

Work out all the muscles in your body, pages 8 & 9

A student publication of Pierce College Fort Steilacoom, Lakewood, Wash., informing students for over 30 years.

## Remembering Peter Hartman

*A math instructor was murdered last month; students and coworkers remember him as passionate and caring*

### A Mother's Memories

Peter Hartman's mother, Helen Hartman, shared a few anecdotes from her recollection.

"To show not only Peter's love of math, but his living it—when we played pi-nochle, he highlighted the scores thus: if in the '30s, there was a triangle placed around it, if the '40s there appeared a square—you get the idea!

"In a different situation, when a brother conquered riding a unicycle, Peter just had to equal that skill. But much to his disgust, he never did.

"When Peter's dad worked nights, he came home before Peter and I got up. Once, he put together a Legos structure, which young 5-year-old Peter would study and wonder about, seeing math figures even then, I suppose.

"Peter told me that whenever I said, 'Go,' he would edit my in-the-making book. I said, 'No, thank you, son, I appreciate your offer, but I don't want to have to rewrite it.'"

**Jessica Davis**  
Staff Writer

The loss of Peter Hartman, 65, affected his family and friends greatly, but they lovingly remember him, his life and the impact that he had on the people around him.

Peter Hartman was killed while he was sleeping in his basement by a fatal gunshot fired on Monday, March 7, by his long time girlfriend, Nancy Carol LeBovic, 59. LeBovic had decided that she wanted to end her life, but did not want to leave Hartman alone.

She could not turn the gun on herself, so she set fire to his house so that she might die by smoke inhalation. A neighbor spotted smoke at 4:36 a.m. and called the fire department. LeBovic is now in jail with a bail at \$1 million.

Hartman enjoyed the last three years of his life teaching at Pierce College as a part-time mathematics instructor and a drop-in tutor at the Tutoring Center. He did not start out as a teacher, however.

Hartman graduated from the University of California Berkeley with a bachelor's of science in mathematics. Later on in his life, Hartman earned master's degrees in both education and mathematics. He held several odd jobs from being a carpenter to a counselor for troubled youth.

After 15 years of software engineering, Hartman decided that he had had enough with the politics in computer programming



Archive Photo

"He was incredibly excited about math and learning," said Ryan Todd, Hartman's supervisor at the Tutoring Center. "He was really excited about being here and helping people."

and sought yet another career path. Hartman's final career choice was teaching. It turned out to be more than a job. It became a calling.

"He was good as a teacher and as a person, which you don't usually get two in one in most cases," Logan Cornyn, a student and fellow tutor, said.

Hartman was notorious for his enthusiasm for math.

"He was incredibly excited about math and learning," Ryan Todd, Hartman's supervisor at the Tutoring Center, said. "He was really excited about being here and helping people."

Many people who knew Hartman said that he cared deeply about helping students learn the concepts they needed.

According to Nancy Barker, science instructor and former division chair, when one of his students was struggling, Hartman "would do whatever he needed to do to help that student through," Barker said.

"He was setting a good foundation for them," Sharon Camner, former math department coordinator, said.

**Peter Hartman,**  
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### Pierce takes second in state

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Sabrina Crenshaw/Contributed Photo

Devon Connor-Green drives hard to the hoop on his way to earning First Team All Tournament Honors.

### Punny Names

Peter Hartman's best friend was his brother John Hartman. One phrase that John can remember hearing from his mother starting at an early age was, "Don't be doing that." Eventually, John renamed himself Dobey Doinat and it stuck.

He and Peter loved to come up with "punny names,"

names which are spelled out like real names, but when said quickly sound like something else, just like Dobey's name.

Here are a few other punny names:

- P. Skeeper**
- Earl Lee Riser**
- Blaze Dway**
- Alice Well**
- X. Zachary Wright** (Peter Hartman's tutoring name)

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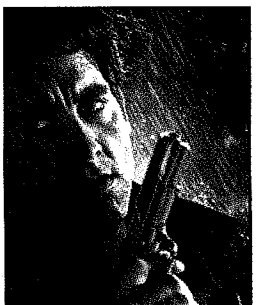
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# Pierce remembers Hartman

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Also well known about Hartman was his sense of humor.

"He was a big joke teller," Logan Cornyn said.

Stephanie Alexander, a part-time intake assistant at the Tutoring Center, laughed as she recalled the first time that she met Hartman. It was at the Tutoring Center and Hartman was wearing someone else's name tag. Alexander told Hartman that she thought he was wearing the wrong tag. He said, "No, I'm Olga today."

"He had a really fantastic sense of humor," Barker said. "I really liked that because I think you should enjoy life and

enjoy your job."

It was in the Tutoring Center where Hartman made his home.

"He had a real big influence on the energy of this place. It was one of those things where when he was here, you knew it," Todd said.

"He was such a nice person and he was always smiling. He befriended everybody. He had so many friends," Alexander said. "All these different people that he knew were such diverse people and yet, he didn't discriminate against what kind of person he hung out with because he just liked everybody."

## GIVING BUYS NUMBERS

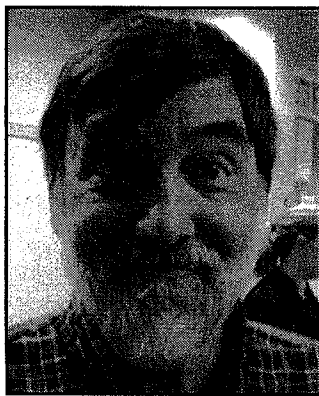
Because of his love for math and his concern for his students, Peter Hartman's family has started the Peter Hartman Fund through the Pierce College Foundation. Any money donated through either cash or check will be used to buy math books for disadvantaged students. Funds will be distributed beginning January 2006.

Donations may be made by anyone. For more information about donating, contact the Pierce College Foundation by calling (253) 964-6269 or sending an e-mail to [ctinker@pierce.ctc.edu](mailto:ctinker@pierce.ctc.edu).

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## EDITORIAL

### *The genius, wit and passion of Peter Hartman will live on*



What do you call a pageant winner at a math contest?

Miss Calculation.

Peter Hartman was well known for his sense of humor. Everyone who knew him would talk about his wonderful sense of humor. He loved to tell jokes, especially math jokes, and he even made up some of his own.

He was someone who did not discriminate against anyone. He loved helping people and was friends with

most everyone he met. If there were more people like Peter Hartman in this world, the ideals of world peace and equality would not seem so far-fetched.

One of the biggest ways that Peter helped people was through his work as a drop-in tutor at the Tutoring Center. He was a genius, able to explain any concept of math at any level to any student. There was never a student that he left behind. His love for math was one that he shared and gave continuously as he taught and as he lived.

One of the last "punny names" that Peter gave his brother John Hartman was, "Alice Well." Perhaps it is a comforting message unintentionally given by Peter to his brother and to us all: "All is well."

He was truly a man among men and it is to Pierce College's great loss that he is gone. He will live on in our hearts and our memories as an inspiration, a leader, a teacher and a friend. May his example shine upon our lives as we remember Peter Hartman.