

THE MAST

Pacific Lutheran University



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FEBRUARY 20, 2009

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Poetry Slams PLU

Saxifrage hosts the third annual Poetry Slam at NPCC

Ashley LaMagna
MAST NEWS REPORTER
lamagnac@plu.edu

The creative juices of Pacific Lutheran University students were flowing Tuesday night at the Northern Pacific Coffee Company when Saxifrage, PLU's premier literary arts magazine, held its third annual Poetry Slam. Six students and one alumnus read original poetry and were rated on a scale of one to ten by five random judges in the audience.

After three rounds of poetry that ranged from sexually eating a peach to the hairiness of one of the contestants, junior Jacob Harsken won the competition for the second year in a row.

"Winning the slam is always especially rewarding, because when you walk into the slam, you really can't know how it's going to go," Harsken said. "It's unpredictable by design. You have to adapt or be eliminated. It might be the first time ever that someone has won a poetry slam with a sestina."

Saxifrage is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. Saxifrage has hosted several events this year, including bringing River and Sound

Review, a local reading series, to PLU.

"Students submit their work then they are judged anonymously on it," said senior and co-editor Jake Paikai.

Being that Saxifrage is in its 35th year at PLU, it does have some history.

"I think my mom has a few copies of Sax from when she was here in 1984," junior Erin Millerin said.

It is one of the most open publications on campus, as prose, poetry, artwork, photography and sheet music are accepted.

If you are interested in submitting your work, you can e-mail it to saxifrage@plu.edu by 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 27, along with a submission form, which can be downloaded from www.plu.edu/~saxifrage. Saxifrage also hosts open-mic nights every first and third Tuesday of the month at NPCC.

Following the Slam, Harsken looked towards the future of the event.

"It was great to see so many new, younger poets in the slam this year," Harsken said. "They are doing amazing stuff already, which means that by next year I'm guaranteed to be in for an even bigger challenge. I'm already looking forward to the fourth Slam."

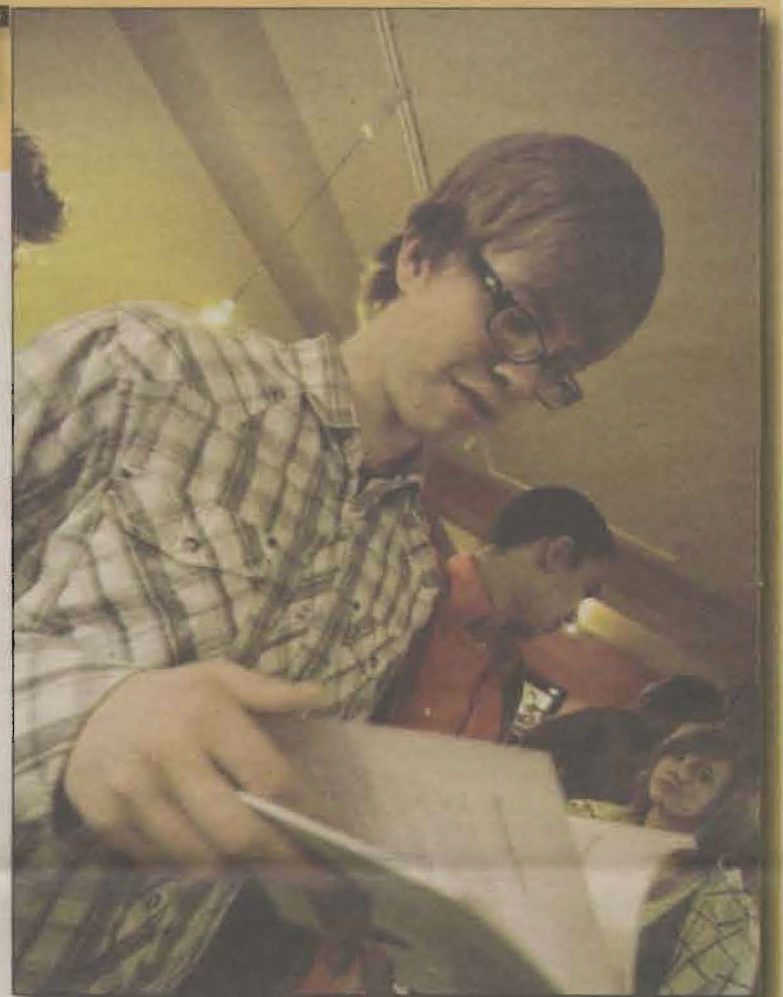


Photo by Ted Charles

Above, first-year Sam Boyd reads from a book of poetry at Northern Pacific Coffee Company during Saxifrage's Poetry Slam. This event was the third annual poetry contest sponsored by Saxifrage. Saxifrage also hosts open mic poetry readings at NPCC every first and third Tuesday of the month.

ASPLU experiences change

Members shuffle positions within student government

Kate Miller
MAST NEWS REPORTER
klm@plu.edu

ASPLU, the student government at PLU, has an omnipresent role on campus planning activities to increase student involvement. However, many students are uninformed about ASPLU's actions.

Over the past two months, ASPLU has undergone staffing changes due to resignations, terminations and hirings.

Senior Laura Comstock was informed during dead week last semester that she would not be returning to ASPLU in the spring as the programs director. The decision was made by senior ASPLU President John de Mars, senior Vice President Amy Spieker and Associate Director of Student Involvement and Leadership Rick Eastman. According to de Mars, the reasoning behind the decision was performance based.

"The termination of Laura Comstock was a shock to all of us in ASPLU," former First-Year Senator Thomas Nelson said. "She was amazing at what she

did. We still don't know what the reason was or why."

Three of her fellow directors quit shortly afterwards: senior Eric Pfaff, former Program Venues Director; senior Lauren Buchholz, former Public Relations Director; and senior Brittany Staten, former Impact Production Director. Each had personal reasons for their resignations.

Pfaff quit for multiple reasons. First, he was displeased with the termination of Comstock and how it was handled.

"For me, it was really awkward," Pfaff said. "It made us feel like we weren't being valued. None of us really felt right about it."

Second, there was miscommunication among the staff, Pfaff said.

"I really wish that a lot of the issues that came up could have been addressed a lot sooner."

There was also a discrepancy regarding compensation, which Pfaff also attributed to the lack of communication. To resolve these differences and to help develop some programs, Pfaff has returned to ASPLU as a senator.

Buchholz, does not recognize Comstock's termination as a reason for her decision to quit.

"It's a bad economy and I got offered a job. I would have loved to keep my job in ASPLU. I'm sure if there wasn't a job, I would still be there," Buchholz said. "It's something that I have always wanted to keep doing."

Buchholz currently has a marketing position with Cascade Regional Blood Services.

Staten also received a job offer. She is currently only enrolled in her Capstone course, which disqualifies her from the position due to the fact she is not a full-time student.

Despite recent vacancies, ASPLU quickly filled these positions. Applications were posted on the student employment website. A committee including Spieker, Human Resources Director Julie Paulson and members of Impact

appointed the four new directors after holding interviews.

Junior Emily Marks was hired as the programs director, Nelson was hired as the programs venue director, sophomore

see ASPLU
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Workshop cures worker woes

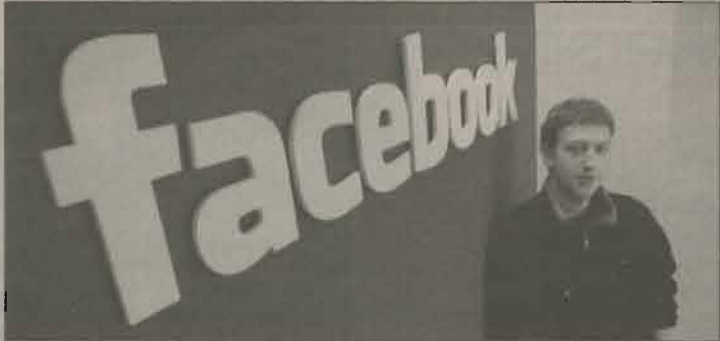


Photo by Ted Charles

Above, Director of Academic Internships Maxine-Herbert Hill instructs sophomore Karly Siroky on internship information. On Tuesday, the Academic Internship Office hosted an Internship workshop in the University Center room 201. The workshop focused on finding an internship, as well as how students can go about gaining credit for their internship. Upcoming events similar to this include another series of workshops, including the Resume and Interviewing workshop on Feb. 24 from 4:00-6:30 p.m. in the UC room 201 and a duplicate to yesterday's workshop on Feb. 25 in the UC room 201 at 4:00 p.m. The Career and Internship Fair is coming up March 4 and 5. For the full story, see page 3.

STATE, NATION and WORLD BRIEFINGS

Local to Global



AP Photo by Paul Sakuma

Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg poses at Facebook headquarters in Palo Alto, Calif., Feb. 5, 2007. In an about-face following a torrent of online protests, Facebook is backing off a change in its user policies while it figures how best to resolve questions like who controls the information shared on the social networking site.

Facebook backtracks on terms of use after protests

Barbara Ortutay
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — In an about-face following a torrent of online protests, Facebook is backing off a change in its user policies while it figures how best to resolve questions like who controls the information shared on the social networking site.

The site, which boasts 175 million users from around the world, had quietly updated its terms of use — its governing document — a couple of weeks ago. The changes sparked an uproar after popular consumer rights advocacy blog Consumerist.com pointed them out Sunday, in a post titled "Facebook's New Terms Of Service: 'We Can Do Anything We Want With Your Content. Forever.'"

Facebook has since sought to reassure its users — tens of thousands of whom had joined protest groups on the site — that this is not the case. And on Wednesday morning, users who logged on to Facebook were greeted by a message saying that the site is reverting to its previous terms of use policies while it resolves the issues raised.

Facebook spelled out, in plain English rather than the

legalese that prompted the protests, that it "doesn't claim rights to any of your photos or other content. We need a license in order to help you share information with your friends, but we don't claim to own your information."

Tens of thousands of users joined protest groups on Facebook, saying the new terms grant the site the ability to control their information forever, even after they cancel their accounts.

This prompted a clarification from Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's founder, who told users in a blog post Monday that "on Facebook, people own their information and control who they share it with."

But this wasn't enough to quell user protests, and the site also created a group called "Facebook Bill of Rights and Responsibilities," designed to let users give input on Facebook's terms of use. It also apologized for what it called "the confusion around these issues."

