Utahns devoted much of 1997 to celebrating the accomplishments of our pioneer forebears who arrived in this valley one hundred-fifty years ago. • Meanwhile, we sat in traffic jams, wrangled over the 2002 Olympics, and endured song-writing politicians. • Join us, then, for a pair of glimpses into the past. One a countdown of the state's top ten flubs, foibles, and boners of all time. • And the other a slightly skewed recounting of our sesquicentennial year.
Several years ago, my colleague Anne M. Butler warned historians that “Western history desperately needs to find its personal and professional sense of humor,” without which “our discipline risks denying the very humanity that history obligates us to seek.” We cannot hope to unravel the “complexity of the human experience ... if we have forgotten how to laugh, both with each other and at ourselves.” It’s difficult advice for most of us to swallow, passionate as we are in defense of ideas and ideals, of people, places, and pasts. But it’s healthy, necessary advice, especially in Utah where our “faults” lie so close to the surface as to make historical interpretation a dangerous climb and satire an excommunicable offense. So cinch up your sense of humor as I count down Utah’s Top Ten Historical Faults.

No 10 Fray Dominguez and Escalante’s failure to pioneer an overland route from Santa Fe to Alta, California, in 1776. Utah history? Of course! This is where colonial Utah began, or perhaps should have begun. The good fathers toured Utah from mid-September until early November, when they literally carved a “grand staircase” down sandstone cliffs to reach the Colorado River. They found lots of potential settlement sites and native Utahns to colonize, but they failed to locate a water route to the Pacific—the mythical Rio Buenaventura. At Utah Lake, they stopped without venturing north to view the Great Salt Lake. Their hosts warned them that dangerous “bewitchers” lived there—a caution still voiced by Utah Valley residents. Instead they fled south, across the Colorado and out of Utah, “praising God our Lord and firing off some muskets in demonstration of the great joy we all felt in overcoming so great a problem. ...”

The real problem was Utah and the consequences of their inability to traverse it: no passage to the Pacific, no need for a royal road, no corresponding missions and presidios. Of course, Utah’s Indians didn’t miss the colonialism, but then they might have fared better had Utah’s colonial roots been Spanish Catholic instead of New England Puritan, more like Santa Fe than Palmyra, more cosmopolitan and racially inclusive than not.

No 9 Polygamy. Okay, it’s obvious, but not for the reasons you might think. Accept as fact the Mormon belief that this was God’s law issued through revelation. The fault here is that more people didn’t obey it as fully and joyfully as Joseph, Brigham, Orson, Heber, or my great-
great grandfather, Charles, who was so filled with the spirit that six became his celestial lucky number. Only a handful joined in—ten to fifteen percent of eligible males at best—pretty puny participation considering this was *surbum Dei* (word of God). And Brigham Young's too: "If any of you deny the plurality of wives and continue to do so, I promise that you will be damned." He taunted the "poor narrow-minded, pinch-backed race of men, who chain themselves down to the law of monogamy, and live their days under the domination of one wife," because he realized not enough men were "testifying" (check that Latin derivation) to the practice. Why? Because the women were smarter than that.

And then it's over ... but it's not! Two "manifestos" and constant declarations that polygamy was history couldn't inhibit the few until their testimonies gave out. In the end, polygamist families—once exemplars—became scapegoats, blamed for the political ball and chain that kept Utah from statehood. The practice (or lack of practice) didn't make perfect in Utah.

**N° 8**

Utah's opposition to organized labor. By 1900, Utahns had renounced their cooperative heritage. Individualism replaced communalism just as Utah's ethnic miners—Finns, Irish, Italians, Greeks, Slavs, Asians, Mexicans—struggled to make a place in Zion. Mine disasters in Carbon County, the hated "padrone" system of wage kickbacks at Bingham, crooked scales, wage cuts, and company store prices—hallmarks of corporate capitalism—precipitated unionization. But from the pulpit and statehouse, Utah's elite attacked organized labor. They passed "right to work" laws and assisted in the violent suppression of legitimate strikes. They arrested Mother Jones, executed Joe Hill, and blacklisted union leaders. Over the years, Utah's "right to work" canon has come to mean "the right to work two or more jobs to earn a reasonable living." No wonder corporations love non-union Utah.

