President DeRosa Lays Out Pacific’s Plan

University President Don DeRosa discussed the difficulties and successes the University of the Pacific has experienced in the past year during his annual Open Forum. DeRosa touched on several key topics including enrollment, financial aid, and whole student learning.

Ann Mazzaferro
Pacifican Staff Writer

University President Don DeRosa addressed the audience during his Annual Open Forum. DeRosa touched on several key topics including enrollment, financial aid, and whole student learning.

Society of Women Engineers Sweeps Competition

Pacific students have once again brought honor to our campus, as the students of the Society of Women Engineers have placed first in the Boeing Company Team Tech National Collegiate Competition.

The team’s winning project, "Building a Cost-Effective Augmentative Communication Device," beat out competition from 5,800 students from across the United States. Students were approached by the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation and asked to create a communication device for those whose cerebral palsy afflicted their ability to speak. Such devices can typically run up to $9,000 a unit, and many insurance companies do not cover such an item. The team was then given a budget of $400, and several donated laptop computers to integrate into their design. While all of the team members are engineering students, none of the team’s members specialized in software engineering, leaving them truly at square one. With determination, a lot of extra study hours, and hard work, the team completed their goal, under budget, with total costs coming in at $385.

"It’s so exciting," said Dr. Louise Stark, Associate Dean of the School of Engineering and Faculty Adviser to the Society of Women Engineers. "They put a lot of work into this. It’s a year of dedicated work. They deserved it [the victory]."

It was a decisive victory for the Pacific team, with judge’s comments ranging from “Good Teamwork” to “Wow!” Pacific has been sending a team for the competition 15 years.

Ann Mazzaferro
Pacifican Staff Writer

On Sunday evening, as lights glow softly on all corners of campus, students, faculty, community members and staff will make their way to the Don and Karen DeRosa University Center for the annual lighting of the campus Christmas Tree.

Unlike years past, the official lighting ceremony will not take place at the tree located next to Baun Tower. Instead, the ceremony will take place inside the lobby of the University Center at 7 p.m. on Dec. 7, where a 15 ft. tall tree will be displayed, and where students will be able to take part in giving back to the community.

At the front desk in the lobby, students will have the opportunity to make a monetary donation of any size and receive an ornament they can personalize for the Christmas tree. All proceeds raised by the sale of these ornaments will go to Saint Mary’s Interfaith Community Services, where the funds will provide food, clothing, and gifts to those in need this holiday season.

It is a cause that remains close to the heart of Mrs. DeRosa. Every year, at the party held for faculty and staff at the President’s House before the Festival of Lights begins, guests are asked to bring a gift to give to a child in need during this holiday season. When Saint Mary’s was asked what it’s patrons needed most, the answer was simple-toilettries, socks, and the everyday items that many take for granted. The idea of making the Christmas tree a more interactive part of student life was then born.

“We just felt it was a great way to get students involved,” said Mrs. DeRosa. A celebration will follow immediately after the lighting of the tree in the University Center ballroom, where students will have the chance to

Inside The Pacifican

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Dinner</th>
<th>Pike’s Hit of Reality</th>
<th>Undocumented Students</th>
<th>Club L</th>
<th>BCS College Football</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Page 3</td>
<td>Page 4</td>
<td>Page 6</td>
<td>Page 8</td>
<td>Page 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pike Faces a Harsh "Hit of Reality"

Kevin Robertson
Guest Writer

You may have noticed a recent increase in the population of homeless college students on campus. No, foreclosures haven't started to affect the University's residence halls yet. Those students are the members of Pi Kappa Alpha putting on their annual philanthropy event called Hit of Reality.

Each year at around this time, Pike teams up with Second Harvest Food Bank to raise awareness for the homeless in Stockton, and also to raise money to help distribute food to the needy. Last year the event raised more than $6,000 thanks to the generosity of families and businesses located primarily in the Stockton area. Second Harvest uses this money to help transport food to the needy around Stockton.

The event began Wednesday evening and lasts until Friday morning. It is located in the McAffrey Center. For those few days, Pike brothers get a small taste of what it would be like to be homeless. They have to make shelters out of cardboard boxes and duct tape while facing the outside elements throughout the entirety of the event. Even events will be in or around their box day and night, except to go to classes, work, or the library. In addition, they are not allowed to buy their own food during this time, and instead rely on the generosity of the Pacific community.

Frankie Parish, the coordinator of the event this year, is thrilled to have the chance to give back to the community once again.

"Hit of Reality is about raising awareness for the local homeless community in San Joaquin County, especially during the holiday season," said Parish. "This time of year should be spent with family and friends, but that's not always possible for some of the more unfortunate in our community. This is an opportunity to do our part to try improve their quality of life."

Another Pike brother commented that "especially with the recent Thanksgiving break, Hit of Reality really makes you realize how much we have to be thankful for, and how much we take for granted in life. Every year, this event makes me realize how hard a lot of people have it in our community."

To donate, there are two options. During the event, Pike will have a donation jar for change, cash, or checks made out to Second Harvest Food Bank. Or, anytime after the event, you can make donations either to the Pike house or directly to Second Harvest Food Bank in Manteca. The addresses of both options are:

Frankie Parish
3640 Pacific Avenue
Stockton, CA 95211

Second Harvest
Food Bank
704 Industrial Park Dr
Manteca, CA 95337

A member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity builds his cardboard "house." All Pike brothers will get a small taste of what it would be like to be homeless for a few days during Hit of Reality. Hit of Reality money is used for the Second Harvest Food Bank which helps transport food to the needy. Last year the event raised over $6,000.

FORUM, continued from front page

Enrollment statistics were the first topic of discussion with greater detail given on the specifics than has previously been reported. Total enrollment for all the campuses this year increased slightly from 2007 to 6,251 students. One factor in the increase was the decision to increase the selectivity rate for incoming students. Selectivity is the percentage of applicants that receive the option of attending the University of the Pacific. According to DeRosa, Pacific's selectivity range is normally between "the fifties to low sixty percent."

"Our indicators were telling us that we were going to have a much more modest freshman class," he said. One of these indicators was a smaller percentage of applicants. To compensate for this potential shortfall the selectivity rate was raised to 65%. Instead of hitting the assumed enrollment numbers, Pacific welcomed its largest freshman class since 1982 of 882 students.