"We never intended to claim ownership over people's content even though that's what it seems like to many people," read a post from Facebook on the bill of rights page.

Army says teen death at Fort Lewis drug-related

AP News Now
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT LEWIS, Wash. (AP) — In Army investigators say the death of a 16-year-old girl at a Fort Lewis barracks is drug related.

A spokesman at the Criminal Investigation Command headquarters at Fort Belvoir, Va., Chris Grey, wouldn't

identify the drug Wednesday as the investigation continues. He says the dead girl and another 16-year-old girl who became unconscious early Sunday were acquainted with a soldier in the barracks.

A Fort Lewis spokesman, Joe Piek (peek), says the surviving girl is in stable and improving condition at Madigan Army Medical Center.

Hendrix estate wins trademark vodka dispute

AP News Now
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE (AP) — The estate of rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix says it has won a trademark infringement lawsuit against a company that promoted "Hendrix Electric" vodka.

The Experience Hendrix and Authentic Hendrix companies

in Seattle say they won a \$3.2 million federal court judgment that orders the vodka to be pulled from the market.

The family-owned companies filed the lawsuit in 2007 against Seattle businessman Craig Dieffenbach who packaged the vodka in purple-tinted bottles with the Jimi Hendrix face and signature above the label.

MediaLab snags Award

SOAC's MediaLab documentary is nationally honored

Emily Hoppler Treichler
MAST NEWS REPORTER
hoppleeb@plu.edu

Last week, the Broadcast Education Association announced that MediaLab's most recent documentary, "Illicit Exchanges: Canada, the U.S. & Crime," received a 2009 Honorable Mention Award, ranking it in the top five of 49 nationwide entries.

Four Pacific Lutheran University students including seniors Julie Olds, Emilie Finn and Shannon Schrecengost, under the mentorship of professor Robert Wells, created the film. The student filmmakers began filming in Fall 2007 and were funded with a research grant from the Wang Center. The film was completed a year later.

After Olds and Schrecengost traveled over the Canadian border to interview police and others associated with investigating the international drug trade and smuggling across the border, Finn joined after the film's inception and her peers return to the states as the assistant videographer. The three filmmakers also interviewed members of

the Drug Enforcement Administration in Seattle, Wash. and filmed in Tacoma, Wash. courtrooms.

The documentary focuses on the drug smuggling business and how it affects drug addicts and communities. Finn said that they wanted to illuminate how severe this issue is without demonizing addicts.

"We wanted to make the point that the people that take the drugs are not necessarily bad people," Finn said. "But they made a bad decision one time and now they are stuck in the addiction cycle."

The film exalts the need to solve these issues within communities instead of ignoring the issue or leaving it solely to the DEA and other federal programs.

"For many people, this is an invisible problem because they are not faced with it on a daily basis," Finn said. "I hope this can make a big impression on a wider audience as more people are able to see this documentary."

"This opportunity allowed me to follow my journalism passions. For that, I am thankful and feel truly blessed," Schrecengost said.

During her time at PLU, Schrecengost was able to participate in two separate student-faculty research projects with Wells. She also highly recommends that all PLU students should apply for the research grant if they get the opportunity. The Wang research grant is available to all students of all majors even though MediaLab is only available for communication students.

Both Wells and Schrecengost encourage students who are interested in communication and journalism to apply to MediaLab early.

"You will be shocked how fast your four years fly by," Schrecengost said as she cautions first-year students who are nervous about applying. "Take advantage of your time and get the most out of your PLU experience."

"Illicit Exchanges" will receive its award after a showing of the documentary at the BEA Festival of Media Arts: Faculty and Student Documentary Competition Awards Session, on April 23 in Las Vegas, Nev.

Singing his way to the top

PLU alumnus Noah Baetge competes in national contest

Amanda Clancy
MAST NEWS REPORTER
clancyag@plu.edu

Tune in to 98.1 FM at noon Sunday Feb. 22 to hear Pacific Lutheran University graduate and future opera star Noah Baetge sing live on the Metropolitan Opera stage in New York.

Baetge participated in the Northwest Regional auditions, one of 45 other districts and 1,800 competitors throughout the United States and Canada, and won first place. Baetge received 4,000 dollars and the trip to New York

to compete in the national semi-finals where he advanced to the Grand Finals this Sunday. Baetge will be competing with the other nine finalists accompanied by the full Metropolitan Orchestra for placement as one of the top five to win \$15,000.

The Metropolitan Opera National Council has been around for 125 years and is considered the most widely known opera company in the world. This annual concert was viewed by almost 950,000 people last year. With a BA in Vocal Music in 2008, this recent graduate is steps away from winning the most prestigious auditions in North America.

Career & Internship Fair

MARCH 4-5 IN THE UC

Contact the Academic Internship Office for info

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The Mast needs beat reporters... want the ability to report on your club or organization activities? we can make it happen!

contact us at mastnews@plu.edu

Fair plans to help for future

Upcoming Career and Internship Fair at PLU helps for career plans

Hillary Fazzari
MAST NEWS INTERN
fazzarih@plu.edu

On March 4 and 5 from noon to 3 p.m. in the University Center, the Office of Career Development will host its bi-annual Career, Internship and Graduate Program Fair. The fair is open to all students and is intended to provide an opportunity for students to meet with prospective employers, internship providers and graduate program representatives.

"It's kind of like the involvement fair," Dawn Clark, career counselor at Pacific Lutheran University said. "Students can wander through, approach potential employers, and bring their resumes for consideration."

"Whether they are looking for a job after graduation, an internship or a graduate program, there is something for everyone," Ruth Rogers, director of career development and student employment said.

Each day focuses on different career, internship and graduate program opportunities and students should be aware that different types of professionals come on different days.

On Wednesday, March 4 from noon to 3 p.m. private businesses, corporations, hospital/healthcare positions and the military will be tabled in an effort to connect PLU students with full-time, part-



Photo by Ted Charles

Above, Director of Academic Internships shows a slideshow to sophomore Karly Siroky with helpful tips on applying for academic internships. PLU students can utilize the upcoming Career and Internship Fair to prepare for the search just as Siroky did here.

time and internship related career options.

"It makes a personal connection, which is difficult to do in this world of Internet interviews," Clark said. "Students can learn information about employers while employers learn about them."

Also occurring on Wednesday, March 4 from noon to 3 p.m. is the School District Fair & Interview Day. This is meant to provide K-12 education students with an opportunity to meet with alumni teacher and school representatives.

The Graduate Program Fair, which provides students with a chance to meet with representatives from graduate programs and professional schools, will occur on Thursday, March 5 from noon to 3 p.m. as will the second half of the Career and Internship fair, which features non-profit organizations as well as state and government agencies.

"It's such a pleasure to connect with the employers who come to the fair each year," Rogers said. "They make a point of telling me how much they value our PLU student and how they make the best employees. Our students are very competitive in the job market, even in these challenging economic times."

For students who feel underprepared to participate in the Career, Internship and Graduate Program Fair, Keith Gulley from Enterprise Rent-A-Car will hold a brown bag lunch

on Tuesday, Feb. 24. The lunch is meant to educate students on how to prepare for the career fair. For more information on Gulley's informational luncheon, contact the Ramstad Commons at X7459.

Mock interviews with actual employer, meant to accustom students with the procedures involved in interviews, will also be held Monday, March 2 from 2 - 5 p.m. by appointment only. Contact Careers and Development if you are interested at x7459.

"Don't wait until you're a senior," Rogers said, who urges underclass students to begin searching for careers, internships and graduate information early on in their collegiate career.

"The more prepared as a student, the better you will come across," Clark said.

Business casual dress is recommended for the fair because it makes the best impression upon potential employers and professionals. There will be door prizes and a raffle drawing as well.

Be sure to check the daily flyer for ads and updates relating to the fair.

Further questions should be directed to Dawn Clark and Ruth Rogers in the Ramstad Commons. More information on Career Develop is available at plu.edu/career and more information about academic internships is available at plu.edu/intern.

Discussions will challenge PLU to 'Know, Ask, Tell'

PLU Counseling Center stresses the importance of suicide prevention awareness on campus

Hanna Gunderson
MAST NEWS INTERN
gunderhm@plu.edu

In early March, the Pacific Lutheran Counseling Center's Peer Suicide Educators will be giving presentations regarding the center's "Know, Ask, Tell" program. These presentations will take place in residence halls around campus, as well as one in the athletic department.

These presentations will work to further the center's goals of educating PLU students about suicide, particularly suicide in young adults, as well as promoting a program to decrease the threat of young adult suicide.

As stated in the "Know, Ask, Tell" brochure, the program is based on the idea that "By KNOWing the warning signs that someone is depressed or suicidal, by showing support and taking the time to ASK that person if they are doing ok, and by TELLing that person where to get help, you can help someone who may be in serious trouble before it is too late."

Suicide is currently the second leading cause of death among college students. The "Know, Ask, Tell" program is working to decrease the college-aged suicide rate by providing students with strategies to prevent suicide on the PLU campus. The presentations will give students information about the basic "Know, Ask, Tell" strategy for preventing suicide.

The "Know" portion of the program has the goal of informing students of the warning signs of suicide so that they can recognize them in their peers.

The "Ask" portion is aimed at enabling students to ask

their peers directly if they are depressed or suicidal. This is an important step in preventing suicide, because it provides the potentially suicidal person with the knowledge that someone cares about his or her situation.

"The best way someone can help is by asking directly if someone needs help," Suicide Peer Educator Angela Pierce said.

The last portion of the program, the "Tell," encourages students to share resources with their peers who they are afraid might be depressed or at risk of committing suicide. Some of these resources include the PLU Counseling Center, the Women's Center, Campus Safety, as well as outside resources.

In years past, the Counseling Center has sponsored "Know, Ask, Tell" presentations, as well as hour long "Know, Ask, Tell" workshops that students were given the program information and the opportunity to talk with each other about the ideas of suicide. This was meant to open up discourse on what a peer-supported suicide prevention program should resemble.

The Counseling Center will also be sponsoring a suicide awareness campaign including bulletin boards posted in the residence halls that will detail information about the "Know, Ask, Tell" program. Resources for students who are suffering from depression or who know someone who is will also be available.

For more information about the Counseling Center, the "Know, Ask, Tell" program or to contact a Suicide Peer Educator, go to the PLU Counseling Center's Website at www.plu.edu/~councen.

ASPLU
continued from pg. 1

Megan Buchholz was hired as the public relations director and junior Katy Helbling was hired as the Impact production director.

