Obama Inauguration Celebration Next Week

Alex Ruano
Pacifican News Editor

Next Tuesday the Black Student Union (BSU) and ASuop will host two events celebrating the inauguration of Barack Obama.

The festivities begin at 7:30 a.m. in the Lair with a panel discussion explaining the inauguration process. BSU members along with three Political Science professors will explain the transition process between presidents and take students’ questions. The morning event will end with a live broadcast of the swearing in of Obama at 8:30 a.m.

At 6:00 p.m. the festivities start up again in the Lair with a post-inauguration forum. It will be an open mic event where students can remark about the inauguration and express their feelings while enjoying music and food. There will also be the possible rebroadcasting of the inauguration.

The Search For Pacific’s New President

Alex Ruano
Pacifican News Editor

Pacific’s Presidential Search Committee has narrowed down the candidates for Pacific’s next President to four. Throughout January and February these candidates will visit all three of Pacific’s campuses and undergo a rigorous interview process. Each candidate will start their visits with a day in Stockton, meeting with faculty and staff, ending with an open forum in Grace Covell Hall. They will then spend a day each on the Sacramento and San Francisco campuses.

Last Tuesday the first candidate, Pam Elbeck, Dean of the College of Engineering at Texas Tech University, visited Pacific. The next candidate is scheduled to visit Monday, Jan. 26, with the open forum held from 4-5 pm in Grace Covell Hall. The names of each candidate will be released one week from their arrival. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend the open forums for each candidate.

California Senator to Visit Pacific

Alex Ruano
Pacifican News Editor

California State Senator Leland Yee, along with members of the Senate Select Committee on Asian Pacific Islander (API) Affairs, will be visiting Pacific during their tour of the Central Valley. Senator Yee is hosting an open forum tomorrow in the President’s room from noon to 1 p.m. to talk about issues that affect people of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage.

The tour and meetings seek to increase the API community’s interaction with state government and provide a forum for the API community to communicate their issues and concerns. These issues include language access, immigrant rights, legal residency, affirmative action, hate crimes, voting rights, civil rights and other issues. Tomorrow’s discussion will focus on educational issues faced by API students.

Bon Appetit Updates:

The Grove is NOW OPEN!
The former Tigers Grocery has a wide variety of hot and cold snacks.
Certain ports of the Marketplace will now be closing at a later time of 9:00 p.m.
Declining Balance Meal Plans will rollover a minimum of 300 Dining Dollars.

The Rotaract Club of the University of the Pacific Leadership Conference
Saturday, January 17, 2009
8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Registration Fee: $15
Breakfast and Lunch will be provided
Interesting guest speakers and workshops!
Please contact uoprotaract@gmail.com

Staff Information
Editors Welcome
Events Calendar
January Tiger X

Page 3
Page 4
Hello hello to the Pacific Community!

Last semester was an interesting one, and we, at the Pacifican, will make sure that this semester is just as interesting, but in a more factual way.

In this issue of the Pacifican you will find a correction of the editorial of the Dec. 11 issue of the Pacifican. You will also find a response to that editorial from the University's Office of Public Relations. Also notice the changes in staffing we have made.

I hope you all had a good break and look forward to getting constructive criticism from you! Make sure to check out the Pacifican website (www.thepacifican.com) and comment on articles you feel strongly about! We are also going to begin posting on Facebook, so check us out there too!

Seema Ghatnekar
Pacifican Managing Editor

Dear Pacificans,

It has been a great pleasure working alongside the Pacifican editors as last semester's Perspective's Editor. Though it was a difficult transition to go from staff writer to editor, I learned a lot during the process.

Starting this semester, I will no longer be the Perspectives Editor, but will move on to the position of Managing Editor. I am happy to inform you that the Perspectives section will be placed in the very capable hands of Christine Le, whose poetry column you have seen every week in the section.

I would also like to thank all of the responses we have received about the paper, both positive and negative criticism. Criticism and opinions about the paper enable us to understand what the Pacific community likes to read. I hope to see many more of these responses for the issues to come, as they can help us to strive as a paper.

Also, check out our website—there are very interesting alumni-student conversations on the website. Our alumni give us insight on what happened in the past, and how things have (or have not) changed for Pacificans. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please email us at pacificaneditors@pacific.edu.