DeRosa credited individual departments for targeting students to draw them to Pacific. "We have to continue to work tirelessly together on enrollment across every unit of the University," he said. "We are all in this together and I am so optimistic right now about how it's coming out."

DeRosa stated that since Pacific is not a heavily endowed university that enrollment is key to Pacific's financial strength. "Family wealth is shrinking and that is going to have an effect on the mindsets of people in ways we haven't been able to predict because, we haven't seen it before," he said.

"We're doing the right things and I am confident that this is a university that is not going to lose it's momentum during this time," DeRosa said. "In fact, I think we are going to take gains."

For more details from President DeRosa's Open Forum, including issues like financial aid and student learning, read Ben Holley's article on the Pacifican website at www.thepacifican.com.
Students were given a “passport” to travel through the individual booths, which, with signatures from all the different groups, was used for a raffle. Winners were given gift cards for certain establishments, such as Jamba Juice and Starbucks.

Arturo Ocampo, the Assistant Provost for Diversity and distinguished guest speaker of the dinner, related his own struggles during his years in middle and high school, and presented the idea of having students depart from their own comfort zone to fully learn about other cultures.

After a brief address, students were able to Chow down to a buffet of cultural cuisine, which included portions of curry noodles, churros, orange chicken, chips and salsa, and cornbread, in addition to other appetizing foods.

Performances by the Pacific Martial Arts Club, individual Greek and multicultural organizations, as well as an international fashion show allowed guests to experience the conventions and traditions of other cultures.

Every year, the council, or the UCC, hosts the dinner to encourage and foster diversity at Pacific. The dinner is also held in the honor of alumni Kafoo Seaphan, who contributed extensively and significantly to enhancing culture and diversity at Pacific.

The council includes approximately 20 student organizations and the multicultural Greek organizations. To learn more about the council, the individual organizations, or upcoming events, check out the group on Facebook, at pacific. ucc@gmail.com, or visit their office in the Multicultural Center.

Photograph by Vivian Lee

Members of the Hmong Student Association at their table at the 11th Annual International Dinner. Around 20 student organizations plus multicultural Greek organizations had displays for students to browse.

The dinner was hosted by the United Council of Pacific.

Stop in for a taste of Baja at Rubio’s Fresh Mexican Grill and Raise Money for Phi Alpha Delta Pre-law Fraternity University of the Pacific

That’s right, whether you eat all of Rubio’s or take food to go, just present this flyer to the cashier and Rubio’s will donate 20% of your transaction to this cause.

Please remember to turn this flyer into the cashier to receive credit.

Date:
Thursday, December 4th, 2008
Time:
3:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Rubio’s Fresh Mexican Grill

Photograph by Vivian Lee

Elizabeth Croisetiere
Pacifican Staff Writer

Mecha de Pacific, the Chicano Student Movement of Azhan, is hosting a coat drive. From November 1 to December 1 they will be accepting any type of warm winter clothes and coats. Students who go home for Thanksgiving can clean out their closets and bring back their gently used warm clothes to drop off in a designated bin. These bins can be found in all of the residence halls, the University Center, the Multi-Cultural Center, the Library, and other locations around campus. The drive benefits the Farm Workers Association, and the Mechas will be hand delivering all donations in December.

Mecha de Pacific chose the Farm Workers association because “it benefits our people, the Chicano community. They do so much for us that we’d like to help them in this small way during the holiday season,” sophomore Vanessa Corona said. Help spread the warmth and support the Chicano community by supporting Mecha de Pacific in its latest project.
To those who make posts defending themselves. Don't give the bashers the time of day! Don't give them more ammunition to attempt to further degrade your integrity and image on this campus.

It's one thing if a state university has posts on JuicyCampus, but another if Pacific has posts. With just over 3000 undergrads at this school, names are known, people have more friends and acquaintances than you think. It's one thing to see a comment bashing a stranger on the website and another to see a comment bashing someone you have a class with. Think before you post. How would you feel if your name were on that website?

**FUNNY CLASS NOTES**

**Leaf me alone**

**Humor Columnist**

Matt Brady

"Oh, this is such a beautiful campus! There are so many leaves! It looks like something on the East Coast!" That's what my mother said, exclamation points and all, when she first saw Pacific and, well, she was right. There are a lot of leaves.

Walking through campus in the brisk morning air before the green-garbed maintenance crews have a chance to do their work (this job blows, sorry), the Pacific student has a chance to breathe in the gorgeous scent of dead leaves. They litter the ground like confetti on the streets of Times Square on New Year's Day or the colored balls at a McDonald's play center. Colorless, dead and...crunchy.

That's right. Crunchy. I think students go out of their way to stomp through the piles of leaves, as if shattering the already defeated matter will improve their self-image. Some days I'll walk to my morning class only to be overtaken by a chomp-chomping from an enthusiastic leaf-smasher. At first it sounds like unsogged breakfast cereal being masticated between poorly adhered dentures. On further inspection, the sound is more akin to the crackle and pop of nervous knuckles.

Then the chomp-chomper overtakes me and I see that it is nothing more than a distracted student unconsciously wreaking havoc on our campus's saporrophic ecosystem.

The real impact of the leaves is felt during my morning class on the second story of Knoles Hall. From this perch, with the windows permanently open in defiance of Al Gore to release a building's meager heat to a sensitive gloom, I watch every moment of the leaf war, between maintenance and leaves.

I've heard from people that coughing is a sign of a battle between the germs in one's body and that most people cough when the dead enemy combatants— apoplectic leaves—are the battle is won.

Rather than cough, the symptom of the leaf war is a motorized roar. The campus wears green as camouflage so the leaves don't know they are coming to sneeze on them with gas-powered fans. Although few survive the carnage, every night brings reinforcements and the battle is begun anew the next day, much to the chagrin and distraction of all of us on the second floor.

Just between us, I'm rooting for the leaves.
States of America, more and more seems that since Obama was elected called him naive in regards to his plan for negotiating with adversaries. It seems that the President of the United States of America, more and more people are coming out to disagree with such tactics.

I think it important, then, for those who disagree with Obama’s tactics of peacefully discussing matters with our enemies to take a brief look at our history.