"The transition has been fantastic, absolutely incredible," de Mars said. "It has been a thrill to work with the new employees. It seems like we are off to a great start this semester."

Even after the unexpected transitions, Comstock, Buchholz and Staten still continue to concern themselves with ASPLU.

"I would encourage students to ask tough questions, know their surroundings and be informed about their student governments," Comstock said.

De Mars encourages the same involvement.

"As an organization, we appreciate the efforts of every director and always encourage students to communicate with us. Our doors are always open."

"Know, Ask, Tell" presentations sponsored by the Counseling Center Beginning in March

February 22
Taste of Faith
at Roosevelt Church of God in Christ
10:30am/Admissions Parking Lot

February 23
Black, Christian, Homophobic?:
A Panel Discussion
6:30-8pm/UC 133

February 24 & 26
Brown Bag Lunches on BHM
12pm/Garfield Book Company

i heart black history
events during the month of february

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

From the editor

Safety at the expense of image?

Alisyn Franetich
MAST CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
mast@plu.edu

One of my parents' favorite catch phrases in junior high was 'be safe.' And that was after the interrogation. Like having braces and risking my parents doing something embarrassing dropping me off at the mall wasn't torture enough. But, luckily for them, unless I choked on a gummy bear sitting in a movie theatre chances are my night would be rather tame.

Since the attacks on and around PLU during fall semester I have begun to reconsider what is unsafe behavior. As students we take the Lutedome feel for granted as we pop in our headphones and walk around at night because we're on campus and nothing can touch us. Walking off-campus often feels more risky to students, but it usually won't stop us from getting somewhere we need to go. How do we solve this risky behavior? Enter Campus Safety escorts.

However, I have recently discovered that Campus Safety won't drive me everywhere within its designated parameters. Even though I am 21 years of age and The Haven is within those parameters, I cannot get an escort there. Campus Safety will pick students up from bars, but they will not take them.

It's not hard to understand why Campus Safety won't drive students to known house parties, because we can't dispute that would be knowingly encouraging underage drinking, which is illegal. Plus, first-year students should be popping popcorn, watching movies and bonding over discussions involving things other than who was the first to pass out at some stranger's house the night before.

But it's legal for me to consume alcohol in public and these establishments are legitimate places serving legal beverages. I can be driven to Farrelli's, is that because it is a restaurant too? Most bars serve food, so where is the discrepancy? If I was underage I couldn't get into a bar so there is no worry about aiding underage drinking.

So is asking for an escort to a bar saying I am drinking irresponsibly because it's primarily a bar and not a restaurant? I could plead my case on how I rarely have more than one alcoholic beverage and am a responsible consumer when I do choose to drink. However I don't owe that information to Campus Safety. It shouldn't be assumed that by driving me to a bar I am going to drink myself silly. That is a judgment call Campus Safety has chosen to make.

So what are the alternatives? I suppose I could walk, but that probably isn't the best idea since it's extremely unsafe, especially at night. I could drive. But I won't drink and drive so having one or two drinks rules that option out. The obvious choice would be having someone drive me. And because I go to PLU and don't want to walk at night or be driven by someone drunk, the resolution I always think of is Campus Safety escorts.

Maybe the thought is that allowing this would be perceived as PLU promoting drinking. But driving me to Farrelli's could be the same thing. The consequences of worrying about that perception far outweigh the benefits. PLU is a dry campus and I respect that. I don't drink in my South Hall apartment and therefore PLU should respect my decision to legally have an alcoholic beverage off campus. By making me choose between walking at night and driving unsafely, Campus Safety is taking away a service offered to all students because I am choosing to partake in a legal activity responsibly instead of endangering my life and the lives of others.

Escorts are a wonderful service to students and Campus Safety does great things, but risking student safety over a policy that already contradicts itself in current practice does not make sense. Thanks for the ride home, but you probably don't need to worry about it since I am not even sure if I will physically make it to The Haven safely. Maybe times weren't so rough when Mom and Dad pestered me-- at least they drove me round trip.



Special thanks to CREATOR. Comic by Aubrey Lange

Think globally, live locally

Op-Ed Columnist



Shannon Schrecengost

schrecsn@plu.edu

The weather on the day I left London was amazingly clear. It was as though the London smog had lifted to grant me one last glimpse of the land I had come to love. Flying high over the United Kingdom, I felt as though I was leaving a piece of myself behind.

I cried like I had lost my first love the entire plane ride home. Downing one tiny airline bottle of whiskey after another, I silently sobbed to "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2." Even worse was the Disney tearful trio of "The Jungle Book," "Peter Pan" and "101 Dalmatians." Never before have cartoons brought tears to my eyes.

At first I wasn't sure what had opened the floodgates. When I first arrived in the land of chips and Guinness I absolutely hated it. I thought a semester trapped in high-price-hell would not only deplete my bank account but also send me into a big-city induced mental breakdown. I had no idea how wrong I was.

While it may not have been love at first sight, I developed a passion for the city I was blessed to inhabit, despite the brevity of my stay.

It is amazing how much one can change in a four-month period. Surprisingly, I grew spiritually despite the secular nature of the United Kingdom. Maybe it was basking in God's glory at Westminster Cathedral, maybe it was watching Muslim gatherers fill Brick Lane for afternoon prayer or maybe it was clarity granted while soaring high over the ancient metropolis in the London Eye.

Although I had a prior appreciation for arts and culture, it was expanded in the multi-cultural art haven. I will surely miss the wide selection of free museums that were a mere Tube ride away.

Yet, while I will miss these things, can they not be found here in our own backyard? On that tearful flight (somewhere at 30,000 feet and numerous mini-bottles deep) clarity was found. I have returned to Parkland, Wash. a changed woman.

Reading about sawed-off-shotgun robberies and muggings in Campus Safety alert e-mails while abroad spurred me to reflect on our "Land of Parks." I realized I have been living in fear of my community. This fear has prevented me from truly inhabiting my community during my time at Pacific Lutheran University.

As a graduating senior, my time in Parkland is rapidly coming to a close. Too caught up in the

happenings inside the Lutedome, I neglected to participate in the greater community.

The Lutedome has been penetrated by incidents of violent crime because it exists to be penetrated. We have opted to separate ourselves as others from society around us and have imagined a protective barrier that has served us more harm than protection.

Last week I met a PLU junior who had never been off campus besides heading to the airport to fly home. This not only shocked me but also instilled in me a strange fear. Does this junior judge the beautiful state in which we live by a 30-mile stretch of highway? Are there other Lutes trapped inside the dome?

For a school that stresses global citizenry, we students may not be contributing as citizens in our own community. We must look beyond the dome walls to the greater community in which we live. Deconstructing the Lutedome mentality is necessary to engage ourselves in Parkland.

For me, it took leaving Parkland to realize how unique it is. We do not all have to like Tacoma, Wash., but we should learn to appreciate it. I had to see the diversity of London to recognize the diversity of my own home. What the Lutedome may lack in multiplicity can be found in the greater community.

I strongly believe in global citizenry. My time spent in London was one of the greatest experiences of my life. I highly encourage all students to utilize the resources available through PLU and take the time to study away.

But first, we must truly reside within our community. The first step is simple-- get off campus.

Further, explore PLU's commitment to sustainability and don't drive in the immediate area. It is on foot that we are able to hear the sounds and observe the sights of our community. If you do not open your ears, how will you hear your calling to serve?

In the search of art and culture, how often do we neglect looking in our own backyard? It only takes a trip down Pacific Avenue via Pierce Country Transit Route 1, to visit museums, music shops, markets and clothing boutiques. Take advantage of the bus ride to speak with your neighbors and see what you can learn. And trust me, the more bizarre looking the Parkland commuter, the more interesting they will most likely be.

I may miss London but if I look closely I can see elements of the city I came to love here in the city where I came to live. As you contemplate your own study away opportunity, reflect on this community first. It will only help you gain more insight into our own country and enrich your travel experience later.

My time here in Parkland is ticking. It is time to remove the walls of the Lutedome so we can better see and serve the community in which we live.

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.

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

Editors-in-chief
Alisyn Franetich
Maren Anderson
mast@plu.edu

News editor
Kari Plog
mastnews@plu.edu

Sports editor
Collin Guldner
mastsprt@plu.edu

A&E editor
Matt Click
clickmr@plu.edu

International editor
Nic Tkachuk
tkachunh@plu.edu

LuteLife editor
Andrew Croft
croftag@plu.edu

Photo editor
Daniel Ahrendt
anrendtj@plu.edu

Ad manager
Josh Goodell
mastads@plu.edu

Business manager
Michael McNary
mcmnarym@plu.edu

Online editor
Brendan Abshier
abshieb@plu.edu

Copy editors
Andrew Croft
croftag@plu.edu
Stacey Barber
barbersr@plu.edu
Reno Sorensen
sorensr@plu.edu

Op-Ed columnists
Jessica Ritchie
ritchiej@plu.edu
Jess Lee
leejb@plu.edu

Amanda Peterson
petersaz@plu.edu
Shannon Schrecengost
schrecsn@plu.edu
Jono Cowgill
cowgillj@plu.edu

A&E columnist
Allen Schliebe
schlieba@plu.edu
Jake K.M. Paikal
paikaljk@plu.edu

Sports columnist
Tyler Scott
scotttj@plu.edu

Cartoonist
Aubrey Lange
langeam@plu.edu

Webmaster
Brad Ballinger
ballinbj@plu.edu

Reporters
Ellen Kanuch
Cale Zimmerman
Kolby Harvey
Amanda Clancy
Michael Martin
Audra Wheatley
Emily Hoppler-
Trichler

Thomas Huffman
Kaitlin Hansen
Lars Foster-
Jorgensen
Kate Miller
Ashley LaMagna
Ted Charles

Lorna Rodriguez
Carrie Draeger

Interns
Alexis Ballinger
Dannielle Hanson
Alex Mesick
Christina Smailes
Ben Tully
Hanna Gunderson

House Illustrator
Sam Glover

Photographer
Ted Charles

Adviser
Joanne M. Lisosky

Circulation
Collin Guldner
Ashley Coats

True passion vs. popcorn fluff



We live in a bubble of academia. It's a rose-tinted bubble where your ideas are appreciated, where social justice issues are commonly discussed and thought is valued and encouraged. It is for this reason that so many people wish they could be life-long learners and go to college for the rest of their lives.