Best of luck this semester!

Christine Le
Pacifican Perspectives Editor

Rachel Freeman
Pacifican Sports Editor

Welcome back Pacific sports fans! I hope you all had a relaxing break and that all of your favorite sports teams prevailed. So many sports events took place while we were gone. The Bowl games of college football were played, NBA Basketball is now underway and the NFL playoffs games have not only been determined, but the first round is over.

For the first time since 1971, and, only the second time ever, three teams on the road won in the NFL Playoffs. The Baltimore Ravens defeated the Tennessee Titans on what some believe was a referee blunder. The Arizona Cardinals defeated the Carolina Panthers, after Carolina quarterback Jack Delhomme had his first home meltdown of the season (the Panthers were previously unbeaten at home). Lastly, the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the reigning Superbowl Champs, the New York Giants. The Pittsburgh Steelers were also the only victorious home team this past weekend.

In NBA news, the Los Angeles Lakers were the first west coast team to 30 wins with their victory on Sunday night. Break-thought news, however, was the Bowl games and the dispute between who should be the #1 ranked college football team in Division I-A.

Florida defeated Oklahoma in the BCS Championship and ended their season 7-1. In the more talked about the Sugar Bowl where Utah defeated Alabama handily, 31-17. This is such a huge deal because BCS schools (schools from the ACC, Big 12, Big East, Big Ten, Pac-10, and SEC) are expected to win these games.

Not only did Utah defeat SEC powerhouse Alabama, but they also completed their season undefeated, having beaten Michigan at Michigan and Oregon State. Keep in mind, Oregon State defeated USC at the beginning of the season so it's not like playing Oregon State, though they are at the bottom of the Pac-10, are a breeze to play.

The Utes so believe that they deserve to be ranked number 1 (Florida is 1 and Utah is 2), that the Attorney General from the state of Utah is looking into whether he can sue the BCS because it is violating federal antitrust laws. This is not the first time Utah has been left out of the national championship. In 2004, Utah was left out of the championship. They did, however, become the first non-BCS team to play in a BCS bowl game.

A lot happened in the wide world of sports over winter break. I hope you are all caught up and enjoyed watching all different sports.

See her piece on drinking in college on the next page.
Response to Editorial: “Safety in Public Safety”

Patrick Giblin
Media Relations
Manager
University of the Pacific

The Pacifican's editorial of Dec. 11, 2008, “Safety in Public Safety,” contained serious errors that are potentially damaging to University of the Pacific and may have caused unnecessary fear on campus and among parents and the wider Pacific community.

The editorial falsely stated that a student was murdered on campus while protecting other students. The editorial also mentioned several incidents, reporting them as facts when no information was solicited from Public Relations, Public Safety, or any University office. These incidents were used as evidence that “violence on campus seems to be taking a turn for the worst.” This is a serious allegation and it is patently false. It is based on rumor and hearsay. This violates fundamental principles of journalism and sensationalizes these incidents through poor research.

It is important for the University community to understand the following:

Student death:
A student, Loan Kim Nguyen, was killed in her San Mateo home over the Thanksgiving break. This was a horrific crime, but it did not occur on campus and had nothing to do with Pacific or her being a student here. Ms. Nguyen was protecting her children—not students—from an intruder in her home. The accused intruder is not connected with University of the Pacific or Stockton in any way. This incident was reported accurately in an official University statement sent to all students, faculty and staff. Numerous TV and newspaper stories also reported the facts accurately.

WPC assault:
Rumors have spread about the assault of two students—on Sunday, Dec. 7 near Wendell Phillips Center. However, independent witnesses said that at least one of the students was kicking cars parked along Dave Brubeck Way. After a shouted verbal exchange, the two Pacific students were chased and assaulted by bystanders whose car had been kicked. At the time the Pacifican ran its editorial, the incident was still under investigation. At that point it was inappropriate and irresponsible to draw conclusions.

Joel Strauss incident:
We were very concerned to learn of a possible assault on this student, because it had not been reported. Public Safety immediately contacted this student and is still investigating, but it appears to have been a minor shoving incident last August. There have been no further reports of this kind of incident.