Ultimately, the fault lies in the economic heritage left us, and what we will bequeath our children: laboring in a state with an above-average cost of living, at wages fourteen percent below the national average, where fewer than ten percent of our workers are unionized. Utahns need to understand that the working conditions we enjoy today were won by men and women who demanded recognition for the value and dignity of all labor, then, now, tomorrow. A famous folk song goes, "I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night. … But not in Utah.

**N° 7**

The Mormon massacre of 120 "Gentile" overlanders at Mountain Meadows in 1857.
Some argue that this was no “fault” but rather premeditated violence, blood atonement, a well-organized conspiracy. Others continue to blame it on “savage” Paiutes, an argument akin to pet-blame for the gas you just passed. It is the ugliest and the most denied of all Utah’s historical faults because it strikes so close to home, to the inhumanity, fear, and religious and ethnic cleansing that lies just under the surface in all societies. Denial will not work, nor will massive rationalization. Mountain Meadows is our historical inheritance. We must embrace its reality and significance, and commemorate it.

Look Out, Star Search! Senator Orrin Hatch told The Salt Lake Tribune he wrote the song “Souls Along the Way” to commemorate the “beautiful thing” shared by his unlikely friend Senator Ted Kennedy and Kennedy’s wife, Vicki. Kennedy suggested the neo-hippie folk singer Jewel might be a good choice to record the ditty, a suggestion Hatch embraced. There was no immediate comment from the singer’s publicist.

Hatch followed this by co-writing a tribute to Princess Diana and Mother Teresa, “Many Different Roads,” with composer Janice Kapp Perry. Describing his song as better than Elton John’s popular “Candle in the Wind 1997,” Hatch boasted, “This song will stack up with any song. The reason I can say that is Janice wrote it and she is as good of a musician as anyone in the world. People have also told me they love the words as well.”

CAPITOL HELL

Tired of drinking alone? Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt appointed Larry Lunt, a longtime friend and political ally, to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission. A few days before the appointment, Vickie McGill, the board’s sole drinker, woman, and non-Mormon, told The Salt Lake Tribune she believed the board needed balance. “Because we live in Utah, we sometimes project an image that we’re all Mormon, we’re all nondrinkers. That’s not true.”

Kids in his drawers. In June, prosecutors charged a Utah state legislative analyst with one count of sexual exploitation of a minor after co-workers reported seeing binders full of photographs of children in his office, according to court documents. The suspect allegedly said he collected photographs of children because he liked to look at them, but denied he kept photos of children engaged in sexual acts. But according to the charges, “He agreed, however, that some of the photographs he had collected in 19 binders or downloaded from the Internet with his computer depicted male and female children with their genitals obviously and intentionally exposed to the photographer.”

Mi Caca es Su Caca. An anonymous couple and their ten-year-old son filed suit against Taco Bell alleging the boy found feces in a soft-shelled taco bought at a drive-up window at a Salt Lake Taco Bell restaurant. The boy had eaten one taco and most of a second one when he found “a blob of excrement” about the size of a “smashed Junior Mint” on the wrapper, the family’s attorney told the Deseret News.

A spokeswoman for the Salt Lake County Health Department, which conducted an investigation, told the Deseret News, “There are not enough facts presented to us for the health department to confirm that this stool came from a taco bought at this location or any location for that fact. We don’t feel there is a public health threat.”

However, no one attended in a horse outfit. Two Salt Lake activists dressed as a chicken and a pig were arrested after they chained themselves to the drive-through of a downtown McDonald’s restaurant and shouted “meat is murder” and “stop the blood, stop the torture.” The pair were engaged in a nationwide protest organized by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which alleges McDonald’s Corporation allows inhumane treatment of the animals on its farms supplying the restaurant with meat products.

