

Warner student reflects on summer job in Alaska ~
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*Kn*ight Times

March 8, 2011 • Volume 2 • Issue 3 • Warner Pacific College



*The February 24th “Snowmageddon” only lasted a few hours, but students like Jessica Ingram, Kelsey Davisson, Amy Vaught, Hannah Shrout, and Mackenzie Adrian took advantage of it.
Photo by Scott Thompson.*

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Funding the Future

By Charli Bolt

In order to fund improvements, respond to growth, and develop new programs and new hires, the college goes through a budgeting process every year. According to Dr. Cole Dawson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, most of these changes are funded through tuition revenue, although donors occasionally help support new improvements to programs and facilities. The development of a budget is an intensive October to April process each academic year. "The Budget Committee sets priorities, then academic department chairs and program directors prepare their requests for personnel, program, and capital needs," Dawson said.

Kaylee Krout, Student Affairs Coordinator, provides the perspective of someone who has been through this funding cycle. "I love the budget process," Krout says. "Mainly, what I would say about the budget process is that it is much more of a community event now than when I was first an employee. It has been a great experience. We are definitely an institution that works hard to be lean and mean when it comes to funding. I think this is great because it encourages creativity with what we do have."

To better understand this process, I asked Dr. Cole Dawson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, a number of questions. Here is our interview:

Q: In response to Warner Pacific's growth, what type of improvements were funded last year, and implemented this year?

A: The college increased Director of Career and Life Planning to full time which allowed the Director of Academic Support to concentrate in that area; increased Student Affairs staffing by 4.5 full-time employees (FTE); hired FT Accounting professor, hired website re-design team, prepared for implementation of a Portal that will allow students to register on-line, check grades, etc., hired a Multi-Cultural Recruitment and Retention specialist, hired a Theology professor, replaced a retiring Drama faculty, hired a FT general education specialist at the ADP, replaced the Alumni Director, hired an additional computer help-desk person, implemented the first year of the Act Six Leadership and Scholarship program, implemented the Bachelor of Science in Accounting and the Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration programs, created a classroom in GYM 1004, renovated some Tabor Terrace units, and completed selected repairs of Division Street apartments, upgraded institutional computers, and created a musical tour group.

Q: What improvements are forecasted to be funded next year (2011-12)?

A: These are still in the budgeting process. However, at this point budget managers have identified such needs as additional sections of key classes that are currently heavily populated, a mobile computer lab, upgrades for the A.F. Gray computer lab, completion of the renovation project for Tabor Terrace and Division Street apartments, replacement of retiring faculty and additional faculty

hires, additional smart boards and document readers, new science equipment, furniture and technology replacements where necessary in classrooms or offices, and computer software for academic programs. This is a sample of the requests that have been submitted.

Q: Who is involved in making the decisions as to what improvements should be funded?

A: The Budget Committee (which is the president, vice presidents, the dean of the Adult Degree Program, and the comptroller) begins meeting in October of every year to discuss institutional priorities, project revenue based on enrollment expectations, and to frame up other assumptions that will bear on the budget for the following year. In November, budget managers (such as academic department chairs, directors, others in charge of a program) begin to prepare their requests for personnel, program and capital needs in line with the priorities set by the Committee. They create their request priorities based on conversation with their constituencies, staff, etc. They then present their requests to one another and to the Budget Committee at a meeting in January. The Committee then begins to prioritize requests based on the revenue that is anticipated.

Q: And how does the committee decide what is most important to fund?

A: Obviously, requests always exceed the expected revenue. Thus the Budget Committee always has very difficult choices to make from among very worthy options. Beyond the merits of the requests, they must consider if the expense is necessary to maintain compliance with a federal, state, accreditation, or institutional policy, if it would help sustain or increase enrollment, if it would enhance the quality of an academic or co-curricular program, or if it is directly tied to the fulfillment of our mission. Often the Committee seeks additional information or options from those making the requests. By the beginning of April the tentative budget has been sent to the Board of Trustees, who are empowered to make the final judgment about the budget. Once they approve, the budget managers are informed of the outcome and their budgets for the coming year are set.

