EMAL football will graduate 15 seniors this season who have all provided leadership for PLU's young team whether they were starting or not, Westering said.

"The leadership came from both groups, the guys that played and the guys that didn't play," Westering said. "It's a tribute to their character that they really choose to serve and as we would say 'be an EMAL.'"

PLU had six players named to the Northwest Conference football team with five more receiving honorable mentions.

Ford and Chalmers both received first team honors for the Lutes. Ford led all NWC receivers in average receptions per game (5.78), average receiving yards per game (105.7) and touchdown receptions (11).

Chalmers was tied for third in the NWC with 9.1 tackles per game and had two sacks on the season.

PLU had four players receive second team honors; junior Drew Griffin (slot), junior Guistin Jenkins (defensive line), Geinger and senior Matt Wolford (defensive back).

Byrne, senior offensive lineman Kyle Edwards, receiver Matt Whitford, junior defensive lineman Tony Slater and senior linebacker Andy Sturza received honorable mentions this season for the Lutes.

Westering said he hopes that the experience many young players gained this season will help them in the years to come.

"Back in Minnesota we ran 19 guys onto the field that had never started a college game," Westering said. "It helped the young guys learn to compete at this level. The core that's been built this year will pay some big dividends in years to come."

Lutes drown Whitman, can't outswim Whitworth

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PLU's swim teams posted outstanding times on the road in Spokane, Wash. over the weekend against Whitworth on Friday and Whitman on Saturday. The teams lost to Whitworth, but beat Whitman for the 35th consecutive year.

"The meets went really well. We didn't beat Whitworth but we had a lot of time drops," junior Stacey Crider said. "It's not necessarily about winning. It's about seeing what we could do."

Even though the teams beat Whitman, it was not an easy feat. The meet went back and forth with every swimmer in every race making a difference. All of PLU's hard work was worth it as the Lutes continued the winning streak.

On the women's side, sophomore Jessie Klaunder touched the wall first in the women's 200-yard freestyle. Sophomore Casey Dorcas won in the women's 400-yard individual medley, sophomore Casey Jackson in the women's 100-yard backstroke and sophomore Gina Whitman in the women's 100-yard breaststroke.

In the Whitworth meet, Crider swam the women's 1650-yard freestyle extremely well for the first time - she is currently ranked eighth in conference. Crider also dropped time in every single race she has swam. As a result of her strong swims, she is now ranked in the top 20 in conference in all of her events.

"It's personally rewarding to go beyond where I was [my first-year]," Crider said. "I'm very proud of our team this year."

The men also swam well. On Saturday, the team had arguably one of its most exciting meets of all time. The men's team won the meet by .12 hundredths of a second when first-year Chase Mesford out touched Whitman in the final race, the men's 200-yard freestyle relay.

"The team did its part, dropped time and came together to win the meet," Mesford said. "Practice is really paying off. I've swam my entire life, but my times are really coming out now in the next level of competition."

Mesford had two impressive meets. On top of the men's 200-yard freestyle relay, he dropped considerable time in his individual 200- and 500-yard freestyles against Whitworth. He finished first in the men's 50-yard freestyle and second in the 100-yard freestyle in the Whitman meet.

Besides Mesford, the other winners in the Whitman meet included sophomore Jay Jones in the men's 400-yard individual medley and men's 100-yard breaststroke, first-year Jimmy Tonellato in the men's 100-yard butterfly and first-year Forrest Crain in the men's 100-yard backstroke.

Mesford loves the level of participation from PLU because everyone is on his or her feet cheering or swimming.

PLU returns to Spokane, Wash. Nov. 21 and 22 for the Northwest Invitational at 7 p.m. and 10 a.m. respectively.

Scorecard

Men's Basketball

as of 11/19

NWC Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
PLU	0-0	.000	2-0	1.000
UPS	0-0	.000	2-0	1.000
L&C	0-0	.000	1-0	1.000
Linfield	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Pacific	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Whitman	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Willamette	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
George Fox	0-0	.000	0-1	.000

Team Points Per Game Leaders

Josh Dressler - 21.5, Kyle MacTaggart - 14.5, Curtis Trondsen 13.5 - 3, James Conti - 8.5, Victor Bull - 6.5, Gabe Smith - 6.5

Team Assists Per Game Leaders

Gabe Smith - 3.5, Tony Polis - 2.0, Victor Bull - 2.0, James Conti - 2.0, Kyle MacTaggart - 2.0

Team Rebounds Per Game Leaders

Josh Dressler - 7.0, Gabe Smith - 6.0, Curtis Trondsen - 5.0, Kyle MacTaggart - 4.5, Victor Bull - 4.0

Team Steals Per Game Leaders

Gabe Smith - 2.0, Kyle Mac Taggart - 1.5, James Conti - 1.5, Josh Dressler - 1.5

Women's Basketball

as of 11/19

NWC Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
PLU	0-0	.000	1-0	1.000
George Fox	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Linfield	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Pacific	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Whitman	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Whitworth	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
L&C	0-0	.000	0-1	.000
UPS	0-0	.000	0-1	.000