DO YOU WANT A LAWYER WITH THAT?

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Democrats—the party of the South, states' rights, and disunion—had little power in Washington DC, nor were they interested in exacerbating their powerlessness by openly supporting polygamy. Locally, Utahns divided along religious lines, creating state parties with no national counterparts. Since neither national party had a true stake in Utah politics, both could, and did, ignore us.

In the 1890s, Mormon leaders recognized this problem and divided church members along political lines to present the appearance of national party partnership. But within decades, Mormons drifted back into lock step following apostolic assurances that a camel had more chance of passing through the eye of a needle than a Democrat of making it into heaven. Today, as a safe Republican state, Utah again can be overlooked by both parties, and Democratic presidents can, and will, ignore local desires in accomplishing national goals like preserving monuments. Our fault lies in not recognizing the liability of one-party politics and in demanding conformity rather than accepting competition and compromise.

No. 5 The treatment of Utah's native peoples. From Dominguez and Escalante's ruse that they were only searching for a lost padre, to Brigham Young's promises to safeguard Indian rights, to the recent

And people might mistake the basketball hoops for a wedding reception. The Utah Jazz, whose run at the NBA championship provoked jazz-mania across the nation, were excluded from the Days of '47 Parade because they didn't sufficiently incorporate the parade's theme, "Faith in Every Footstep," into the visual design of their float. The Jazz entry was to have included the Jazz Dancers, the Bear mascot, and a player, in addition to the words, "New Orleans to Utah ... Faith in the Footsteps to Victory." Jazz Vice President David Allred told The Salt Lake Tribune that he felt the team's float was singled out for rejection: "Do we put people in pioneer dress? Faith in Every Free-Throw! I don't know. We needed to be represented as the Jazz, and if the parade committee didn't want us to be represented that way, then I guess we disagree." But Parade Chairman Frank T. Hales defended the action, stating, "All we wanted was some small tie. It didn't need to be religious."

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen ... Tom Welch, president of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee, resigned on July 29, two days after Salt Lake City prosecutors charged him with domestic-violence battery, a Class B misdemeanor. Welch's woes began July 9, when his eleven-year-old son called 9111 and reported that Welch and his wife, Alma, were fighting in the garage of their eastside home. Welch pleaded no contest to the battery charge on July 31, and was ordered to undergo family counseling and to return to court for further review hearings. When he arrived late for a September 23 hearing, he was booked into jail for contempt of court and held for several hours. After his resignation, SLOC trustees gave Welch a $1.1 million severance package, infuriating Olympic opponents.

The Ballad of Tom Welch (to the tune of "Home on the Range")

Oh give me some dough
'Twas a tough row to hoe
Hopping planes, being schmoozed,
wined and dined
It was really a chore,
and I ask nothing more
Than a few million bucks for my time.

Tom! Tom! what a guy!
Went to pains, got the games,
My, oh my!
He did it for love,
Never once thinking of
Taking one little piece of the pie.
revelations of state mismanagement of Navajo oil trust funds and the systematic exclusion of Indians from juries, Utah's Indian people have been lied to, exploited, and marginalized. Young's dictum of the "open hand" of friendship quickly devolved to the "mailed fist" of force. Missionaries ignored Indians for sexier pastures in Europe and the South Pacific. Ensuing treaties stripped Utah's Indians of their best lands, removing them to reservations. Allotment further reduced their land holdings—by 87 percent at Uintah-Ouray—insuring their economic dependency and political marginalization. Southern Paiutes survived for generations living on the fringe of southern Utah communities. They didn't even get reservations until the twentieth century, and then lost them during the 1950s when Utah Sen. Arthur Watkins supervised the "termination" of their federal trust status. Utah's Indian history parallels the national experience, although given Mormon cosmological understandings of American Indians, the initial promise for something better was much higher, and therefore more squandered.