As an English major, this realization is incredibly painful. I know that, unless I'm Dan Brown or Stephanie Meyer, my chances of supporting myself and my family on my writer's budget are not very great. Brown and Meyer are two examples of what I like to call "intellectual popcorn." It's easy to make, has zero substance and is incredibly bad for you. While their writing may be entertaining, it doesn't require any deep thinking to read and provokes no deep thought afterward. Their books aren't even well-constructed. Hell, Meyer didn't bother putting a plot in "Twilight" until the last quarter of the book. Yet, they struck gold. As an artist, I feel the pressure too. I can conform, sell my soul and follow their cookie-cutter format, or choose a second, "more practical" major.

Many artists and thinkers feel this pressure. Writers, producers, directors and actors feel the strain to be involved with the next "White Girls" instead of a thought-provoking film that takes risks. Philosophy and Women's and

Gender Studies majors are told that they're wasting their time and money on a dead-end major and are pressured to double major or get their masters in education. Even visionary politicians feel the economic pressure to sell-out, compromise their vision and morals for wealth and power.

My dad and I both share a love of movies. It's one of the few things we could agree to do together when I was a kid. However, as I grew my tastes changed. I like letting my mind relax, but I draw the line at "National Treasure," "Hitman" or "Hancock." He thinks that all of my favorites, i.e. "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," or "Pan's Labyrinth," are weird and refuses point blank "to read [his] movies."

Unfortunately, this is the norm. The top-grossing films of 2008 included "Hancock," "Twilight" and "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa." As a former movie-theater employee for Regal Entertainment Group, I compromised my mind and opinions daily when people asked how a movie was. "'White Girls?' Uh... well it's really popular," was all I could muster when what I desperately wanted to say was "I'd rather kill myself than give my money or time to that movie."

Hollywood is currently in the habit of greenlighting adaptations of movies that are recently released, but foreign. One example currently in production is "Old Boy" (released 2003), a Korean revenge flick about a man who's imprisoned in an apartment for 15 years of his life without ever knowing why he's held captive or who his captors are. The movie is about him finding out the who and why. It's an amazing movie, but because the vast majority of United States citizens

are too lazy to read, Will Smith may be Old Boy-ing it up in 2010 at the expense of the original, already pristine, film. DreamWorks and Universal are currently in the process of securing the rights to the film. The adaptation will, assuredly, be an Americanized slander of the original and full of sex and explosions.

We may live in a bubble of academia, but a vast majority of the larger society around us doesn't care about thoughts, ideas and creations. They just want their popcorn. Our minds have to fight for currency against so much fluff, which carries weight in the larger economic sense. The effect this has on the world around us is difficult to measure. But the fact that George Bush got away with wire-tapping thousands of U.S. citizens without anyone so much as lifting a finger, or that (according to a report by the Center for Disease Control in 2006) more than 1,000,000 people die every year of preventable diseases, or that the U.S. funds numerable wars and conflicts (including Israel bombing Gaza right now) and no one knows or cares that tens of thousands (there isn't really a statistic for this since it's a very hidden trade, but this is a conservative estimate) of people are bought and sold into slavery every year, could be considered indicators of a greater problem: the devaluation of thought and inquiry.

In the meantime, I continue to create and think in a way that's true to myself as I wait and grimace my way through life's disappointments. I wonder what kind of a world I'll live in 50 years from now—50 years after people just stopped thinking or caring. I can only hope and encourage you all to continue this spirit of thought and inquiry beyond this time of academia.



ASPLU informs you about the issues

Megan Buchholz
ASPLU PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR
buchhomr@plu.edu

Spring semester is back in full swing. Late night studying, manic weather and spring fever sound all too familiar at this time.

Clubs and Organizations is gearing up for big events and projects and ASPLU has been busy planning the LollaPLUza festival, which is coming up April 25.

ASPLU is also preparing for the executive elections, which will select an ASPLU president and vice president for the 2009-2010 school year.

Since the start of the spring semester, ASPLU has added several new members to the senate. Senators serve as the representatives for the greater PLU community. They work on projects, pass bills and resolutions, discuss issues and voice the concerns of their constituents.

New members of the senate include sophomore Orion Bras as a transfer student senator, junior Luke Hansen as an off-campus at-large senator and senior Eric Pfaff as an at-large student senator. If you ever have a concern, issue or idea that you would like to discuss with a senator, do not hesitate to contact them directly or send them an e-mail at asplu@plu.edu.

Frosty present, foggy future

Adam Cathcart
MAST FACULTY COLUMNIST
cathcaaj@plu.edu

There is no place on earth more heatedly fascinating than the People's Republic of China. The fecundity of its traditional culture, the profligacy of its new economy, the proficiency and pragmatism of its people are all worthy of sustained attention and encounter. Today, China leads East Asia in the process of constant transformation, but the future remains open to question.

Feb. 3., Le Monde's headline banner fairly screamed: "Chine - Etats-Unis: le grand refroidissement?" (China—United States! The Great Chill) Shocker! Are U.S.-China relations in fact heading for a "great chill" or, worse, a new Cold War? That this question is even being asked is cause for real concern in Parkland, Wash. What is the U.S. relationship with China going to be for the next four years? And how does our China policy interact with the rest of our needs and alliances in East Asia?

It may take more than one column to disaggregate these questions. However, we'll get a running start today. And the timing is good, as Hillary Clinton completes her first trip as Secretary of State to the region. Plied with staggering

amounts of the world's greatest food and nigh-flammable spirits, on this trip to East Asia the secretary is encountering a highly complex and consequential matrix of alliances.

Having occupied Japan for seven years (1945-1952) and maintained military sovereignty over Okinawa until 1972, the U.S. maintains a strong position in Japan. A long-standing and rather unequal alliance with Japan allows 20,000 troops to be stationed on Okinawa and another 20,000 to train on bases near Mount Fuji. However, Japanese public opinion is increasingly skeptical of U.S. intentions in the region and fears being exposed to North Korean missiles without U.S. aid. Recent government incompetence, economic malaise and scandals in Japan have led to a less than 10 percent approval rating for the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Clinton is accordingly meeting with opposition figures in anticipation of a possible change.

Today the U.S. continues to buttress South Korea's deterrent to renewed North Korean action. Although the partnership is long-standing, things are more strained on the peninsula and the chain of command over conduct of 30,000 U.S. troops in South Korea remains an issue. Recently, economic issues have flared up, taking the form last spring of massive street protests resisting the

import of U.S. beef. After a promising start, the new government of Lee Myung-Bak in Seoul has faltered, beset by charges of corruption and toadyism to the U.S. North Korea, always the master of guerilla timing, has piled the miseries higher, tearing up decades of agreements with South Korea on account of Lee's opposition to a "Sunshine Policy" towards Pyongyang.

U.S. relations with Taiwan are less prominent but no less complicated. The U.S. maintains close ties, but not diplomatic recognition with Taiwan. And Taiwan shares values of democracy (as well as espousal of Hello Kitty and boy bands) which are as important as technological ties. However, ever since the U.S. recognized the PRC government in 1979, Taiwanese presidents can only visit the U.S. incognito. Along with Taiwan, U.S. friction with North Korea infringes dearly on China's frontier.

All of these relationships – the strong U.S. ties with Japan, South Korea and Taiwan – certainly weigh upon the minds of Chinese negotiators who meet with Clinton. Moreover, skepticism toward U.S. intentions in East Asia are alive and well.

Within the Chinese government think tanks, like the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and among Chinese intellectuals, ample suspicion remains that the United States is engaged in any

number of actions to "contain China (ezhi Zhongguo)." In standard foreign affair periodicals like Elite Reference or Shijie Huanqiu (Party controlled but often diverse nonetheless) we find intense attention paid to U.S. military views, to the point of pinpointing specific defense department officials. As a general rule, U.S. media rarely quotes retired generals unless they are being asked to promote a war by Donald Rumsfeld (see McCaffrey, Barry).

China's opposition to the Iraq war in 2003 remains an important means of delegitimizing the occasional sanctimonious outburst from Washington D.C.

Other elements of U.S. policy that might anger China in the coming years include the standard raft of issues: support for, and meetings with, the Dalai Lama, insistence on religious freedom in spite of the Communist Party's insistence that it threatens social stability (see the ongoing propaganda war with Falun Gong) and, among other issues, currency issues and trade imbalances. A great re-freeze? Hardly. But even in spring in Beijing, the frost is visible. The sandstorms of environmental change, social unrest, economic meltdown and security changes could yet cloud the picture of China's otherwise limitless potential for transformation.

Sidewalk Talk

Which movie do you believe deserves the Oscar for Best Picture?



High School Musical 3, Troy Bolton is hot.

Alison Hughes senior



The Dark Knight.

Melissa White senior



Slumdog Millionaire, definitely.

Jason Bjorgo junior



The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.

Kristin Lentz first-year



Slumdog Millionaire.

Maryn Johnston first-year



photo from Scene magazine

PLU professor Sidney Rittenberg, right, with Mao Zedong, left. Rittenberg is the only outsider to be admitted into the Communist Party.

Language Barrier

PLU professor shares stories of love, solitary confinement, and Mao Zedong from 38 years in communist China

Mallory Shoemaker
INTERNATIONAL REPORTER
shoemams@plu.edu

In 1942, Chinese studies professor Sidney Rittenberg was drafted into the Army during the beginning of World War II.

Rittenberg's high scores on the military language aptitude test earned him the opportunity to study Japanese with the intention of working directly with the Japanese government. The position offered little appeal to Rittenberg, who was more interested in learning Chinese culture and language.

His thought was that China, an ally with the U.S. at the time, would be a better option and would hopefully present a fun adventure and quick trip home after the war.

"Of course, it was thirty-five years before I [returned to the U.S.]," Rittenberg said.

What had started off as a fun adventure quickly became less "fun" and more of an "adventure."

Upon arriving in China, Rittenberg was assigned as a Chinese language specialist in the judge advocate's office in Kunming, a province in southwestern China. His duties consisted of handling the claims of damage by Chinese civilians against the U.S. Army. Rittenberg was required to assess the alleged damages, as well as write up the claims with influence for the outcome and compensation of the cases.

"It was ideal because it got me out, deep into real China, into the streets and villages," Rittenberg said.

When the notice finally came for his honorable

discharge, Rittenberg was not ready to leave China. The only way he would be able to stay, however, was if he could find a suitable and legitimate job in China.