Team Points Per Game Leaders

Emily Voorhies - 23.0, Trinity Gibbons - 15.0, Amy Spieker - 9.0, Sara Backstrom - 8.0, Melissa Richardson - 6.0

Team Assists Per Game Leaders

Sara Backstrom - 6.0, Trinity Gibbons - 3.0, Amy Spieker - 2.0

Team Rebounds Per Game Leaders

Emily Voorhies - 11.0, Trinity Gibbons - 5.0, Melissa Richardson - 5.0

Team Steals Per Game Leaders

Trinity Gibbons - 2.0, Emily Voorhies - 1.0, Amy Spieker - 1.0, Meghan Dowling - 1.0

Volleyball

as of 11/19

Final NWC Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
PLU	14-2	.875	20-6	.769
UPS	12-4	.750	17-7	.708
L&C	11-5	.688	16-11	.593
Linfield	9-7	.562	13-7	.650
Whitworth	7-9	.438	14-14	.500
George Fox	6-10	.375	12-14	.462
Pacific	6-10	.375	7-17	.292
Willamette	4-12	.250	6-20	.231
Whitman	3-13	.188	3-22	.120

Team Kill Leaders

Beth Hanna - 398, Kelsie Moore - 266, Erin Bremond - 138

Team Block Leaders

Erin Bremond - 90, Beth Hanna - 53, Katy Tauscher - 50

Team Ace Leaders

Brenna Archibald - 35, Beth Hanna - 26, Kelsie Moore - 25

Team Dig Leaders

Brenna Archibald - 449, Beth Hanna - 383

Team Assist Leader

Sarah Beaver - 1006

Football

as of 11/19

Final NWC Standings

Team	NWC	%	All	%
Willamette	6-0	1.000	10-0	1.000
Linfield	5-1	.667	6-3	.667
Whitworth	4-2	.667	6-3	.667
PLU	3-3	.333	3-6	.333
Menlo	2-4	.300	3-7	.300
UPS	1-5	.333	3-6	.333
L&C	0-6	.111	1-8	.111