During the Cold War, most presidents, such as Eisenhower, Kennedy, Nixon, and Reagan decided that sitting down with our adversaries and discussing matters was beneficial for the U.S. Surely none of these men were called naive or weak-minded, were they? They all talked to Soviet leaders, and it was through these talks that Kennedy negotiated a nuclear Test-Ban Treaty with Khrushchev, and Nixon repaired a 20+ year rupture with Mao Zedong. Perhaps this is best stated by Israel’s Yitzhak Rabin, who, while defending his discussions with Arafat, declared, “You don’t make peace with friends, you make peace with very unwilling enemies” (Newsweek, 11.3.2008).

Why, then, should America treat enemies “naive and weak, rather, it is evident to the U.S. because it funds force, the U.S. should offer to negotiate with Iran. Starting another meaningless war in Iran would just increase tension between both countries, further fueling Iran’s anger towards the U.S., giving them an incentive for retaliation. Discussing matters, then, gives America a safer sense of peace and involvement in world affairs.

Of course, it is also inevitable that when Obama does speak to such adversaries, that it be known that America does have other options of dealing with matters, including the possibility of force, if the discussions fail.

Another issue concerning supporters of Obama is the constant accusations that he is unqualified for the position. Not only does Obama have a multi-cultural background, but he has visited and lived in different parts of the world, acquiring a more realistic view of societies in other countries. Joe Biden, Obama’s pick for VP is the long time chair and ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as well, making the team a perfect pair for dealing with such issues.

To put it quite bluntly, we need all the friends we can get after these past eight years. Sitting down and speaking with our enemies is not naive and weak, rather, it is evident that our leader is competent, strong, and has the ability to articulate matters without violence. Issues with Iran are a perfect example of such actions: Iran poses a threat to the U.S. because it funds and arms the region’s terrorist groups against America, Israeli, and Arab allies. Rather than using military force, the U.S. should offer to negotiate with Iran. Starting another meaningless war in Iran would just increase tension between both countries, further fueling Iran’s anger towards the U.S., giving them an incentive for retaliation. Discussing matters, then, gives America a safer sense of peace and involvement in world affairs.

Snail Mail vs. E-mail: The Battle Begins

Ophelia Turner
Pacifican Staff Writer

Walking up to my little mailbox, key in hand, my heart is beating fast with anticipation. As I turn the key in the lock, I wonder to myself, will I get a letter today?

Receiving a letter in the mail is something I look forward to; emails are not as personal and they don’t reflect the time and thought people put into a letter. A letter is something you can actually hold and see, whereas an email is intangible and transitory.

“I prefer letters because they have a warmth to them, while an email is colder,” said student Francisca De Jesus, who told me firmly that she writes letters.

Receiving a letter from a friend always makes my day, since it shows that even though we may be thousands of miles away, we still care and think about each other. The words in a letter are permanent, and it takes time to think of the right words. A letter is something very personal; it’s a real extension of someone else’s thoughts directed towards you.

The internet is becoming more powerful and many things are being done on computers since it’s just easier to do. Why take the time to sit down to write a letter and wait for it to arrive when you could just type out an email and click send? Time is something people want but don’t always have, and in America people want to take the easiest and quickest route. Because of this, sending emails and text messages has become the most popular form of communication between people.

Look at the popularity of Facebook; people use Facebook as a way to communicate with others, which is convenient, but at the same time impersonal. According to Facebook’s website, more than 200 million people are active users. Those numbers are rather astounding and shows how popular and dependent people have become with using the internet to communicate. Facebook is convenient and easy, but perhaps what is said on it is as meaningful as what may be conveyed in a letter. Think about all the times you text, send emails, chat online, or communicate with people on Facebook or some other social website. Most of us spend lots of time on the internet, and our lives would undoubtedly be very different without it.

Yet, there is a certain old-fashioned romantic appeal about keeping old letters—they are keepsakes, fragments of memories.

“Snail mail is more intimate, especially when the person to whom you are writing is far from you. That person could be someone you don’t see often; it could be a friend, a parent, anybody. I believe text messages should be more for quick things, not for expressing your feelings,” said Jennifer Sese, who had recently written a letter to a friend who lives far away.
Perspectives

Bottled vs. Tap Water

Ana Gabriel
Pacifican Staff Writer

Many consumers purchase bottled water as a safer and cleaner alternative to tap water, such as Aquafina, Crystal Geyser, Arrowhead, and other generic brands. However, the truth behind the water in those appealing bottles will be a surprise to many.

What many people do not know is that most bottled water is actually tap water. Companies have successfully marketed their products by decorating containers with pictures of mountains and springs to deceive the buyer. For example, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), “one brand of water was sold as "spring water" and its label showed a lake and mountains in the background, but until recently the water actually came from a periodically contaminated well in an industrial facility’s parking lot, near a waste dump.”

Aquafina, a PepsiCo brand, is one of the many brands that use tap water. The PepsiCo company has tried to refute the negative connotations attached to tap water and promote their beverage by labeling their bottles to say their product comes from Public Water Supply—a fancier way of saying tap water.

Scientists have not yet proven that bottled water is a safer and cleaner alternative to tap water. In fact, bottled water recalls occur quite frequently due to contamination, yet the general public is unaware of this.

Bottled water has impacted the economy and environment negatively. More than half of water bottles are thrown away instead of recycled, which poses a threat to the environment. The cost of bottling ranges from $0.25 to $2, when that money could be used in other ways.

A permanent switch to bottled water puts low-income families, who cannot afford the change, at a disadvantage. A better solution would be to further regulate and improve the quality of tap water and decrease bottled water consumption and make truly healthy and clean water available to everyone.

Already some counties have passed laws regulating the amount of minerals that are deemed safe to drink. An alternative to drinking bottled water and accumulating the unnecessary garbage that comes with empty bottles is the solution of the water filter. With a water filter, consumers are able to fill their personal bottles with tap water from their faucet, much of which is already filtered. Invest in a personal water bottle that you can refill. This way, there will be less garbage and more convenience for everyone.

Undocumented Students in Education

Andrea Soto
Pacifican Staff Writer

In the United States one is taught that as long as one works hard one could fulfill their “American dream.” However, what happens when working hard just isn’t enough? In high schools all over the country we are seeing many students unable to pursue their education because they are considered illegal immigrants. No matter how hard they work, they will never be able move forward in education because being illegal also means not getting enough money from the state. It means that no matter how good of grades one has, the restrictions of being an illegal immigrant will limit the potential that one has yet to demonstrate.