He found a solution with the UN Relief Program, but his tenure would not last long.

According to Rittenberg, it was nearly impossible to get aid to the people because of corruption amongst the officials of the Chinese Nationalist Party, or the Kuomintang (KMT).

"Many U.S. citizens just got fed up and quit and I was one of them," Rittenberg said. "I was ready to come back to the states and go back into China studies."

While carrying out the relief work through the UN, Rittenberg met Zhou Enlai, one of the prominent Chinese Communist leaders who later became premiere chairman to the state council of the People's Republic of China.

When Rittenberg was preparing to leave China, his job with the U.N. relief program done, he visited Enlai to say goodbye. In order for Rittenberg to have more stories to tell upon his return to the U.S., Enlai offered to take him to visit Yanan, the Communist Capitol at that time, and meet Mao Zedong. Rittenberg was subsequently offered a job producing an English-language radio program, which the Chinese could use to present their case to the U.S. people. He accepted the position.

Because of his close work with Chinese journalists and the creation of English radio programs suspicions were raised among some of the more prominent leaders of neighboring countries.

Joseph Stalin, general secretary of the communist party of the Soviet Union, was particularly wary of

Rittenberg. Stalin suspected that Rittenberg, an unknown and young U.S. citizen, was attempting to build an alliance between China and the U.S. against Russia. According to Rittenberg, Stalin advised Mao via letters to jail Rittenberg as a suspected U.S. spy.

Rittenberg was imprisoned in communist China in January 1949, restricted to solitary confinement and to be released only in the occurrence of Stalin's death.

It was a lonely and quiet time for Rittenberg who remembers the first of six years as being nothing but sitting alone in darkness.

With access to the prison's library, Rittenberg spent five consecutive years reading and writing modern and ancient Chinese, one book at a time.

"Gradually I learned how to manage my mind [and] manage my emotions so I could be okay. Miserable, but okay," Rittenberg said.

When he was finally released after Stalin's death, Zedong and Enlai issued a public apology to Rittenberg. They offered him travel back to the U.S., a house in northern China, travel through Europe or his job back, if he so desired. Rittenberg chose to stay in China and return to his previous duties.

"Myself and some of my classmates in the Army had the idea that after the war we were going to work on building bridges between the United States and China, hat's what I came to do," Rittenberg said. "I saw no



Rittenberg with wife Yulin at their home. The pair fell

reason to give that up. I thought 'if I go home now I'm beaten. I got beat up in China and gave up what I wanted to do.'"

After his release, it was hard for him to speak with people at first. He had lost his voice almost entirely during his many years of solitary confinement, where it was difficult to communicate. The simple task of following everyday conversations proved challenging.

In order to assist Rittenberg in re-adjusting to normal life, Yulin Wang, secretary to his boss at the time, was assigned to help him.

Rittenberg and Yulin became good friends and would take evening walks to talk (and argue) about everything under the sun. They enjoyed eating from street vendors, going to movies and being in each other's company.

As time passed, others noticed the time they spent together and that his feelings for the young woman appeared to be more than friendship.

"I wrote her a note thanking her for her friendship, and that 'I'm thinking this may develop into real love and we'll get married and have an international family' and I put it on her desk," Rittenberg said.

When Yulin discovered the letter, she stormed into his office and firmly said that the sort of relationship that he had described could never be, and because of the way he felt they would have to end their friendship completely and immediately.

However, she agreed to meet him one last time in the park. They were engaged that night.

"It took eight more months to convince her to actually get married, but we were engaged," Rittenberg said.

Even after six years in prison, Rittenberg remained a reliable friend of Mao Zedong. Through this friendship, he became privy to the internal documents and resources of the Communist Party and his relationships with the other leaders were restored on a much more

Unlike the first, his second stint in solitary confinement came as no surprise to Rittenberg. He knew that supporting China's youth in the opposition to dictatorship was the cause of his imprisonment.

Rittenberg spent another 10 years in solitary confinement and it was only upon Zedong's death in 1977 that he, as well as his fellow prisoners, were released. The memories of any faults and accusations against them became silent and forgotten with Zedong's death.

Rittenberg returned to the U.S. in March of 1980 and began to use his ties and friendships in China to open a path to a career in consulting.

Rittenberg and his wife of 53 years, Yulin Rittenberg, have four children: one son and three daughters. Their oldest daughter Jenny resides in Beijing and is currently involved in her parents consulting work. She serves as a valuable connection to the country now that her parents reside in the states.

Toni, their second daughter, is a doctor and lives in the U.S.

Sunny, their third daughter, lives in Woodinville, Wash. and frequently visits her parents on the weekends.

Syd Jr., their son and fourth child, resides in China where he owns and operates an investment company in Pating.

Rittenberg and Yulin's experience and friendships in China prove to be a valuable asset to their work. Over the years, they have done consulting work for clients such as Intel, Nextel, Levi Strauss as well as Mike Wallace and the Rev. Billy Graham.

Currently, Rittenberg is a visiting professor of China Studies here at Pacific Lutheran University and in recent past was a professor of history at the University of North Carolina where an endowed chair has been announced in his honor.

He loves teaching and enjoys sharing his stories and life experience with his students, as well as learning all he can from them.

"You learn a lot from the students, from the contact. It's like a blood transfusion," Rittenberg said.

Since his time and adventures in China began, Rittenberg has lived what he considers to be a full and complete life.

He explains that his experiences in life, the people and leaders he met and befriended in China, as well as the 16 years he spent in solitary confinement have not ruined his life in any way, but rather made him a better and stronger person because of it.

"I don't resent them, I'm really happy to have had the experience," Rittenberg said. "I've had a very fortunate life."

Having overcome not only prostate cancer but also a triple-bypass surgery in the last 15 years, he says he breezed through them but he never could have done it without the time and opportunity he had in prison to refine his mind and gain control over his emotions.

"I think it's enormously valuable for people to learn to manage their thoughts and emotions," Rittenberg said.

"There are rules of thinking, there are rules of the relationship between your thinking and your emotions, but actually they're hard-wired together. What you have to do is learn to harness your emotions behind reasonable conclusions and rational thinking."

His advice to students is simple:

"You just have to make up your mind when something bad happens, 'I'm not going let this ruin my life.' If it's a bad experience, you're going to make it yield something good and the good thing [for me] was highly concentrated studies. You don't have to be a victim of whatever hits you, whatever comes along, to put you in a bad mood," Rittenberg says.

"It's important to know your own strengths and also know your own weaknesses and learn how to use your strengths to deal with your weaknesses. That's how you grow."



AP photo

Mao Zedong strikes a pose during his time as the first chairman of the Communist Party of China from 1943-1974. Rittenberg was not released from his second term in solitary confinement until Zedong's death in 1977.



Love during Rittenberg's work with the Chinese government.

intimate basis.

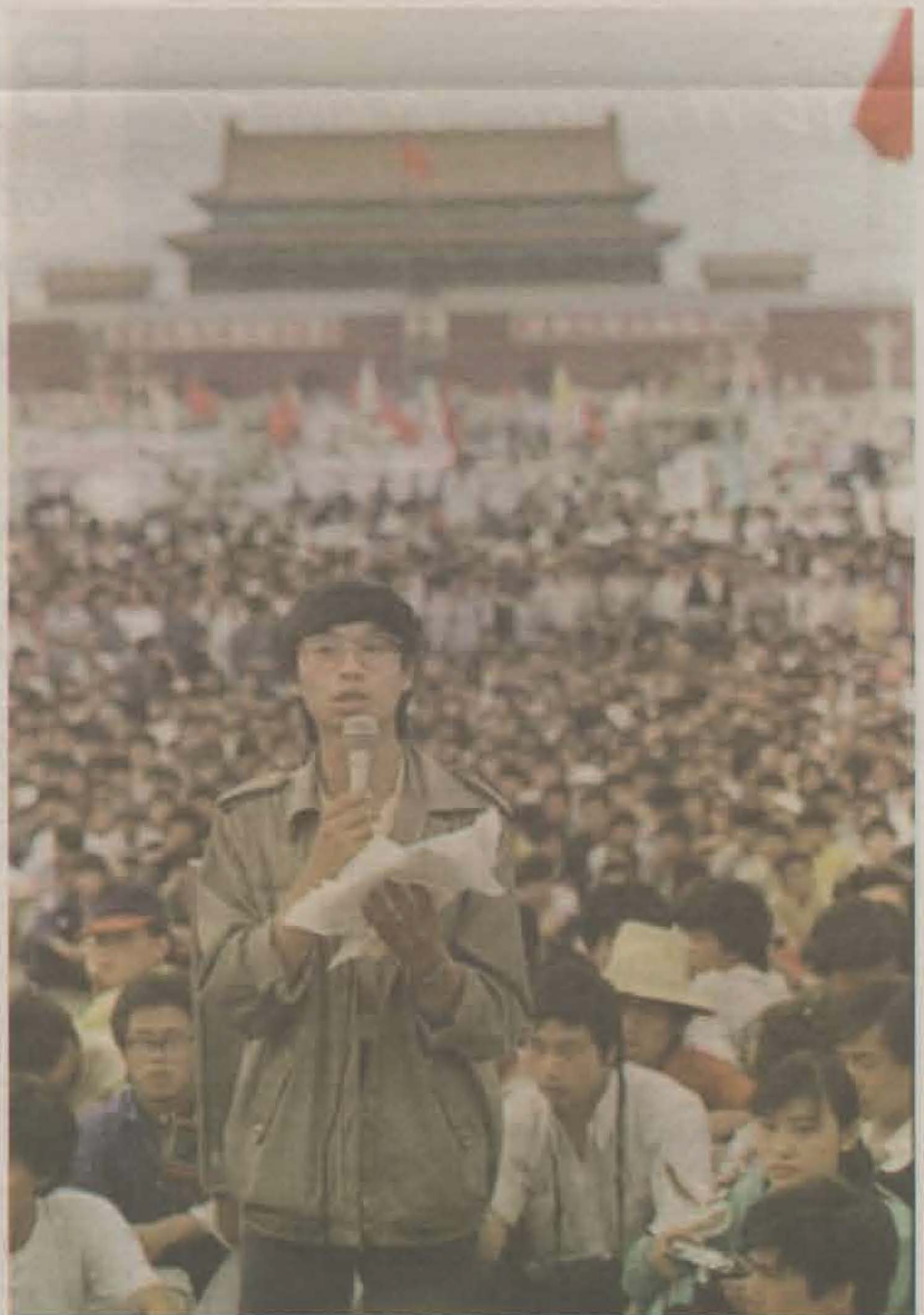
It wasn't long after the death of Stalin and the beginning of his closer relationship with Zedong that the Cultural Revolution of 1966 occurred.