Q: How can, or how do students get involved in the process of submitting improvement ideas? Or what is the process by which these ideas travel, where does the food chain start, and how do different improvement ideas make it to the top?

A: Students have several access points. Perhaps the most obvious one is through the ASWPC. This would be a way for students to aggregate their interests and express them collectively rather than individually. The Office of Student Affairs is another avenue. Connecting with Jared, Traci, Kaylee, Rod, Denise, Jess, or Stephanie

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A Student's Guide to Warnerisms

By *Shawna Downes*

"Let's try to unpack this," said one of my professors during my first day of classes after transferring to Warner Pacific from community college. Unpack. The word seemed mundane—a seemingly random choice of terminology perhaps only used by this professor. I had never heard anyone talk about unpacking ideas before. In that moment, my brain applied no significance to this word whatsoever.

But then I heard it again (and again, and again, and again). The word followed me everywhere. Finally, I remarked in disbelief to my friend and fellow transfer student Sam Halverson, "What is with these professors and the word 'unpack'?"

"I know!" said Sam. We had no idea what to make of this and many other strange favorite vocabulary words used in the Warner community. So, as an English major, my natural inclination was to create a dictionary of Warner-isms. Here is what I have unpacked so far:

Unpack – An effort by a professor to explain a complex concept during class or office hours. Does not always result in success. Example: Let's unpack the Trinity.

BLTDRA – Not a fun new German word for dropping bombs on something. Actually has something to do with Jesus. Example: Christ's BLTDRA. Still lost? Ask Dr. John.

Continued from page 2

about your concerns and needs informs them as they prepare their budgets. In addition, the president holds frequent coffee gatherings and student forums in which budget topics are sometimes discussed. Finally, any member of the Budget Committee would be happy to hear ideas about improvements to the college. It's always a good idea to email or phone ahead for an appointment.

As Kaylee Krout explained it, the office of Student Affairs has seen the biggest changes this year. Several new staff members have joined the Student Affairs team, Greg Brock as Area Coordinator, Stephanie Mathis as Director for Spiritual Life, Denise Haugen as Director of Career and Life Counseling, Eli Ritchie as Retention Intern, Katie Doran as Service Learning Coordinator and Jolynn Davison as Campus Ministries Coordinator. A new program this year is the Retention Project where Eli is working to connect college students to high school and middle school students identified at risk to not complete their high school education.

When I began work on this piece for the *Knight Times*, I mistakenly thought of improvements to the college as material or physical changes. However, after further research I have learned that there are many more changes taking place within the Warner Pacific College community than people, including myself, realize. I also learned that as students, we too have the ability to get involved in the budgeting process, and by getting our ideas of improvement to those in power we have the opportunity to make a change within our community.

The Game – A week where some students become absurdly paranoid and take to driving to their classes in order to avoid other students, who may or may not be out to get them by hitting them with a sock. Example: Please excuse me while I hide behind this trash can; I am playing The Game.

Parking Lot – A place where difficult, unrelated, or preemptive questions go to die. Example: Great question! Let's put it in the parking lot for now. Or forever.

Paradox – If something makes absolutely no sense to you, it's probably a paradox. Example: "So, does that make Lady Gaga a paradox?" asked my friend Kyler Scott-Subsits. Example #2: "I don't think we explained this concept very well in our presentation. Hey, let's just call it a paradox."

410 – A very large, demanding creature to which a student sells his or her soul for fifteen weeks or so, until the student finally slays it by beating it over the head with an abnormally thick essay. Example: If I don't finish this paper over the weekend, 410 is going to be the death of me.

Meta-narrative – Fancy word for "big picture" and not actually a story within a story within a story within a story. Example: So, the overarching theme—I mean, metanarrative—is...

Bible Ninja – A ninja who throws Bibles instead of throwing stars. Example: Watch out! The Bible Ninja just jumped out from behind those bushes!