One of the main reasons why undocumented students are limited is money. The amount of money granted to a student through the state, scholarships or the university is usually the deciding factor on whether or not one chooses to attend the school. Undocumented students, however, do not always have all these resources. They are unable to file the FAPEA, which means they will not qualify to receive any type of Cal Grant. Many schools today require the FAPEA in order to grant any financial aid. Furthermore, many independent scholarship committees also require the social security number in order to even fill out an application. With all these restrictions it comes to no surprise that students all over the country are finding it more and more difficult to pursue a career. When asked about the current obstacles that undocumented students are facing student Vanessa Hernandez answered, “It hurts me everyday knowing that I was good enough to have been accepted by 6 four-year universities, but I am not worthy enough to receive financial aid from the state. I was forced to attend a community college where it feels just like high school.”

Unfortunately, the disappointments do not always wait until the senior year of high school. There are many programs and scholarships that try and found by private institutions that try and help out the even younger generations about the value of a good education. An example of these programs is illustrated as student Maria Soria states, “I was offered to attend a private high school after graduating from junior high. Only ten students out of my eight grade class were chosen based on test scores and grades, but I had to refuse the offer because I was undocumented.” Maria currently attends a community college in her hometown despite her acceptance to many four-year universities.

Since there are so many restrictions, what is an undocumented student to do? This question has yet to find its answer. Immigration laws still have yet to find any type of resolution or amnesty that can grant undocumented students the right to continue with their education. Hernandez stated, “I’m thinking about getting married to my boyfriend of almost two years even though I’m just 18 years old. I don’t want to, but I feel like it is the only way.” Other students have also tried to obtain some type of degree. The problem with this is that even though they will receive a degree, they will not be able to exercise it in any job. I believe actions should be taken to lessen the frustrations of many undocumented students. It is unfair to work so hard in school, and not be able to move forward simply because of a nine digit number. Students who reflect excellence should not be forced to settle for minimum wage jobs, especially if they were number one in their graduating class.

Ties to the World: 5k Run Walk Skate for Orphans

When: December 7, 11:30 a.m., UC lawn

Event: The second annual Ties to the World 5k fundraiser. It is open to all the Pacific as well as Stockton community. Participants will have a choice of running, walking, or riding a bike, skateboard or rollerblades. There will be a guitarist playing live music, and coffee and snacks will be provided. Entrance fee will be $15 and include a shirt (as available)

Purpose of Event: This event is a fundraiser for a group that is part of the Global Center. The group is a Pacific chapter of Ties to the World, a not-for-profit organization that works toward making orphanages sustainable. The orphanage that we currently work with is Hogar San Francisco Xavier right outside of Guatemala City, Guatemala. 6 Pacific students have been to Guatemala to work with the orphanage and two students have received Pacific Fund grants for involvement in the organization. Money will go toward the projects that promote the financial and educational sustainability of the orphanage. Last year $1,300 were raised.
carpe diem
Back to the future: revenge of the nerds

You might not know it, but nerds rule the world. They get picked on in high school and get teased for having braces and "four eyes," but they eventually have the last laugh. Nerds are not necessarily the most glamorous creatures, but they've got the brain power to work their magic. Enough brain power, in fact, to appeal and lure the whole world through the ideals of technology!

See, nowadays, everyone has a cell phone, a Facebook account, a computer, and cable television. It seems that our society is slowly becoming more and more like what science fiction wants us to believe. Perhaps they're correct? Perhaps that Blackberry phone that you're using is actually a device used by aliens? We may never know. Nevertheless, these machines keep changing, but they still hold the same purpose: to turn us into mush.

Technology is always growing. When you open the newspaper or turn on the television, you hear about the latest cure for cancer, the newest nanotechnology trend that is smaller than your thumb, or the brand new iPhone that just came out an hour ago. Are students too settled on the convenience and comfort from these technical gadgets?

I, for one, can say that I cannot live without my cell phone. I remember back to my middle school years when cell phones still were the large, bulky cell phones that were cousins of our land line home phones. I received my first cell phone during high school, and was married to it until I received my second and current phone in college. I cannot imagine our society without cell phones—what if someone was stranded on the highway? And no texting? Oh, the woes!

Consequently, the Internet has grown—horizontally. There hasn’t really been a major breakthrough with computers, with the exception of laptops, external hard drives, supercomputers, thin computers, but there are more sites, more downloads, more scandals, and more nerds.

The nerds, the ones who will rule the next generation, and the next, and the next. The Internet is such a wide and encompassing place, but there are so many ideas and thoughts and dirty works that you would be surprised to see what goes on in the underbelly of the Internet. Anyways, these nerds subconsciously rule our world. They fashion topics around tabloids, create scandals, produce games, come out with the same product but with a more "updated" version, and they feed our curiosity.

Without nerds, nothing would be as much fun as it is today. But is it really that much better?

With so many new programs and thingamabobs and doodads, we could ultimately be in store for an apocalypse of sorts. As I text one-handedly to a friend about the weekend, I cannot help but wonder if I really feel more educated and satisfied knowing how to text with one hand or not. One the one hand, my daily hobbies range from checking Facebook constantly to doing the daily crossword. On the other, I have my cell phone, texting away at a rate of 96 letters per minute.

I guess that, although people don’t know it, nerds are secretly ruling the world. They can crash our computer at the click of a button, establish a new technical product that will astound and ensnare us, and eventually render us useless to the active capabilities of our bodies. With the arrival of new hybrid cars, or the Blackberry Storm, for example, people flock like sheep to grab their own livelihood.

So far, they’ve created machines such as automobiles, computers, phones, pretty much all the fun machines you can think of in your house or in the residence hall. What could they think of next?

Granted, technology has also created wonderful devices such as solar power and digital objects, but would these be necessary if we didn’t create the other devices to begin with?

Nerds rule the world, and there’s no way of stopping them. I can’t stop playing Tetris on my calculator, checking my email everyday, or walk five miles to the nearest Target without public transportation. Just because you see nerds as puny little dorks with glasses and extreme acne, doesn’t mean they can’t think of the most creative, funniest jokes or the most lethal weapons. Whether you like it or not, nerds are important, so treat them well, because you never know when they’ll attack.