The Cultural Revolution was an uprising of China's people, mainly youth, in opposition to the Communist Party that was in control at the time.

Zedong was thrilled with this development, and both he and Rittenberg threw themselves into it full-force.

"Mao used the young people to overthrow his opposition," Rittenberg said. "He wanted to take the party apart and rebuild it in his own image."

But Zedong's influence over the Chinese youth was waning. In response, he sent the youth out to the villages to be remolded by the villagers so they would learn to follow the party, while Rittenberg, as well as many others, were thrown into prison once again.



AP photo

Thousands of students and young people pack Tiananmen Square in protest of The dismantling of the ancient culture and customs by Mao Zedong and his Red Guards during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Rittenberg was thrown in solitary confinement for the second time for supporting China's youth in their opposition to dictatorship.

Where are the Watchmen?

Tracing the graphic novel's struggle from page to screen



Cinematic Excursions

Matt Click

clickmt@plu.edu

It was 1986 when author Alan Moore and artist Dave Gibbons released "Watchmen," a 12-issue comic series that would soon be regarded as the greatest graphic novel of all time. Moore crafted a rich, multi-layered and profoundly meaningful story, brimming with the grit and raw emotion of deeply flawed characters. Aside from the prolific, blue-skinned Dr. Manhattan, the heroes of "Watchmen" are not heroes at all—rather, they are average men and women who dress up in spandex suits and roam the streets, brought together following the murder of one of their own. Moore successfully deconstructed the superhero myth, and has forever changed the way graphic novels are perceived.

The quest to create a film adaptation of "Watchmen" began in 1986, when 20th Century Fox bought the rights to produce the movie. After Moore refused to help write a screenplay, the film was put into turnaround (meaning the producers would move the film to a different studio) in 1991. Warner Bros. acquired the rights and Terry Gilliam of "Monty Python" and "Brazil" fame was set to direct. Casting was underway when Gilliam left the project, proclaiming that "Watchmen" was "unfilmable."

The project again went into hiatus. In 2001, it was revived. The film that could not be filmed moved from studio to studio for four years and many fans lost all hope. "Watchmen" could not gather the funding it would require to shoot the epic story and do it justice. And Moore became increasingly jaded about the adaptation, eventually agreeing with Gilliam in the impossibility of bringing "Watchmen" to the big screen. In 2004, director

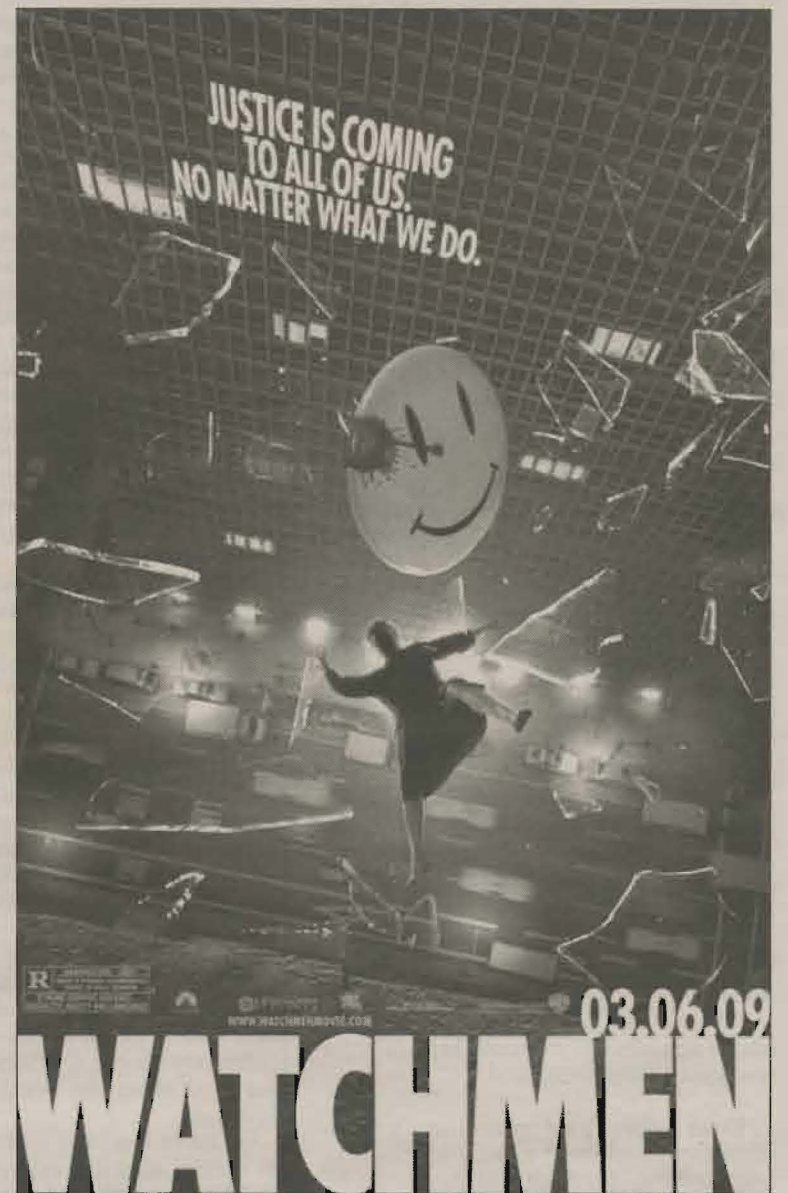
Darren Aronofsky agreed to direct, later replaced by Paul Greengrass, who also departed after the film—then being produced by Paramount—was again put into turnaround.

But in 2005, there was a glimmer of hope. Zack Snyder, with the release of his visually breathtaking "300," caught the attention of the long-suffering producers of "Watchmen." Again partnered with Warner Bros., "Watchmen" went into pre-production for the last time. This time, it survived.

Well, at least it did until 20th Century Fox decided it wanted to retain those distribution rights it bought in 1986. For a few long months, rumors flew that Fox's cronies would block the release of "Watchmen," further delaying the film adaptation that could never be. After a court ruled in Fox's favor, Warner Bros. agreed to give Fox 8.5 percent of all box office earnings—potentially millions upon millions of dollars.

And now, over 20 years later, the film adaptation of Moore's staggeringly brilliant "Watchmen" is set for a March 6, 2009 release. The history of "Watchmen" is laden with disputes, a relative minefield of financial ruin, furious authors and the repeated assertion that "Watchmen," a story that transcends the capabilities of cinema or literature, is unfilmable. The quality of Snyder's adaptation remains to be seen, but the trailers promise a beautiful film at the very least.

And Alan Moore—crazy, bearded, wild-eyed Alan Moore—still maintains that he won't see the film. Too bad for him, because I think it's going to blow us all away.



03.06.09

WATCHMEN

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 Email Matt Click at clickmt@plu.edu for more information.

Blink-182 returns

Pop-punk legends make comeback, promise album



My Skeptic Side

Allen Schliebe

schlieaj@plu.edu

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I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG (PG-13)
 Fri-Wed: 3:15
 Thurs: 3:15, 8:30
 ONE WEEK ONLY!

THE WRESTLER (R)
 Fri-Sun: 1:00, 3:45, 6:20, 8:50
 Mon-Wed: 3:45, 6:20, 8:50
 Thurs: 1:00, 3:45, 6:20, 8:50

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
 Fri-Thurs: 1:20, 4:00, 6:35, 9:05

DOUBT (PG-13)
 Fri-Sun: 12:45, 6:00, 8:30
 Mon-Wed: 6:00, 8:30
 Thurs: 12:45, 6:00

When Blink-182 hit the top of their popularity in the late 90s, they set an example for all pop-punk artists at the time. They rocked, wrote immature lyrics about girls and harmless adolescent rebellion and told toilet humor jokes at their own expense. But most importantly, they had fun doing all of it. They didn't care what they looked like, who they were seen with or what anyone thought of them.

Today's music scene features more neon-clad, makeup-laden pop bands than ever. These bands care more about the way their hair falls in their eyes than having fun and rocking out. The only similarity between the pop-punk bands of old and new is that some of them happen to play instruments. To say that the times have changed since Blink-182 was around would be like saying their album "Enema of the State" was a big hit.

Just four years ago, Blink-182 left the scene with a bitter split between guitarist/singer, Tom DeLonge and the rest of the band. He went on to form the more ethereal Angels & Airwaves, while bassist/singer Mark Hoppus and drummer Travis Barker formed another pop-punk group Plus 44. Both groups found some success among former Blink fans, but neither garnered anywhere near the same acclaim that Blink had during their peak.

The day of the 51 annual Grammy awards the band announced on their website, "We're back. We mean, really back," as well as promised a new album and a tour in the summer of this year. At the awards show, the band appeared together on stage for the first time since their break up, quelling any lingering rumors of tensions between the three members.

With the return of Blink, there comes numerous questions regarding the band and their potential impact. Will their fans (now many years older) still be drawn to the

band? What will the new album sound like? Is the return of Blink a sign of a pop-punk resurgence? Will their penis and fart jokes still be as funny as they were nine years ago?

To answer the last question: Yes, they will be just as funny. Simply because Blink's foul-mouthed sense of humor will never cease to amuse. I still find myself putting on the band's live album, "The Mark, Tom and Travis Show (The Enema Strikes Back)," and giggling at their on stage banter. Also, let's be honest, penis jokes and songs about having sex with dogs will never stop being funny.

When the trio disbanded, they were still touring in support of their self-titled album, which featured a musically mature Blink. The band sacrificed the humor that littered their previous effort, the comically titled "Take Off Your Pants and Jacket." The album, while different from previous efforts, was still very well received by fans and critics alike. Their new album will surely be just as well received, given that their previous effort pushed their musical boundaries pretty far from their pop-punk roots.

Given the overwhelmingly positive response to the band's return on the Internet, I can't imagine that Blink's return will be anything less than successful. While Blink's fans are now a few years older, they still seem to be very loyal to the group. The only difference now is that fans won't be asking their parents for rides to Blink's concerts.