Student e-mail – A box of messages, 99% of which are completely useless, that must be cleaned out constantly in case the mythical "important e-mail" ever actually shows up. Example: Don't worry. I'll just send it to your student e-mail, and then it will bounce because your mailbox is full, and we will fail our group project because we cannot communicate.

Pun – A joke told by Johnson, Ballard, or Plies. Usually results in a class-wide facepalm. Example: "Like Plies saying, 'That's what we call a major turd,'" said my friend Rosemary Baylee.

Irony – You have spent an entire semester taking a class on a subject, but you understand it just about as much as you did before you took the class. Example: Oh, right! —ology, I took a class on that subject last semester. Um, so that's the science of what again?

Taco Bell Run – A late-night trip to any multitude of fast food restaurants brought on by oversized piles of homework. Example: "Let's go on a Taco Bell run!" "Can we go to BK instead? I had Taco Bell last night."

(long pause) – If your teacher is doing this, he or she is probably trying to figure out how to unpack an idea without resulting in irony. Example: Did anyone do the reading today? ... Oh, joy

Summer 2010: Kodiak, Alaska

By Victor Estrada

As the day passes by and the sun slowly moves and settles from east to west, the fishing vessels filled with salmon and crab keep arriving into Kodiak, Alaska. The skipper of the boat gives the signal for arrival, and our crew rushes to tie the boat onto our dock and quickly prepare for a new dock delivery.

Rushing to set the pumps into the boat's hatch, we make sure the pumps are ready to go and our crew is ready to sort the many types of salmon. With caution we lower the pumps onto the hatch with the crane and begin to pump fresh water for the fish, then to pump the fish out for sorting. We hear the pressure of the pumps, and the smell of fish just keeps getting stronger. My boss asks me, "Victor go help the guys sort, just be ready for when the water is low enough for you to go into the hatch." "Okay, boss," I respond back. I look deep into the horizon where the sun is settling down and ask myself what time it is. It's 12 a.m., and the sun is hovering where I will see it again at 3 a.m.

I can see the pump rattling back and forth with ten-thousand pounds of pressure—enough pressure to hit you and kill you. This is a job not just any person can do. I never knew that I was going to be challenged in this way; all I can do is man up and keep on working and learn from it. My boss yells at me, "Estrada! Put those long boots on and come help Oscar," With boots up to my waist,

I jump from the dock onto the boat and down the ladder, into the hatch. Slowly I enter the freezing water and grab the shovel. Water up to my waist, my feet and legs slowly start to numb as I begin to walk around the hatch looking for a spot where I can stand and start feeding the pump. Salt water and slimy goo spurs all over my face and mouth, definitely not a pleasant taste. With no time to complain, we feed the pump for six to ten hours at the time. Pain runs through our backs because of the force we are putting in shoveling, sweat begins to accumulate because of the condensation in our rain gear and the workout of our bodies. Our muscles feel like they are tearing apart. Unable to stop for a break or to change from our wet clothes, we continue to shovel and show no mercy. It is a race against time and fish.

Once the fish were unloaded, we would get out of the hatch and go help sort the fish. We had to sort at a fast pace and identify five types of salmon. Sometimes other types of fish would come in, but those we would just throw to the side or back into the ocean. Crab was definitely more difficult to unload. A person must be in the hatch and on top of the crab, trying to grab one by one and throw them into a metal canister. They would fight against you and one another. The pinch of a crab can be very painful; its claw just seems to get stronger. When a crab would pinch my finger or hand, I would either break its claw or just release the pinch itself.

It was the summer of 2010 when a group of guys from Warner Pacific College decided to go to Kodiak, Alaska in search of a summer job. Two college friends, Sam Tuell and Dustin Henkelmann, and I were in desperate need of a well paying job and an adventure. All spring, the three of us kept in touch and talked about what we would need for the trip up north. Transportation was a given, since Dustin had a 2005 Pontiac Vibe, which ran like a champ. The three of us had saved up food and fuel money, as well as a few extra emergency dollars. By early May we were ready to head up to Alaska for the perfect summer adventure.