Sudoku

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, column, and each 3-by-3 block contains all of the digits 1 through 9.

Answers

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

movie
(Green Street) Hooligans
A wrongfully expelled Harvard undergrad moves to London, where he is introduced to the violent underworld of football hooliganism.
Stars Elijah Wood.
Rated R for violence and drug use. 109 min.

book
The Darwin Awards: Evolution in Action
by Wendy Northcutt
Named in honor of Charles Darwin, the father of evolution, The Darwin Awards vividly portrays the finest examples of evolution in action, and shows us just how uncommon common sense can be.

music
"Circus," Britney Spears
"Time to Pretend," MGMT

tv show
Mythbusters
A popular science television program that stars American special effects experts Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman, who use basic elements of the scientific method to test the validity of various rumors, urban legends, myths, and news stories in popular culture.
Discovery Channel, Wednesday @ 9:00 PM (60 min.)
Student Advisors Are Here for a Reason

Tori Lam
Pacifican Staff Writer

The student advising program goes without much recognition in that many students do not utilize the resources given to them as they first walk into Pacific. Student advisors are great resources to have as an incoming student because these trained individuals rely upon their own experiences to help new students transition into college.

Student Advisors, or more commonly known as SAs, hold three office hours per week. At these times, advisors and other students have the opportunity to stop by if any questions need to be answered or want to explore their academic opportunities.

The main duties of an SA not only include office hours, but also hosting workshops, sending monthly newsletters, Pacific Seminar advice meetings, PASS class meetings, and many others. The regularity of advisors stopping by the office varies by advisor, for many choose to ask questions or contact their advisor by email.

At the beginning of the semester or during the registration period is the most common times students visit their student advisors.

A current SA, Justin Schultz, shared his thoughts and experiences about the student advising program in which he described as “fantastic.” Schultz applied for the SA program after hearing about it at a booth at an information fair. He sought it out as an opportunity to meet new people and assist incoming students with their transition. Schultz says, “I also knew that the advising program would help develop my communication and leadership skills as well.”

Schultz no doubt enjoys being a SA, as he mentions, “I absolutely love being a student advisor and cannot imagine being part of any other program on campus.” Schultz has been a SA for two years now, helping transfer students and freshmen during their transition into college, developing many lasting friendships and working with an amazing staff.

Schultz describes the program as “more than just a job, it is a close-knit group of welcoming individuals always willing to work together to help any student that asks for assistance, be they a freshman, transfer student, or even a senior. This program not only helps students but works to develop camaraderie among the student advisors as well.”

movie review

Sex and The City

Christine Le
Pacifican Copy Editor

For a fun, low-key night, invite a couple of friends over, make some cosmopolitans, and pop in Sex and the City: The Movie.

Based on the popular HBO series, the film takes place four years after the series finale, taking us into the lives of our beloved four: Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte and Miranda. Once again, the women are paired with decisions they must make about their romantic relationships. And, as always, they help each other out, never failing to be honest and open in their entertaining, yet serious discussions on love and sex.

Carrie and long-time on-and-off boyfriend Big move in together and decide, rather quickly, to get married. Meanwhile, Miranda struggles to balance her work, home, and social life—only to discover that her husband Steve has been having an affair. As for Samantha, she has finally found love with her actor boyfriend, yet is tempted to revert to her promiscuous lifestyle when she starts observing her gorgeous and sexy next-door-neighbor.

Charlotte has the least problems of them all, enjoying life with her husband and adopted daughter, and anticipating the birth of her first-born child.

The movie escalates when, a few minutes before the Carrie and Big’s wedding, he balls out on her last minute. Big’s change of mind comes as a result from Miranda, who after being cheated on, tells him that he and Carrie are making a mistake. But shortly after he lets Carrie down (yet again, which those of you who have followed the series would know), Big realizes he truly does want to marry her. For guys out there who complain about women being fickle, this is proof that you are none the better.

So does Carrie end up with Mr. Big, after all these years? Does Miranda forgive Steve for his adultery? Is Samantha able to control her temptation this time and stick with one man? And does Charlotte have the baby she has wanted all her life?

The film is funny, witty, and of course, sexy, especially with the emphasis on fashion (over 300 ensembles were used!). The film highlights not only the bond between the New York women, but also their individual characters and development. Those who are not as familiar with the series can also enjoy Sex and the City: The Movie because it nicely renders the women’s hardships, pleasures, and most importantly, their constant loyalty to each other as lifelong friends.

With a killer soundtrack featuring Aerosmith, Fergie, and Jennifer Hudson (who also stars in the film, Sex and the City: The Movie), as a big hit this summer, and a great romantic comedy to enjoy with your pals or significant other. For all you SATC fans out there, get ready for a possible sequel, which is rumored to start filming next summer.
Lifestyles

Thursday, December 4, 2008

Taiko Drummers Showcase Talents

Andy Lee
Pacifican Staff Writer

The word "drum," in the minds of students, brings up either the image of a drum in a band or Rock Band, the latter preceded by a reminder of frustration from coordinating the orange-noted bass pedal. For the members of the two Japanese Taiko groups performing, the word drum denotes their career.

On Saturday, November 22, the Faye Spanos Concert Hall showcased two taiko groups: the Stockton Bukkyo Taiko and the San Jose Taiko. The first half of the show, performed by the Stockton Bukkyo Taiko group was slower, and gender compared to the second half. The taiko group from Stockton plays with a Buddhist-religious style, which accounts for the difference in sound between the two taiko groups. The groups utilized plenty of cries, called kakeage, to call out to the audience during the songs.

A favorite of mine of the songs they played was "Nidan," for its unique drum setup and the relative intensity as players shared drums and swapped places consistently mid-song.

The second half of the program featured a performance by the San Jose Taiko, and took impressiveness to the next level. The song Free Spirit, by R. Hirabayashi, melded comedy and intensity not exemplified in the earlier Buddhist-oriented performance. The player duos joked and posed on stage with each other, by stomping or hogging another player's drum, all while playing one of the fastest pieces in their program. The San Jose Taiko also featured solos in its pieces. It was impressive to see the artists intertwine their ideas in improvisation.

The show gave a great cultural lesson on the Taiko drums of Japan, while giving an impressive showcase of music as well. Taiko drums are a Japanese percussion instrument that also serves as entertainment, part of the Japanese culture for many centuries, often related activities at temples and shrines.