Hopefully, the return of Blink-182 will lead to a pop-punk resurgence to wipe away the "guy-liner" and fashion-focused bands of today. Other signs of hope include new albums from bands like Green Day, Sum 41 and New Found Glory this year, all of whom have shared the stage with Blink at some point. Look out for Blink-182 to be the knights leading the charge for a pop-punk revival this year (just don't expect them to be wearing anything under their armor).

Not just about VAGINAS



Photo by Ted Charles

Junior Mariah Duffy performs in a Monologue at the dress rehearsal Feb. 11. The Monologues play an important role on campus, raising awareness of women's issues. However, its messages are universal.

Monologues raise social justice issues all around

Last Friday, my friends and I filed into Eastvold Auditorium fulfilling our annual tradition of seeing the Vagina Monologues. We usually sit front row, wanting to catch that elusive tampon and are eager to hear which monologues are being done. This year, the cast didn't disappoint.

I was happy to see my favorite monologues: My Vagina was My Village and My Angry Vagina. They were performed perfectly by strong, beautiful women who poured out their inner



Queerfully Yours

Jake K.M.
Paikai

paikaijk@plu.edu

vulnerabilities for the few minutes that the stage was theirs. Despite our enjoyment, however, when we tell people about our annual date to see women talk about their vaginas, the question is invariably asked: Why the Vagina Monologues?

Dissenters of the play think and say the same thing, "It alienates men. It draws lines. It makes divisions where we just want unity already. Talk about misogyny—what about misandry?"

I understand the skepticism. From an inexperienced viewer, the Vagina Monologues seem like an excuse. A means to separate women further from the men and to rekindle the so-called extreme wave of feminism from the 60s and 70s. Most of my friends, the same who make that yearly appointment to

go see the Monologues, say, "So what if it rekindles something? Let the giant, vagina-shaped bonfire burn!"

And because I understand both sides, maybe because I'm a man, maybe because I wasn't raised by feminists, maybe because I had to do a lot of internal poking and prodding to release the feminist within, I'm stuck in the middle. So, let's go a little deeper.

The Vagina Monologues, no matter what anyone says, is elucidating the sexual dichotomy between men and women. It has no choice but to draw lines. As illustrated by the title, this play is not about male perspective and shouldn't apologize for its bias. No lines in the sand are being drawn—the line is simply there.

What the Vagina Monologues should apologize for is thinking that it represents all women. In fact, it represents a particular feminist perspective. It leaves out a lot of gender and queer criticism. I bet there are women out there whose monologue would go something like "My vagina doesn't want to talk so deal with it."

However, a lot of people rightfully look up to this play as a candle in the dark concerning the stories of women. I think it's more complicated than that.

This isn't about vaginas. This is about how when a group of people, who have either contemporarily or historically been ostracized, seek to empower themselves.

People don't like that Pacific Lutheran University has a Pride Week or a Students of Color retreat. People don't like being reminded that there is violence against women, or discrimination against gays and lesbians, or that the system of white privilege in the U.S. exists.

And I don't blame you—it's hard to hear that the cushy relationship you have with yourself and your privilege is being challenged. But that's what art is for—to hold the mirror up to ourselves so we can see our biases and our prejudices. If it weren't for fifty women screaming "Cunt," or drag queens shaking what their mothers gave them or thirty students of color taking 24-hours to talk about their struggles, PLU would be a much harsher environment to create, to grow and to question.

It isn't about vaginas. It's about you.

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Through Feb. 27

<p>Lutes</p>	<h1>SPORTS SCHEDULE</h1>		<p>Baseball PLU at Linfield: Friday Feb. 20, 2:30 p.m. PLU at Oregon Tech: Saturday Feb. 21, 2:30 p.m.</p>
	<p>Men and Women's Basketball PLU at Linfield: Friday, Feb. 20 6 p.m., 8 p.m. PLU at George Fox: Saturday, Feb. 21 6 p.m., 8 p.m.</p>	<p>Softball PLU at Northwest Cup Portland, Ore. Saturday, Feb. 21</p>	
	<p>Women's Tennis PLU at Lewis & Clark: Saturday, Feb. 21 noon PLU at UPS: Sunday, Feb. 22 2 p.m.</p>	<p>Men's Tennis Lewis & Clark at PLU: Saturday, Feb. 21 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m. PLU at UPS: Saturday, Feb. 21, noon</p>	



Junior Rob Bleeker throws a pitch during a game last season for the Lutes. PLU began this season with a trip to California last weekend, going 1-3 overall. The Lutes faced stiff competition, with three opponents being nationally ranked. The Lutes begin Northwest Conference play this week with a trip to Linfield. Mast File Photo

Lutes strike out in California

Carrie Draeger
 MAST SPORTS REPORTER
 draeegcl@plu.edu

The Pacific Lutheran University men's baseball team got off to a rough start this weekend, losing three and winning one in a preseason showing in California against three very talented California teams.

"All three of the teams we played against were nationally ranked teams," Head Coach Geoff Loomis said.

The Lutes opened up the weekend Saturday by splitting with the University of the Redlands, losing the first game 4-0 and winning the second 7-5.

The first game was a battle of aces as PLU senior Trey Watt took on Redland's Nolan Nicholson. Watt, a 2008 First-Team All-Northwest Conference pitcher, allowed only one run on six hits in six innings of work while striking out 10 and walking one.

"Trey Watts threw extremely well," Loomis said.

However, the Lutes managed only four hits against

Nicholson, who went the distance for the Bulldogs. Two of the hits came off the bat of sophomore Ryan Aranati, while senior Jordan Post and senior Kris Hansen added a hit apiece.

The Lute bats found some life in the second match up, as they banged out 12 hits for seven runs, while Post and Sammy Davis drove in two runs each.

Junior Robert Bleecker got the win in the contest, going seven innings. Bleecker, also a 2008 first-team selection, gave up two earned runs on nine hits while striking out six and walking one.

The Lutes then faced the University of La Verne Leopards on Sunday morning in the make up of a rained out game from Friday. The game went into extra innings, with the Leopards getting the win in the bottom of the ninth when a bases-loaded double by Mark Larini plated the tying and winning runs. It was the first lead that La Verne had in the game.

Sophomore starter Scott Wall went five innings for the Lutes, giving up two runs on two hits while walking five and striking out three.

The Lutes finished up the weekend with a 19-2 loss

against the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens. The Sagehens scored nine runs in the first inning, while collecting 20 hits throughout the game. The Lutes managed eight hits against the Pomona pitching staff.

PLU senior Hunter Simpson took the loss for the Lutes.

Relief pitching was an issue for the Lutes, who gave up three or more runs an inning in six separate innings throughout the weekend.

"We were working with a full pitching staff," Loomis said. "The starting pitchers were given limited pitch counts because of how early it was in the season, and to give the relief pitchers more experience."

If we could have limited the big innings, we might have had better success, Loomis added.

"Although it was a tough trip for us going (1-3), we realized that our goals [of competing for a Northwest Conference Championship] were pretty realistic," Loomis said.

The Lutes return to action this weekend in Oregon at the Jim Doran Auto Classic where they will face Linfield, Oregon Tech and Concordia (Ore.)

* * * 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/print/handbook/code-of-conduct/home.htm>.

The University may disclose any of those items without prior written consent unless an "eligible student" (18 years or over) or a parent (if the student is under 18 years of age) gives notice in writing to the contrary to the Office of the Vice President for Student Life restricting the disclosure of the directory information, as it pertains to the student, by the last day of registration for any given academic term at this University. Please be assured that PLU uses discretion when releasing information. If you participate in activities such as music or drama performances, athletics or represent PLU in other public capacities, University policy is to issue minimal information in press releases.

Swimmers take on NWC



Mast File Photo

Sophomore Alex Lemoges swims freestyle in a meet this season. The Lutes capped off the year with finishes in the top half of the Northwest Conference Championships last weekend.

Men take fourth and women fifth at Northwest Conference Championships

Lorna Rodriguez
MAST SPORTS REPORTER
rodrigl@plu.edu

Pacific Lutheran University men and women's swim teams wrapped up the season in style, with tremendous time drops in nearly every race swum at the 2009 Northwest Conference Swimming Championships at the King County Aquatic Center in Federal Way, Wash. Feb. 13-15.

"Overall, over the course of the weekend, everybody improved on times, we had 108 best times and in only a handful of races people added time which is very impressive," junior men's captain Bryce Manso said.

The men and women's teams placed much higher

than expected at the conference meet, with the men finishing in fourth and the women placing fifth. In dual meets, the men placed third in conference, and the women finished fourth.

This past weekend, sophomore Jay Jones was the star of the meet for PLU. Jones easily won all three of his individual events: the 200-yard butterfly, the 200-yard individual medley and the 400-yard individual medley. Jones defended his titles and set new school records for PLU in all three of these events.

In the process of defending his titles, Jones posted three NCAA Division III national meet provisional qualifying times. He will be considered for the NCAA national meet. Finally, Jones tied for Northwest Conference swimmer of the year with Whitworth's Michael Woodward.

First-year Forrest Crain swam extremely well in the

men's 200-yard backstroke.

Besides swimming well, the NWC championships were a momentous event for PLU because former head coach Jim Johnson attended the meet to inspire and cheer PLU on.

"It gave us a boost in confidence and sense of pride," Manso said. "We were swimming for one more thing."

Overall, Manso was pleased with this year's season because the team made significant improvements and the team was committed.

Next year PLU is looking forward to building the team up and continuing to improve in conference standing. The team was tight-knit, but small this year, so Manso would like to have a full varsity roster next season. PLU is hoping to become the power-house it was in the 80's.

Lutes end disappointing road trip 1-1

Cale Zimmerman
Mast Sports Reporter
zimmerman@plu.edu

Pacific Lutheran Men's tennis spent Saturday in Oregon taking on two conference foes. The Lutes played an early morning match against the Linfield Wildcats before challenging the Bruins of George Fox. PLU matched its performance from the previous weekend by splitting the matches. PLU's conference record is now 2-2.

In McMinnville, Ore. the Lutes never felt comfortable from the time they stepped foot on the Linfield campus. While the skies were blue and the sun was shining outside, the hosting Wildcats decided to hold the match inside on their rubber-surfaced courts. Linfield was comfortable with its indoor courts that play very fast,

and the Lutes anticipated to play outside on the typical asphalt-surfaced courts. Despite the unfamiliar settings, Pacific Lutheran took an early lead winning two of the three doubles matches. However, the lead would soon dwindle as the teams prepared for singles.