On Monday morning, May 10, 2010, we left Portland, Oregon bound for Anchorage, Alaska. We made a short stop at the U.S. and Canadian border to visit a college friend, Stephanie DeBoer, who welcomed us to spend some time at her house before our long journey. Stephanie treated us with some ice cream and a quick tour of her family's ranch before we went on to Vancouver, B. C. Early the next morning we said good-bye to Vancouver and headed to Prince George, British Columbia. With beautiful waterfalls and a green valley, the way to Prince George looked just like we were driving through where they filmed the movie *Lord of the Rings*. Why wouldn't people want to live in Canada? It is gorgeous!

The next day, we drove nineteen hours to Whitehorse in Yukon Territory. We saw three bears along the highway, then ran out of gas, but luckily we had a five-gallon container in reserve. We finally got to the outskirts of Whitehorse and decided to sleep in a campsite rest area. On the fourth day out, we drove for another fourteen hours, crossing the Canadian-U.S. border through the town of Tok, then took the southbound road for Anchorage. After four days of traveling, we needed a good two days of rest, and stayed with a friend stationed outside Anchorage at Fort Richardson. Then we headed down to Homer, a port for the Alaskan ferry, got our ticket, and loaded the car on the ferry. Because it was stormy, it took twelve hours to Kodiak Island instead of their regular nine hour ferry sail. Finally we made it to the island, unloaded the car, and headed out for a cheap motel.

We woke up the next morning and decided to walk down the main street where all the big fish processing canneries are at, going door to door in search of a job. After visiting four canneries, we finally walked up to one of the biggest canneries in Kodiak. Ocean Beauty Seafood is known for their great salmon and king crab. We walked up to their main office and asked if they were in need of workers, and right away they said yes. We were fortunate to find a job right away, but still we had no place to stay. We were low on cash, so we decided to stay the first night at a homeless shelter. Sam, Dustin, and I counted our remaining cash—just enough for a few lunches—and speculated on what our summer would be like if we had stayed home. We had arrived.

Black cod were a different story. Black cod would come iced, and it was a hassle to get the fish out of the ice. We would get into the hatch with our shovels and start shoveling ice out. While shoveling you need to make sure you don't hurt the fish since it is a very expensive fish and very meaty. It was not unusual to have forty-five thousand pounds of Black cod and probably another forty-five thousand pounds or more of ice covering them, keeping them fresh. Sometimes we would trade from shoveling to getting the ice off the fish and vice versa.

How is it that I came to choose work like this for a summer job? The long 12-18 hour shifts were a killer, not to mention we ate very poorly; white rice became our most common food along with some salmon and other fish that we were able to take home. Sometimes we wouldn't get a regular fifteen-minute break or our lunch break until an hour prior to going home. Boats kept on coming in hour by hour and they had to be unloaded right away for them to go back to the Alaskan Gulf or to the Bering Sea. I remember waking up to the pain in my fingers like they were icicles breaking. I could tell in the mirror that I had lost 35 pounds and counting. I kept telling myself that I could be home with my family, but still, God wanted me to gain this experience this summer.

A typical day would be to wake up at 4 p.m., get ready for work, make my lunch, and head out the door by 5 p.m. Along the street I tended to stop at McDonalds for a caramel Mc Frappe and drink it while listening to my ipod. As I would be coming near the cannery, I would check to see which boats would be out there ready to be unloaded and iced. When the sea rises, the boats seem to be bigger than the cannery itself. As I come into the locker room, I get the call to get my gear on and clock in at 6 p.m. As I rush down to clock in, I look at the agenda and see which boats are coming in at what time and how much they are carrying.

As a college student, working in a blue-collar job meant a lot for me. I had the experience to work with ordinary people who could not read or write or even speak English. Sometimes I would be a translator between the skipper and my co-workers. Having worked at Ocean Beauty Seafood gave me the necessary experience for me to say that I am able to work in one of the hardest jobs out there. When you are up for almost twenty hours, your body just wants to shut down, and it is very difficult for you to keep on running to your full potential. People around me asked, "If you have an education, what in world are you doing here?" My response was, "I needed a job." Many acknowledged that I had put myself down to their level, knowing that I could work somewhere else where I wouldn't have to be wet all day, or endure a cold all summer long. Physically I was challenged by working 12+ hour days; this is a job where you never know when you have a break to eat or even think. And still, I loved my job.