Team TD Leaders

Michael Byrne - 16 Passing, Greg Ford - 11 Receiving, Kyle Whitford - 2 Rushing

Team Rush Yards Leaders

Ryan Brunn - 15.0

Team Receiving Yards Leaders

Greg Ford - 105.7 ypg, Drew Griffin - 39.2

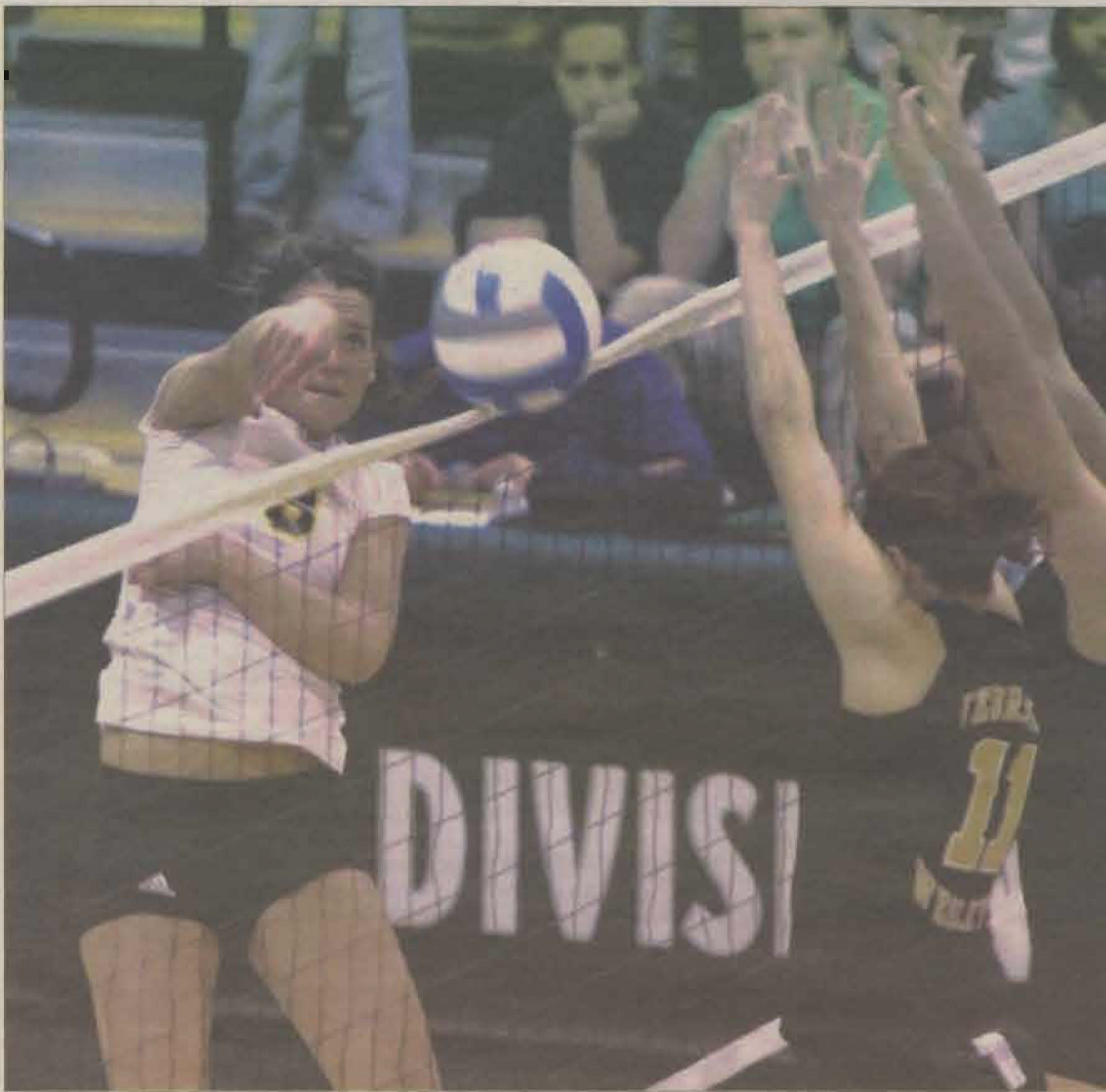
Team Pass Yards Leaders

Michael Byrne - 216.4 ypg

Team Tackle Leaders

Neal Chalmers - 82, Andy Sturza - 66, Haden Gieger - 64

Lutes run ends at regionals



Left: First-year Kelsie Moore hits the ball around the Nebraska Wesleyan block during the Lutes regional match last Thursday. The Lutes lost to Wesleyan in five games in the first round of the national tournament. Above right: The PLU volleyball team huddles around head coach Kevin Aoki during the regional match. Aoki won the Northwest Conference Coach of the Year honors. Below right: Sophomore Beth Hanna kills the ball against Nebraska Wesleyan.

Photos courtesy of Zenon Olbertz

PLU volleyball individual awards



Beth Hanna
Sophomore, Outside Hitter

Northwest Conference Player of the Year
First team all West Region
Third team All-American



Sarah Beaver
Sophomore, Setter

First team all Northwest Conference
All West Region honorable mention



Brenna Archibald
Junior, Libero

Second team all Northwest Conference



Kevin Aoki
Head Coach

Northwest Conference coach of the year

Nebraska Wesleyan boots PLU from national tournament

Cale Zimmerman
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The Pacific Lutheran University volleyball season came to an end over the weekend in southern California. Nebraska Wesleyan Prairie Wolves eliminated the Lutes in the first round of the national tournament. The early exit was not what PLU had in mind, but many accomplishments were made during what was supposed to be a rebuilding year.

Pacific Lutheran's scores against Nebraska Wesleyan went 28-26, 26-24, 19-25, 14-25, 12-15. After winning the first two sets, the Lutes experienced an inspired play by the Prairie Wolves. Three Lutes totaled double digits in kills with sophomore Beth Hanna leading the way with 17. First-year Kelsie Moore recorded 16 kills, while first-year Erin Bremond logged 11. PLU had 123 digs as a team, and junior Brenna Archibald led the team with 36. Other leaders include Hanna (29), Moore (23), sophomore Sarah Beaver (13) and first-year Katlyn Kester (10). Beaver dished out 53 assists.

The team was made up of ten first-years and a some sophomores and juniors. For a team that hasn't lost any players to eligibility and made it to the national tournament, this was a huge accomplishment. The Lutes were picked to finish the conference in third place.

After losing two of the first three matches of the year, PLU went on a 13-match win streak to win the conference for the third consecutive year. Other accomplishments include both Hanna and Beaver being named to the Northwest Conference first team, with Hanna also receiving first-team all region honors.

"Receiving first-team honors is absolutely awesome," Beaver said. "Everyone worked extremely hard this season and if it wasn't for the rest of the team I would have never received this award."

Coach Kevin Aoki also deservedly won his second straight award for Northwest Conference Coach of the Year.

"I think it's awesome that so many girls and our coach received recognition. It represents our team in a positive manner," Beaver said.

Other awards include Archibald making second-team all conference, as well as Moore earning honorable mention.

It is not too early for the team to be looking ahead to next year. The team that was ranked in the top 20 of the nations elite all season will be returning with every player. The Lutes will also welcome back junior middle blocker Kelcy Joynt. Joynt, who was one of the kills and blocks leaders, suffered a season ending knee injury early on for the second season in a row.