Pacific Film Festival reruns last year's sensations

Patrick Giblin
Pacifican Staff Writer

Due to popular demand, the student-made films that were screened during last spring's annual Pacific Film Festival will be shown again at 7 p.m. Dec. 10. All 32 short films will be replayed. Information about next year's Pacific Film Festival also will be available at the screening.

"Many of these movies exceeded expectations and were very clever," said Patti McCarthy, film professor at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts based on two of the films that he made here at Pacific."

Those movies were "Baba Yaga" and "Boxwine Party." "Baba Yaga" was named best screenplay and the cinematography last year by the students at the festival. "Boxwine Party" won best picture, best actor and best director. Other winners from last year include "Solitaire Christina" for best actress and "Relapse" for best editing.

All of the films in the festival were made by students in the 2008 Film Production class, held in the spring. The class will be held again next semester and another film festival will follow, McCarthy said.

The Festival will run about three hours long. It is free and open to students, staff and faculty.

University of the Pacific will host its first Tree Decorating Contest as part of the Festival of Lights celebration this year. Decoration date and time is Sunday, Dec. 7 from noon to 6 p.m. in the University Center and trees are 4 ft tall, artificial, & prelitelighted.

The Festival of Lights celebration, which begins at 6:30 p.m. in Morris Chapel, is open to all students, staff and faculty. Contest winners will be announced during the Festival of Lights Pancake Reception on the afternoon of Dec. 7, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

Applications can be picked up at the Office of Student Life and Leadership on the 2nd floor of the UC. As of 1:30 p.m., Dec. 2, twelve spots are still available. Groups must complete the application and be approved by the Festival of Lights Committee in order to compete.

For more information about the contest, contact Kate Hutchinson at k_hutchinson@pacific.edu or by phone at 209.946.2753.

movie review

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa

Courtney Wood
Pacifican Staff Writer

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa is filled with such striking color and remarkable detail that it will leave the audience once again awed by the amazing progress that has been made in the art of animation. The film's frames are so visually stimulating that it is easy to get lost in the pleasuring spectacle.

After beginning with a brief flashback that sets up the story, the film follows Alex the lion (Ben Stiller), Marty the zebra (David Rock), Melman the giraffe (David Schwimmer), and Gloria the hippo (Jada Pinkett-Smith), who are trying to return to their zoo in New York. However, a faulty plane-ride crash lands them on the continent of Africa, which happens to be their native home.

After stumbling upon an animal reserve, chance would have it that Alex becomes reunited with his father Zuba (Bernie Mac), and his mother (Sherri Shepherd) from whom he has been separated since he was a cub. One ill-intended member of the lion pride, Makunga (Alex Baldwin), who serves as an obvious reference to "Scar" from The Lion King, stirs up trouble by getting Alex banished from the reserve.

From here on out, the film's main plot explores Alex's journey to prove himself to his father. Serving as subplots are the minor ordeals of Alex's friends, who each find companions of their own species and, consequently, help to keep the film moving along at a nice pace.

Although the film is geared toward a younger audience, it possesses humor that will appeal to people of all ages. Particularly funny are the antics of the lemur King Julien, who is voiced by Sacha Baron Cohen of Borat; but the feats of a few master-mind penguins are equally entertaining.

The soundtrack for this film is upbeat and lively which provides a nice accent to the beautiful images and light comedy. The track features fun song covers, and of course, the song popularized by the first film, "I Like to Move It."

While film has wonderful qualities, there are a few minor points where it misses the mark. For example, the reappearance of the "Old Lady" character from the first movie becomes an overused comedic component in this one. A subtle reappearance may have been more welcome, but the writers include her character in a persistent subplot that the movie does not need. For all of the film's positives, though, this kind of drawback is negligible.

Many times, sequels are markedly worse than their predecessors, but this film does not fall under that category. Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa is a fun, engaging animated picture that stands on its own as a quality picture; it does not depend solely on gimmicks from the first film to be successful.

Alternative Spring Break in Pueblo

Ariana Crisafulli
Pacifican Staff Writer

The Alternative Spring Break (ASB) Program is dedicated to social works projects in other countries. This coming spring break, they will be going to central Mexico, to a little town fittingly named Pueblo.

There are three major aspects to the program. First, in the months before the actual trip, members prepare by getting to know each other, putting on fundraisers such as recycling plastic bottles, asking local businesses to help out, and taking orders from Baja Fresh and California Pizza Kitchen that they deliver themselves. They also ready themselves for the trip ahead by researching customs and traditions, conversational language, travel preparation, and the types of service work that will be done. This way, the members are fully equipped for whatever lay ahead of them, be it a language barrier, a culture shock, or even something as simple as remembering to bring a toothbrush!

Second, is, of course, the actual trip on spring break. The members willingly give up their spring break leisure time to perform public service works, which focuses on environmental issues, community based education with children, youth, and their families, fair trade, and social justice. Some examples of services done in the past include preparation of the land for organic composting, preparing herbs for medicinal tinctures, working with farm animals, digging wells, and helping kids with school and homework.

The third major goal that the club tries to achieve is letting others know about their work. They would like to let the student body and anyone else know much of impact even a week of voluntary service work can do for a country and a people that need it. They encourage others to extend their hands in an effort, however large or small, to make a positive impact in this world.
**DeSean's Sports Update**

**Lance Martin**  
Pacifican Staff Writer

While reflecting on how I could make a better column, I realized that if you don’t like my article you could simply read a different article.

**NFL**  
How bad is the job market? Jim Fassel reportedly sent a handwritten letter to Raiders owner Al Davis expressing his respect for him and his desire to coach the team. If that ain’t a sign of how bad the times are, I don’t know what is.

NY Giants WR Plaxico Burress turned himself in for shooting himself in the leg while washing his car. What I enjoy most is people calling Plaxico a “responsible professional” for turning himself in, that’s like me trampling and killing a man for a $9 blender on Black Friday and then calling myself a “responsible shopper.” True story. (On a side note: reports are saying Plaxico was drinking wine while he shot himself, doesn’t this usually happen while drinking Bud or 40’s of OE).