I honestly believe that I came to Alaska to prove myself to be the type of man that I am. I am no better than anyone in this world. I may be earning my degree this spring of 2011, but I am willing to work anywhere and under any type of conditions and live happily. I slept in a homeless shelter with many other fishermen and I



Sam Tuell, Victor Estrada, and Dustin Henkelmann aboard the F/V Alaskan. Photo courtesy of Victor Estrada

am proud to say that I got that experience. I lived day by day not knowing what to expect or what I was going to be doing throughout the night. Some nights I would just drink coffee throughout the whole night instead of food because that was the only thing available for us near the boats. I was living the life of a fisherman, and I couldn't be any happier.

I remember my first time down the hatch; I have to say that I was very intimidated and feared I would be too slow or not be able to handle the work. Nervously I started helping the guys shovel the fish and ice the boat. They were pretty impressed by how fast I was working and how fast I was learning. But I was still nervous that I might be too slow for their pace. The guys were also very supportive, and they would also give me the thumbs up even when I would mess up. I mean, we all have to mess up at some point. As time passed by, I was now able to go on my own without the supervision of anyone and had the confidence that I would do a great job. I do have to admit that the guys I was working with were very much bigger than me, and most had the typical Alaskan beard. As much as I tried to let mine grow and try to fit in, it just didn't happen.

Every time I stepped foot on the F/V Alaskan, Valkerie, Incentive, Scandies Rose, and many other fishing vessels, I asked myself, "How would my summer be if I would have stayed home?" I felt the coldness of the water and tasted the salt of the sea, and knew that these experiences will not be taken for granted. I plan on going once again to continue what may be another perfect summer in Kodiak, Alaska. I thank God for giving me the ability to travel far into the northern horizon and find work along great working men. I plan to uncover a new journey, but first of all I plan to seek the best to come.

What is a Knight Without His Trusty Steed?

By Erin Flynn

Our fighting Knights are a strong asset to Warner Pacific's school spirit. They charge us up, bring us together, and let us forget about the stresses of college while we cheer our favorite teams on. But what is a knight without his trusty steed? Without his horse, he has nothing to drive him, and although sometimes underappreciated, his mount is still nonetheless important. Warner Pacific has such a steed. It is better known as *Rocinante: A Journal of Art and Literature*

For those who do not know, Rocinante was the name of Don Quixote's horse, Don Quixote being a knight of sorts from the popular novel written in two parts by Miguel de Cervantes from 1605-1615. The meaning of his horse's name comes from "Rocin," which means, "a horse of little use," and "ante," meaning before. Don Quixote named his horse in this way, because he was meaningless before, but became significant after being taken on by Quixote. A knight's horse is important to the function of him, but it is not the first thing that one thinks of when they hear of a brave, strong knight.

*Driven is the will to never give in
A sole purpose of a goal to unfold and win
Driven is the key to believe and succeed
The fight in the mind to push and achieve*

Because of writers not being as appreciated as our sports players, not all of them are comfortable with sharing their work. I personally know of a basketball player and an ex-wrestler who write and are confident enough to share their work with friends. Both of them have even submitted to *Rocinante* in the past. This year, a new club has emerged that gives people the opportunity to show off their love for writing and reading. The Writing and Literature Club was founded by Shawna Downes and Sam Halverson. They meet on a weekly basis and do events such as National Writing Month and, more recently, chocolate and poetry. Their presence on campus will hopefully let others feel more comfortable about their own writing.