Bicycle stops:
The bike safety actions mentioned in the editorial were the result of an anti-bike theft operation by University Public Safety. Recently, there had been an unusual rash of bike thefts on and around the campus. Officers were patrolling the campus and the levy area, and alerting students to the importance of registering their bikes, as well as bike safety and security. As a result of this increased Public Safety action, our officers made an arrest on a no-bail felony warrant on the levy that may well have protected Pacific students.

If the Pacifican wants to start a dialogue about campus violence, it has a duty to learn the facts first. There has been a dramatic decrease this year in serious campus crimes, including violent crimes, burglary and auto theft. This suggests our Public Safety prevention and enforcement programs are working quite well, despite an increase in crime in San Joaquin County. While the editorial seemed to criticize campus Public Safety, in fact it looks as though our officers are more effective than ever.

This editorial contributed to the false rumor that the area around Wendell Philipps Center is unsafe. It has resulted in calls to the University from worried parents and a call from a television station inquiring about violence on campus. The Pacifican has not only provided an irresponsible representation of Pacific’s campus climate, it has also written an unacceptable and sensationalized account that has unnecessarily raised concerns among its public. By doing so, the Pacifican has damaged its credibility with its readers and with the University.

In response to concerns raised and facts in question regarding our editorial “Safety in Public Safety” of Dec. 11, 2008, we are offering a revised piece. Our intent then/now was to prompt a timely discussion of personal awareness and safety on campus.

Pacific's rumors seem to be fluttering around, drawing up concerns of personal violence on our campus. We, at the Pacifican, are not listening to these rumors. Non-campus events, like the news of the unfortunate death of student Loan Kim Nguyen, killed after saving her two children at her San Mateo home over the Thanksgiving break, are touching the Pacific community recently and danger is fresh to students' minds.

In addition, the alleged assault of two male Pacific students on campus has further pushed fear into student’s minds. These rumors must be ignored! They’ve made us question how safe our campus is, when, in fact, we are in good hands.

We should not be asking ourselves this with exams looming over us, elevating stress levels and making us prone to paranoia.

We, at the Pacifican, have faith in Pacific's Public Safety force. A few weeks ago, officers were on the levy at night stopping all bike riders without a bike light. They were informing students about the bike registration service offered by Public Safety: keeping us safe.

Public Safety also provides transportation around campus for students after STRIKE closes; again, keeping us safe.

Instead of spreading rumors and scaring each other, use caution and the means of protection Pacific provides us. We will be safe if we use these protective services. While we care about our safety, Public Safety cares about it even more.
Men's Basketball: 
What You Missed During the Break

Elizabeth Croisetiere
Pacifican Staff Writer

The Pacific Mens' Basketball team was busy over break. They played some tough games, winning 4 out of 6 games over the holiday break. The Tigers began with a win against Santa Clara at home 63-57 with the help of returning veteran and senior Michael Kirby.

They then fell to Saint Mary's College after unable to hold their lead after halftime, the game ending 74-65. The team recovered with an exciting come back in their third conference game beating UC Riverside 76-53. After the first half, Riverside was not able to gain a lead on the Tigers. Troyer scored 23 points and junior Lavar Neufville started that game on a high note scoring five points in the first four minutes. The Tigers ended the first half in the lead and were able to showcase an exciting break away slam dunk by LeDuc. The Tigers go into the spring semester in second place in the Big West conference standings with 2-1 second only to Long Beach who is 4-0.

Come support Mens' Basketball at their next home game Thursday, Jan. 22, and help cheer them onto their next victory.

Coach Bob Thomason was pleased with the outcome, "our guys did a great job on our defense." He thought that all the guys were playing as well as they could play at this time during the season, the "guys really had a great team effort."

Unfortunately, the Tigers lost their second conference game against Long Beach with 74-64, but made a great comeback in their third conference game beating UC Riverside 76-53. After the first half, Riverside was not able to gain a lead on the Tigers. Troyer scored 23 points and junior Lavar Neufville started that game on a high note scoring five points in the first four minutes. The Tiger's ended the first half in the lead and were able to showcase an exciting break away slam dunk by LeDuc. The Tigers go into the spring semester in second place in the Big West conference standings with 2-1 second only to Long Beach who is 4-0.

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