**NBA**

Derrick Rose has exceeded all expectations in Chicago. He is beating guys off the dribble who are playing off him by five feet (i.e. Andre Miller): that’s more ridiculous than paying $2 for a gallon of gas. If Utah Forward Paul Millsap is not picked up in your fantasy league, pick him up in a heartbeat. He’s posted four straight double-doubles (averages of 19 points and 11.8 boards) filling in for Carlos Boozer, who remains out, and the Jazz have another four-game week on tap.

**College BB**

Have you ever wondered what Tyler Hansbrough smells like? I haven’t and I think we’re better off not knowing. University of North Carolina has created a signature scent, obviously inspired by the University, that is an “irresistable and fresh creation for the proud Carolina man.” The company Masik is also offering Penn State (which will smell like JoePa’s old-man musk), and will soon be releasing cologne for every SEC team.

**College FB**

Congratulations to Florida State Safety Myron Rolle who was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, which allows him to study at Oxford in England. When asked what the best part of winning one of the most prestigious postgraduate academic scholarships, Rolle responded, “Rhodes Scholarship Groupies. Those girls are freaks, ya heard!”

The Florida-Alabama game will easily be the biggest championship game in the last two decades. Missing this game would be like missing your own birthday. Look for Florida WR Percy Harvin, who was injured last week against Florida State. But don’t worry Gator fans, Florida has a stable of talent that includes RB Jeffery Demps and RB Chris Rainey. Oklahoma QB Sam Bradford might be leading the race for the Heisman trophy. There is only one way to keep him from scoring 4 touchdowns and passing for over 350 yards: don’t schedule the game.

Of all the pros and cons of keeping Charlie Weis at Notre Dame, the only pro is Notre Dame won’t have to pay for his huge buyout.

I’m not even going to touch the Texas-Texas Tech-Oklahoma controversy with a ten-foot pole. No pun intended.

---

**Team Profile: Women's Basketball**

Vanessa Connolly  
Pacifican Staff Writer

With a strong offense and talented additions to the roster, Pacific Women’s Basketball (3-4) promises a strong season. Defensively, the team has averaged 10.5 steals per game and has offensively scored an average of over 71 points per game. Head Coach Lynne Roberts has done a great job of giving freshman players a chance on the floor, whereas many Division I freshman remain practically red-shirted their rookie year at other schools.

Currently, the Tigers have three freshman and four seniors, with four signed recruits for next year’s season. Senior Amber Simmons recently earned “Big West Player of the Week Award” after her contribution of 29 points and 12 rebounds in the team’s recent win over Northern Colorado.

The Tigers are currently undefeated at home and all their losses have come on the road against Oregon, North Carolina and Arkansas. Their next home game is Sat, Dec. 6 against Fresno State at 5pm in the Spanos Center.

---

**Pacific Hosts the 30th Annual Community Bankers Classic**

**Vanessa Connolly**  
Pacifican Staff Writer

On November 28 and 29, the Alex G. Spanos Center held the Community Bankers Classic Tournament. On Friday, Nevada lost to Utah during the first match at 5 p.m. and Portland lost 3-1 to Pacific during the game at 7 p.m. On Saturday, Pacific was up against Utah, fighting for first place in the tournament.

After an impressive and quick win of 15-25 in the first set by Pacific, the women struggled to retain the lead. In the end, Pacific’s women’s volleyball team suffered a 3-1 loss to Utah, taking second in the Classic. Pacific ended the 2008 season at 12-16.

A pre-game ceremony had some of the Pacific team members in tears as they paid tribute to the three seniors who would be playing their last career games in the Spanos Center: Kara Uhl, Shannon Krug, and Alexa Anderson.

The emotion accumulated before the game translated to a great first set for the Tigers. Early on, the Tigers took a 7-3 lead over the Utes and after a fierce rally from the Tigers, Utl ended it with a service ace to put the score at 14-4. The teams traded back and forth for a bit, but eventually, Anderson answered back to bring the score to 24-15. The Utes ended the set on a service error.

In the second set, the Utes started to show why the deserved to be in the NCAA Tournament, with 15 kills and only one error on 26 attempts. The set ended in a 25-14 win over the Tigers.

The third set was imperative for both teams to make a claim. However, Utah started the lead at 7-6 and eventually gained a seven point lead at 16-9. By the end of the set, Utah won over Pacific at 25-19.

The Utes used the same technique in the fourth set to gain a lead of 17-10. Pacific slowly made their way back, bringing the set as close as 22-20, but in the end, Utah won at 25-20.

After the match, the 2008 Community Bankers Classic All-Tournament Team was announced and two of Pacific’s players were chosen: Anderson and Krug.
What does BCS actually mean?

Lance Martin
Pacific Staff Writer

Disclaimer: I am not defending the BCS. I am simply writing to provide information to individuals so they can make their own opinions.

Question: What do the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) and the U.S. economy have in common?
Answer: They are both seriously flawed and it’s going to take time to repair them.

Prior to the 1992 season, college football had no system that matched the top-ranked teams in a post-season championship game. The Bowl Coalition formed and was restructured in 1996 to become the Bowl Alliance (due to Penn State going undefeated and not playing Nebraska in the Championship game). Debate then intensified again after Nebraska and Michigan split the 1997 title. After conferences calls and meetings, the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) was formed in 1998. The BCS is currently comprised of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), Big Ten, Big 12, Big East, Pacific10, and Southeastern Conference (SEC), and Notre Dame (even though they don’t win enough games for this to apply to them).

In the current BCS format, four bowl games and the National Championship Game are considered “BCS bowl games.” The four bowl games are the Rose Bowl (Pasadena, CA), Sugar Bowl (New Orleans, LA), Fiesta Bowl (Glendale, AZ) and Orange Bowl (Miami Gardens, FL). So how do we determine who plays in the National championship game?

I am sure you have heard the debate while listening to your dad complain about how his alma mater got screwed last season like Paris Hilton. I know many people fell alienated by the BCS’s complex formula, but it is relatively simple. Think of it as a recipe for a meal, but the meal is a ticket to play for a crystal football. The BCS is comprised of basically four components, with each having sub parts:

1. Polls: This is comprised of both the average of the Harris Poll (God only knows how this is calculated) and the USA Today coaches poll and the Computer Polls where an average of the rankings of a team in three different computer polls are gathered with a 50% adjusted maximum deviation factor. (For example, if the computers had ranked a team third, fifth, and twelfth, the poll which ranked the team twelfth would be adjusted to rank the team sixth.)