Michael Stogsdill, a former basketball player here at Warner, is not only a talented baller on the court, he is also a biology major and apparently a poet. In last year's edition of *Rocinante*, Michael got two of his pieces published: "Driven" and "Love: A Molecular Approach." While reading the long list of submissions, I was surprised to see his name underneath the title of a well-written poem. Like others, I took to the stereotype of basketball players not en-



Don Quixote and Sancho Panza at the monument to Cervantes in Plaza de España in Madrid. Don Quixote is riding atop Rocinante. Statue by Lorenzo Coullaut Valera



Rocinante submissions were due March 2nd, but late submissions may be considered; plus, there's always next year. Even if you don't submit anything plan on attending the April 20th party when the 2011 *Rocinante* comes out. You'll be able to pick up your free copy and listen to authors read some of their published pieces.

*Driven is the impossibilities made possible
The life game to throw away the obstacles.
Driven is a proven presence to drive
A smooth crescendo of notes tied with a vibe.
Driven is the mathematical solution and diffusion of you
Driven is...*
-Michael Stogsdill

For more information, check out <http://rocinantewp.wordpress.com> or contact us with submissions or questions to WPRocinante@gmail.com.

joying poetry. My image of a poet quickly became skewed as I read names of other students who would never fit the mold I created of a writer.

Another great way to finding one's true potential in writing and to gain a bit more confidence is to enroll in either the Creative Fiction and Poetry or Creative Non-fiction classes offered here at the college. Under the instruction of either Prof. Pamela Plimpton or Prof. Connie Phillips, students have the opportunity to learn how to correctly write different forms of stories; from memoir to portrait, horror to romance. The stories students create could possibly make it into the next edition of *Rocinante*.

Along with poetry and prose, the journal accepts other forms of creative work such as photography, paintings, calligraphy, or collages. If you find it difficult to write, maybe photography is the way to go. Some students may become discouraged because one or all of their photos were not accepted, but every year a wave of photo submissions flow in and there is only room for a few of them. Last year alone 99 photos were submitted. The photo to the left is my own, which I submitted to *Rocinante* my freshman year. It was the first "artistic" photo I took with my new SLR camera in high school. I took an old dress and placed a masquerade mask on top of it, then worked a lot with angles and played with lighting before I came up with the finished product.

Finding Love in Unexpected Places

By Chris Williams

The created place of *Almost, Maine* is not just a location but a play by John Cariani. It begins on a cold winter night and creatively explores the human heart. Audiences who have witnessed the play have been overwhelmed with laughter, heartbreak, and a lot of hope—three good components to a great romantic comedy.

Almost, Maine is a location that was invented for the play. The town is located in “unorganized territories, township 13, range 7.” Maine has a lot of unorganized territories where people live because they didn’t get organized to create a town. Maine has 40 people per square mile and more moose per square mile than any other state. If *Almost, Maine* did exist, it would be located in Aroostook County, a very beautiful, cold, and snowy place for most of the year.