University of Idaho transfer and junior Joel Trudel continued his dominance as he ran Linfield's Nick Reuss off the court. However, Trudel's teammates would not adapt as that was the only singles match PLU won.

"The rule is that if its less than 40 degrees outside, then matches must be played inside. It was 38 degrees when we started," Floyd said. "Even though it was a beautiful spring day outside, the coaches opted to play indoors on the God-awful courts with horrible lighting."

After the unfortunate events at Linfield, the Lutes headed to Newberg, Ore. to take on George Fox. This match, played outdoors on asphalt courts, was a quick

and easy win for Pacific Lutheran with a final score of 8-1. The only loss came in doubles as junior Justin Peterson and first-year Zac Ah Yat lost to the Bruins.

Singles went according to plan as PLU swept the six matches. Winners in singles in their respective order were Trudel, Ah Yat, Peterson, junior Chris Dew, sophomore Scott Sheldon and senior Jamie Crosetto.

During the last singles match, the torched Bruins were feeling frustrated as Dew was finishing off Ralf Schulz. The Lutes were simply excited to have salvaged the road trip with a split and were celebrating quietly when Schulz hit a ball at the fence in front of where the Lutes were congregating.

"The whole thing was a miscommunication. There will [be] no lingering issues when we host them later in March," Floyd said.

PLU is home Saturday playing three matches. The Lutes play Puget Sound in between two matches against Lewis & Clark starting at 10 a.m. If weather permits, the matches will be held on the lower campus courts. If not, matches will be held at University of Puget Sound's indoor courts.

Scorecard

Men's Basketball as of 2/18

Team	NWC	%	All	%
UPS	14-0	1.000	21-2	.913
Whitworth	11-4	.733	19-5	.792
L&C	9-5	.643	15-8	.652
Linfield	8-6	.571	10-13	.435
Willamette	7-7	.500	11-10	.524
Whitman	5-10	.333	9-15	.375
George Fox	4-10	.286	8-15	.484
Pacific	3-11	.214	9-14	.391
PLU	3-11	.214	9-14	.391

Team Points Per Game Leaders
Josh Dressler - 14.5, Kyle MacTaggart - 12.2, Victor Bull - 11.6, Nick Stackhouse - 10.6, Curtis Trondsen - 8.3

Team Assists Per Game Leaders
James Conti - 3.0, Tony Polis - 2.9, Nick Stackhouse - 1.7

Team Rebounds Per Game Leaders
Victor Bull - 7.1, Josh Dressler - 4.4, Kyle MacTaggart - 4.0

Team Steals Per Game Leaders
Josh Dressler - 1.7, James Conti - 1.4, Kyle MacTaggart - 1.1

Women's Basketball as of 2/18

Team	NWC	%	All	%
George Fox	14-0	1.000	23-0	1.000
UPS	10-4	.714	16-7	.696
Whitman	9-6	.600	17-7	.708
Pacific	8-6	.571	9-13	.409
PLU	7-7	.500	13-10	.565
Whitworth	6-9	.400	12-12	.500
L&C	5-9	.375	11-12	.478
Willamette	3-11	.214	4-16	.200
Linfield	2-12	.143	3-20	.130

Team Points Per Game Leaders
Emily Voorhies - 12.0, Amy Spieker - 10.8, Trinity Gibbons - 10.0, Nikki Scott - 7.3, Sara Backstrom - 5.5

Team Assists Per Game Leaders
Nikki Scott - 3.8, Trinity Gibbons - 3.8, Sara Backstrom - 2.1

Team Rebounds Per Game Leaders
Emily Voorhies - 7.7, Trinity Gibbons - 6.0, Melissa Richardson - 5.2

Team Steals Per Game Leaders
Nikki Scott - 2.2, Trinity Gibbons - 1.4, Emily Voorhies - .9

Men's Swimming as of 2/18

NWC Champion: Whitworth

Team	NWC	%	All	%
Whitworth	7-0	1.000	7-1	.875
UPS	6-1	.857	6-1	.857
PLU	5-2	.714	7-2	.777
Whitman	4-3	.571	5-3	.625
Linfield	3-4	.428	4-4	.500
Pacific	2-5	.286	2-6	.250
Willamette	1-6	.167	1-7	.143
L&C	0-7	.000	0-7	.000

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

Women's Swimming as of 2/18

NWC Champion: UPS

Team	NWC	%	All	%
Whitworth	7-0	1.000	7-1	.875
UPS	6-1	.857	6-1	.857
L&C	5-2	.714	7-4	.636
PLU	4-3	.571	6-3	.666
Pacific	3-4	.428	5-4	.555
Whitman	2-5	.286	4-5	.444
Linfield	1-6	.167	2-6	.250
Willamette	0-7	.000	2-7	.222

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



Photo by Ted Charles
Senior Nikki Scott shoots over a Whitworth defender during the Lutes game on Saturday night. PLU won the game, and kept their slim hope of making the NWC tournament alive.

Lutes stay alive

PLU keeps conference title hopes in tact with win over Whitworth

Ellen Kanuch
MAST SPORTS REPORTER
kanuches@plu.edu

It was a bittersweet set of Northwest Conference home games for the Pacific Lutheran University women's basketball team as they lost 61-49 to Whitman last Friday and took a 71-58 victory over Whitworth on Saturday.

Whitman (16-6, 8-5 NWC) currently sits in third place in the conference standings. The Lutes, losing for only the second time in 12 games at home this season, tied Whitworth for fifth place in the standings.

The Whitman Missionaries completed the two-game season sweep against PLU this season and ended up shooting 43 percent from the field (23-for-53), including 50 percent (4-for-8) from long range. They also made 11 of their 13 attempts at the foul line.

Senior Emily Voorhies led the Lutes in scoring with 11 points. PLU also had a 40-37 rebounding advantage, led by senior Nikki Scott with eight.

On Saturday, the Lutes showed a solid performance against the Whitworth Pirates. The score was tight six minutes into the first half with PLU only behind by one point. The Lutes stepped up their game taking a 14-point lead with 4:24 left in the half, 42-36.

Whitworth (12-11, 6-8 NWC) came back in the second half and tied up the game 42-42. With 9:37 left, senior Meghan Dowling

sparked a 12-1 run for the Lutes as she hit a pair of baskets. Now 64-55 with only 4:39 on the clock, junior Jen Sorensen hit a three-point shot to secure the Lutes lead until the end.

"It was a good team win on Saturday and a great way for us seniors to end our basketball career at home at PLU," Dowling said. "The fans have been amazing throughout the years and we really appreciate them."

Sorensen led the Lutes in scoring with 14 points, while Voorhies contributed 13 points on 6-of-9 shooting, and Scott contributed 11. The Lutes hit 29-of-63 from the field, for 46 percent.

Six PLU seniors were honored following their final home game of the season: Dowling, Voorhies, Scott, Trinity Gibbons, Amy Spieker and Melissa Richardson.

The Lutes hold fifth place in the conference standings, one game behind both Whitman and Pacific. Whitman holds the tie-breaker advantage over PLU, but the Lutes split with Pacific.

"We are still fighting for a spot in playoffs and we aren't going to go out without a fight, this team has so much heart and desire," Dowling said.

Pacific Lutheran will bring its regular season to an end next weekend with road games against last-place Linfield and nationally ranked George Fox. The contest against Linfield is scheduled for Friday at 6 p.m. in McMinnville, Ore, and the Lutes will play George Fox this Saturday at 6 p.m. in Newberg, Ore.

PLU loses twice to Whits

Lost season gets worse for struggling Lutes

Carrie Draeger
MAST SPORTS REPORTER
draegcl@plu.edu

The Pacific Lutheran men's basketball team dropped two games last weekend, losing to Whitworth 83-57 Saturday night and 69-68 in a heartbreaker to Whitman in Friday's match up.

The Lutes were out muscled Saturday by the tag-team efforts of Whitworth's 6-foot-6 Calvin Jurich and 6-8 Nate Montgomery. Jurich put up a game high 21 points while Montgomery added 12 points and a game high 11 rebounds.

Sophomore Curtis Tronsden had success off the bench, scoring 18 points to lead all Lute scorers. Sophomore Kyle McTaggart added 12 and first-year Nick Stackhouse scored 10 points to round out the Lutes double-digit scorers.

The Lutes held the lead and control for most of Friday's match up against Whitman, but the Missionaries scored the last five points of the game to get the victory. Timely shooting and a strong game from three point range helped the Missionaries push pass the Lutes.

Whitman finished the game making 13 of its 23 shots made coming from beyond the three-point line. Seven of the 13 three-pointers came off the hot hand of Steve Campbell. Campbell was also a perfect 4-4 from the foul line to lead all scorers with 25 points.

On Friday, the Lutes were able to balance the Missionaries hot shooting with a balance of three players reaching double digits. Stackhouse led PLU with 20 points while McTaggart adding 15 and sophomore Victor Bull chipping in 14.

PLU lead by as many as 10 points with seven minutes left the second half, but were unable to hold on for the victory in the final minutes of the game.

"We did everything we had to do (to win) except execute in the last two minutes," Head Coach Steve Dickerson said. "The Lutes made crucial mistakes in the final minutes that cost them the game," Dickerson said.

The miscues started on the foul line when McTaggart was called for an over-the-back violation on Campbell. Whitman was already in the double bonus and Campbell made both attempts to bring the Missionaries within one possession at 68-66.

Whitman put on the pressure on the ensuing inbounds pass and forced the Lutes to commit another turnover with 11 seconds left.

It looked as if the Lutes were going to skate by with a victory when Missionary Jordan Wheeler threw up a prayer from well beyond the three-point arc that found nothing but the bottom of the net to give Whitworth their first and final lead of the game, 69-68, with three seconds to go.

The Lutes were able to get the ball past half court but McTaggart's Hail Mary bounced off the backboard as the buzzer rang.

"Our young guys feel bad about it, but the only thing you can do is learn from it," Dickerson said. "That's what that amazing thing called experience will do."

The Lutes finish up the 2008-2009 season away this weekend, taking on the Linfield Wildcats Friday night and the George Fox Bruins Saturday.



Photos by Ted Charles
Above: First-year Nick Stackhouse drives past a Whitman defender in the Lutes game on Friday. Below: Senior Josh Dressler protects the ball from a Whitworth player on Saturday night. PLU lost both games last weekend.