Our land ethic. From earliest settlement, Utahns have been trying to remake this arid landscape into New England, and failing that to squeeze profits from the land at any cost. In subduing

**Caulk Radio.** Apparently perturbed because station management would not allow him to use the on-air name "Discharge" or play his own format, a disc jockey for heavy metal radio station KBER quit in July by allegedly playing a prerecorded tape laced with vulgar language and the sounds of sex and bodily functions. "I guess he just snapped," program manager Randy Rose told the Associated Press. "I have been in radio for 23 years and never seen anything like this." When KBER employees arrived to stop the tape, they found the program booth door sealed with glue and were forced to use a crowbar to get inside. "This is a Howard Stern wannabe whose ego is bigger than his talent," Rose told The Salt Lake Tribune. "It's the most unprofessional behavior I've ever experienced."

**Billboard's "Mission Statement" Refused.** Reagan Outdoor Advertising Inc. refused to display billboards for KBER radio featuring two Mormon missionary look-alikes bearing the slogan "We're on a mission ... to ROCK!"—claiming the ad might offend some people in the community. The station countered that the company was more afraid of fallout in the state legislature, where the company's owner was pushing legislation that would have required state or local government to pay for the relocation of certain billboards during I-15 reconstruction. Ironically, KBER's station manager, who created the ad, is himself a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and his twenty-year-old son is currently serving an LDS mission in Italy.

**Back to Skoal Days.** Carbon County Attorney Gene E. Strate filed charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor against two employees of KTVX Channel 4 after the two allegedly encouraged Carbon High School students to chew tobacco on camera. In February, the station ran a story about the dangers of chewing tobacco that had video of students spitting tobacco juice. The students later said they had been encouraged by the two employees who promised they wouldn't get into trouble. "This sends a message," Carbon District Superintendent Val Bush told The Salt Lake Tribune. "It's an outrage to use kids to get ratings."

**Trashing the Media.** On August 27, witnesses reported seeing Salt Lake City Weekly reporter Neal Gunnarson throw a handful of Salt Lake City Weekly newspapers into a trash can and put another handful in his truck. The paper contained a story critical of Gunnarson's investigation of Salt Lake City Mayor Deedee Corradini, who solicited two hundred thousand dollars in gifts from acquaintances. Gunnarson cleared Corradini of wrongdoing. Gunnarson apologized for taking the papers, but said the City Weekly story misquoted him and misrepresented his actions in the Corradini probe.
and multiplying, we have been sadly mainstream. We moved water through extensive irrigation systems to serve small farms, but as the alkali came up and our cities grew, we moved the water to our lawns and then into dams to sell to others. We killed Glen Canyon for Phoenix, Las Vegas, and southern California. And when God answered our prayers and we had too much water, we built massive lake pumps, big enough to create Dominguez and Escalante's Rio Buenaventura, a.k.a. Rio Banjutara.

Where farming proved dicey, we overstocked our watersheds until repeated floods made us look to the mountains

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Crack Investigation. In July, authorities cracked down on “Bare Burn Beach,” a popular gay sunbathing and recreation site near Saltair at the Great Salt Lake. In two separate raids, fifty-one people, most of them men, were cited for lewdness, a Class-B misdemeanor; after they were found jogging, sunbathing, and engaged in “open sex acts,” according to Sgt. Jim Potter of the Salt Lake County Sheriff’s Department. “We’re fighting two crimes here, public nudity and public lewdness,” Potter told the Deseret News. “We’ll continue to do this. We’ve gotten complaints. You can see the blatant activity from the freeway and it’s near the state parking lot where families go to picnic.”

High in fiber. LeMar’s, a Provo nightclub, began featuring semi-nude dancing in June, outraged the politically conservative city. “This doesn’t really fit in our community,” one opponent told The Salt Lake Tribune. “The moral fiber of this community is quite high. We have to defend it.” A LeMar’s customer responded. “You have two kinds of people. Politicians who want to show us how religious they are and women who aren’t so young and cute who are afraid we’re going to see a young and cute girl.” Political leaders vowed to change business ordinances to zone exotic dancing out of downtown Provo.