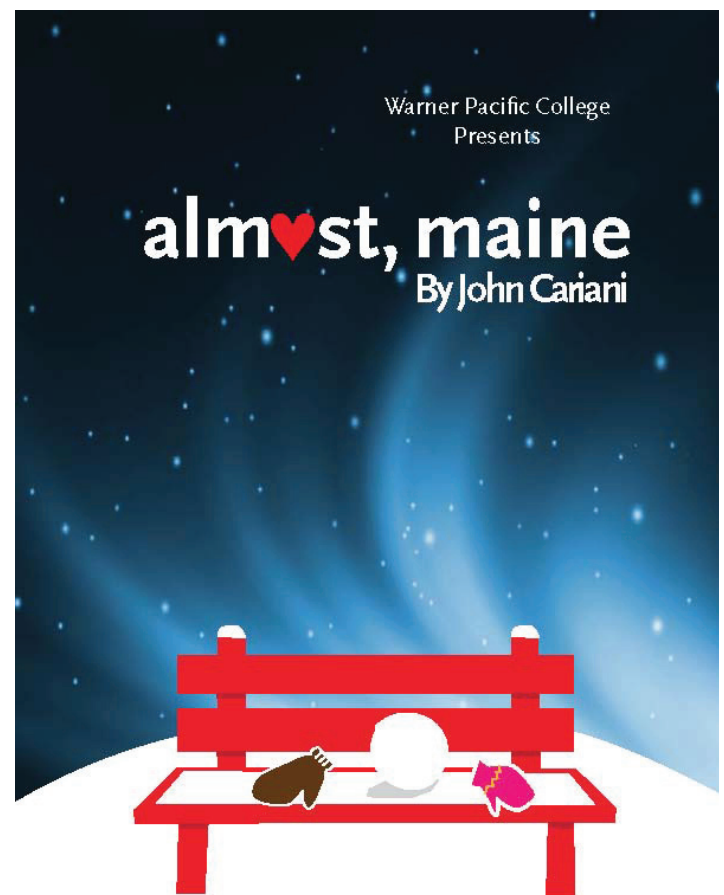
The play first premiered in 2004 at the Portland Stage Company in Maine. It soon became a huge success helping to put John Cariani’s play writing skills on the map. Later it was named one of the ten best regional plays during the 2004-2005 season according to *The Wall Street Journal*. In 2006 *Almost, Maine* made its Broadway debut at the Daryl Roth Theatre on January 12th and was featured in *New Playwrights: Best Plays of 2006*. The play is a worldwide hit, with success in countries like Mexico, South Korea, Canada, Germany, and Australia.

Almost, Maine can be performed with as little as four people or as many as nineteen actors, depending on how many actors producers have at their disposal. Freshman Ali Crocker plays two characters in the play, Marvalyn and Hope. Marvalyn is a woman who isn’t very happy in her current relationship. Hope is a little different; she is a woman who is trying to find her way in the world. Ali says she loves theater, and taking part in a play about love sounded like a lot of fun. When she was asked why people should watch the performance of *Almost, Maine*, Ali said, “It is about finding love in unexpected places. You’ll laugh, you’ll cry, and you’ll be reminded of the bittersweet feeling that comes from the vulnerability of love.”

Almost, Maine will make its local debut in Portland, Oregon produced by our very own Warner Pacific College. The play will be performed March 3rd-6th and March 10th-13th. Tickets have been available since late February for five dollars for Warner Pacific students in the bookstore. The cast and play director have met up five days a week for rehearsal. Sunday through Thursday from 6-10 at night was devoted to the preparation of *Almost, Maine* and to putting on a good show for the audience. The play is filled with

a contextual series of scenes; if any scene is watched alone it would still be entertaining. Each scene takes place either in the day or night in the town of *Almost, Maine*.

The play is filled with “a lot of physical comedy I think the audience will enjoy,” said Professor Robin Gordon, who is directing the play. Last semester the drama program performed the Greek play *Antigone*, which is a play about tragedy. This semester Professor Gordon feels “we need to explore love on stage.” She says that as a Christian college we should examine human conflicts; love is something that people take part in or are afraid of because they don’t know what it is. “Social love is perceived as a weakness,” and *Almost, Maine* will examine that, said Prof. Gordon.



The Knight Times *The Knight Times* is a publication of *The Sword*, a student organization supported by ASWPC.

Editor: Ashlee Richardson

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Connie Phillips

Contributing Writers: Erin Flynn, Chris Williams, Shawna Downes, Charli Bolt, Jacqueline Meija, Victor Estrada

Contact Us:

knighttimes@warnerpacific.edu
Warner Pacific College
2219 S. E. 68th Ave
Portland, Oregon 97215

What are you doing for Spring Break?

By *Jacqueline Meija*

Spring Break... that sounds amazing, doesn't it? Especially after almost a full school year of hard work. Between tuition and living expenses, you might not be able to have enough money to go on your dream or ideal spring break. But the lack of funds you have shouldn't stop you from enjoying your break from classes. "Pricey" trips to a foreign place may not even be your thing. Portland is known to be one of the best destinations for spring break, so why not stick around? Save your hard earned money for the summer. If you are looking for some fun things to do on spring break, and money is tight, here are few ideas to get started with.