2. Strength of Schedule: Why is this important? Because the 133 year history of college football has proven to us repeatedly that teams with one or more losses on the season are indeed better than some undefeated teams that have played weaker schedules, the same way the 19 year history of Patrón has proven that if you have to many drinks you won’t remember anything you did the night before (sorry, everyone). A team’s strength of schedule is calculated by win-loss record of opponents (66.6%) and cumulative win-loss record of team’s opponents opponents (33.3%).

3. Team Losses: For all you non-ESPNU alums, this basically means that if two or more teams are in competition for the top two places and all have played “comparable difficult” schedules, the team with the better record should have a slight advantage.

4. Quality Wins: This was instituted to ensure that teams who are playing and defeating other Top 15 BCS teams are receiving the proper credit that the overall strength of schedule may not reflect strongly enough, just like when your parents give you credit for taking out the trash, but not walking the dogs.

So now that we know the four components how are they used? I know it’s been awhile since high school algebra, but here it goes:

Poll Average + Strength of Schedule + Team Losses - Quality wins = BCS Rating

The lowest score total is ranked first.

So where is the flaw? The flaw is in the decision by human and computer polls, which may not accurately reflect the merit or strength of team. Another criticism is many other sports have large post-season tournaments where the BCS uses a tournament that only includes two teams (which does not make it a tournament at all). Another criticism is that the BCS is biased towards the six conferences and Notre Dame, but the only people complaining about that is Boise State and Hawaii, and nobody has a problem with that.

President-elect Barack Obama even has his own view on how to fix the BCS. President-elect Obama said during a Monday Night Football interview, “I think it is about time we had playoffs... I’m fed up with these computer rankings and this and that and the other. Get eight teams -- the top eight teams right at the end. You got a playoff?”

It will be awhile before we have change, but just like democracy, the BCS is the best choice of all the evils until we have a playoff system installed.

---

Sports Events Calendar

**Saturday, Dec 6**
- Women’s Basketball
  - V Fresno State
  - 5:00 PM

**Tuesday, Dec 9**
- Men’s Basketball
  - V San Francisco
  - 7:00 PM

**Thursday, Dec 11**
- Women’s Basketball
  - V San Francisco
  - 7:05 PM

---

Athletic Training Tip of the Week

Brought to you by the Pacific Athletic Education Program Students

**SHIN SPLINTS:**

Everyone seems to have them but do you really know what shin splints are? Well here is your answer! In the medical world shin splints are known as Medial Tibial Stress Syndrome. Medial Tibial Stress Syndrome’s main symptom is pain over the front of the shin. Shin Splints usually occur after a muscle strain or muscle imbalance. If left untreated shin splints can turn into a stress fracture.

Trouble with pain in your shins? Rest is the best answer to get rid of shin splints. Of course, no one really likes that answer since it is nearly impossible to rest when undergoing personal training or intense practices before a big game.

So in order to alleviate the pain we suggest the ABC's and Dixie cup massage routine. In the end though rest will be needed!

**ABC’s exercise:** The ABC’s is an exercise where you raise the hurt leg approximately 4 to 5 inches above the ground. While your leg is raised, flex your foot and move it so that your foot writes out the ABC’s in cursive in the air. Do this in the morning and before you go to bed. You can sit or stand while doing this exercise.

**Dixie Cup Massage:** Purchase some small sized Dixie cups and fill them with water. Place them inside the freezer and wait until they are completely frozen. Then make what athletic trainers call an "ice massage" by rubbing the ice-filled Dixie cup on your shin's in circles for no more than 10 minutes. Do this two to three times a day and you'll be in better shape in no time!

Have Questions? Please email k_burnett1@pacific.edu
Swimming like the fishes: McGhee and Accornero

Cristy Yadon
Pacifican Staff Writer

The Pacific swim team is comprised of men and women in top athletic form who know the true meaning of hard work. The spotlight this week is on junior Melissa McGhee and junior Kyle Accornero.

McGhee is a psychology major and is planning on minorning in communication, as well. After college, she does not intend to swim competitively, but she will continue to swim for exercise. She intends to apply to graduate school and is interested in either being a psychologist for the FBI or a police department or finding a job in Public Relations or Advertising.

Accornero has been swimming since he was six and at Pacific he swims the sprint freestyle and occasionally butterfly. He said, “The experience is phenomenal and I wouldn’t trade this group of teammates and friends for anything. They are some of the best people on campus.” Accornero agrees that the best place the team has travelled to is Hawaii, last year.

He is a Civil Engineering major, out of the pool. He hopes to work in an environmentally focused career for the future. Although, he admits, “Boy, with the way the market is working right now, I’d just like to get and maintain a job.” His big plan to continue swimming after college mostly revolves around continuing to be involved in Alumni meets each year.

An A+ ab workout with the Stability Ball

Heather Breen
Pacifican Copy Editor

The Baun fitness center features many tools to aid students in getting fit and shaping up. One such tool is the stability ball, which is a large inflated rubber ball housed in the stretching and weight rooms. While these balls can be used to tone various muscles, they do an especially good job of strengthening your core and stomach muscles.

A stability ball comes in three sizes: small, medium, and large. These sizes are often color-coded. The correct size for you is determined by your height. People at or under a height of 5 feet 4 inches should opt for the smallest ball, people under 5’10 should use the medium ball, and those who tower at 5’11 should use the largest sized ball.

Sitting on the ball as you would sit in a chair is the first step to using this device. This seemingly easy task is not so simple; after all, the stability ball requires you to stabilize yourself in a sitting position on a round object. This action alone engages your Abs and works your overall core muscles.

One of the most effective abdominal workouts on the stability ball is the basic crunch. Once you have seated yourself on the ball, walk yourself forward with your feet as your back moves onto the ball. At this point your thighs, stomach, and chest should be parallel or almost parallel to the floor. Your knees should be bent at a 90 degree angle, with your feet firmly planted on the ground. Avoid over-bending or under-bending your knees as this will compromise the effectiveness of your workout.

From this parallel position, keep your feet pressed on the ground and raise your upper body towards the ceiling just as you would in a basic crunch position. It is important to lift with your ab muscles and not with your head as doing so can strain your neck muscles and also make the crunch less effective in targeting your core.