Midnight Mystery Ride can be found at: midnightmysteryride.wordpress.com/

Hiking is a common pastime that doesn't always require a long drive. According to the *Oregonian*, one recommendation is to go to *Angels Rest*. Check it out to see if its name holds truth to it. *Angels Rest* offers breath-taking views of the Columbia Gorge, and is just 30 miles from downtown.

Volunteer: This is probably the cheapest and the most rewarding option if you choose a cause or situation you actually have a passion for. Last March, a team of ten Warner Pacific students spent their spring break serving children and the poor in the Mission District of San Francisco. Locally, a great opportunity is the Annual Beach Cleanup at The Coast. The event takes place along the entire Oregon coast, from the Washington to the California borders on Saturday, March 26, 2011. Volunteers may check in at one of 40 meeting sites, pick up a litter bag, and head down to the beach to help improve the coast for wildlife and visitors. Coordinators suggest volunteers bring gloves, wear sturdy shoes, and be safe while having an awesome time! You will get the experience of meeting lots of new people, enjoy the "get-away," and have a feeling of accomplishment without breaking the bank. While you are there, have fun exploring all the beaches around the area. This is just one of many volunteer opportunities that will be available to you.

Websites such as www.handsonportland.org and www.volunteer-match.org will help you get started with volunteer opportunities tailored to your needs/wants. If, like most of us, you aren't one for working without getting some sort of compensation, you might enjoy *FreeGeek*. It is a non-profit that provides free computers and education to those in need through the reuse and recycling of old computers in exchange for your community service. This is another invaluable break for college students.

Spend some time going around the environmentally conscious city of Portland. Portland is the best city in the United States for riding bikes. Heard of *Midnight Mystery Ride*? It is a spontaneous monthly bicycle adventure; the location and the start time don't get posted until the day of the event. "It was one of the most exhilarating things I have ever done," says Marissa Carson, a senior from Portland State University. "This is definitely something to do during Spring Break without facing the consequences of staying up too late. My advice for safety purposes is to bring at least five of your friends. One or two is not enough." More information about

Stay in for a day or two: College students often don't get enough rest. Spring break is an excellent time to wind down. Have a Redbox Night. Rent \$1 movies from a 7 Eleven's Redbox or a local grocery store and watch them all day. "After having months of non-stop work, a movie night with Redbox or Blockbusters is enough for me to be happy...even if it is a short-lived happiness," says Warner Pacific College junior, Anela Farrar-Ivey. For a breather, try purchasing a cheap light-up Frisbee from your local dollar store and tossing it around with your friends and neighbors in the evening. Enjoy this time of doing absolutely nothing--while it lasts.

Go skating: For an old school feel, Oaks Park Skating Rink is the place to be. It is the largest rink in the Pacific Northwest. The rink is located at 7805 SE Oaks Park Way, Portland. "Jam Skating Tuesday" is \$5.75 (plus skate rentals) instead of \$6.75. Take advantage of this weekday special or go between noon and 5 p.m. March 21-25 and pay just \$8.00 plus rentals for two people to skate (download the coupon at oakspark.com).

Take a road trip: Sometimes we just need to get away from it all for a while. You'll be surprised just how many college students take this alternative route for spring break fun. A suggested site from seven past Warner Pacific road trippers is to head to Seattle. "Road trips are great way to create crazy fun memories! You come out like a different person each time. If you are going for a road trip, stick around to neighboring states or at least know the route you are taking," says Warner Pacific junior, Kayla Winkle. Take your closest friends, a reliable ride, a map, an adequate amount of money for food, shelter and unforeseen emergencies, and you're good to go. If you have family or friends in surrounding areas, you can stop and stay with them or take detours at the last minute. Take back roads whenever possible to capture the scenic moments of your trip.

The main key of any spring break trip is to just relax and have fun. Make it the one goal to take a break from your chaotic college student life and enjoy this free time with your friends, family, or with the new people you will meet along the way! By planning something that is within your budget, you can relax knowing you don't have consequences to pay after.