It might lead to dancing. Gary Enea filed suit in Nevada’s district court, claiming Mesquite city officials caved in to pressure from activists to shut down his adult bookstore. Pure Perfection Book and Video was targeted by a group known as Help Our Moral Environment (HOME) which rounded up approximately eight thousand volunteers from Nevada and southern Utah to conduct an around-the-clock vigil. The store closed after city officials changed zoning laws to outlaw the bookstore at its existing location.

No surprise that “The Thinker” was missing too. Citing religious and moral concerns, Brigham Young University refused to display four nude works of renowned French artist Francois Auguste Rene Rodin. The four pieces, including the world-famous erotic sculpture, “The Kiss,” are part of a traveling exhibit on display at BYU through January. “We have felt that the nature of these works are such that the viewer will be concentrating on them in a way that is not good for us,” Campbell Gray, director of the BYU Museum of Art, explained to the Associated Press.

Do As I Say, Not As I Do. Tom Young, chairman of the Citizens for Positive Community Values, crusaded on behalf of a tough anti-nudity bill in the Utah State Legislature by pointing to his “Don’t Get Hooked: Pornography Can Kill” billboard on display near Draper. Ironically, the anti-pornography crusader’s company, Young Electric Signs, has many signs in Las Vegas, including one for “adult” dancers, videos, and toys at an establishment called “Wild J’s.” Young told The Salt Lake Tribune that he feared a potential lawsuit should his company refuse to lease based on content. “I’d hate to face the legal consequences of an attitude like that. We try to cater to anyone who has need for our service.”

A feast for the eyes! Ultra-conservative moral crusader Gayle Ruzicka complained to The Salt Lake Tribune about the time she, her husband, and her twelve children were forced to view a replica of Michelangelo’s nude “David” sculpture as they patronized the buffet at a Las Vegas casino.
Choose An Alternate Route

The Breeze 97.9

The Breeze 97.9
again. We accepted mining and gained the dubious benefits. Our smelters provided ore for the entire Western United States, and the sulfur dioxide fouled our air and bathed our orchards in acid rain. We welcomed the military and they rewarded us with chemical weapons. At the same time, we resented the federal presence—the imposition of national parks, monuments, and wilderness offended our state's rights mentality and circumvented our exploitation of the public domain. We still clinging to our agrarian myths, our faith in extractive industries, and our trust in never-ending Cold War even as tourism supersedes all other economic endeavors in Utah. We have been slow to realize that this land our ancestors deemed a desert and wilderness is, left in that state, our greatest asset for the twenty-first century.

No 3  Brigham Young forbidding Mormon mining. Aha! A contradiction! No, just looking at the other side of that missed-opportunity coin. Young controlled Utah politically, socially, and spiritually, but he neglected the fourth leg of that hegemonic chair when he counseled his people to farm instead of mine. "We

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WANTED!

STOLEN FROM THEIR GRAVES

A 39-year-old woman was charged with felony theft in a rash of thefts of decorations from the Kaysville cemetery. Kaysville police installed an electronic bug in a grave decoration fashioned by police personnel. The Christmas decoration was later stolen from the grave and police traced the bug's signal to the woman's home.

FORE! THIEF!

In February, a man playing a solo round of golf at the Rose Park Golf Course was robbed on the 18th fairway by a "14 or 15 year old" robber. The suspect brandished a gun and took cash from the victim's wallet before fleeing.

NO BONES ABOUT IT

Felony charges of abuse or desecration of a dead human body leveled against a Blanding couple were dismissed by 7th District Judge Lyle R. Anderson, who ruled that bones of prehistoric people do not qualify as dead human bodies under state law; the couple allegedly unearthed bones on state land near Bluff and were accused of grave robbing. Arguments were then filed with the Utah Court of appeals by the Utah Attorney General's Office on grounds that Anderson's ruling exhibited racism against ancient American cultures. There is also the question of whether the judge showed favoritism toward the couple, James and Jeanne Redd, because his family had been provided medical care previously by James Redd, who is a physician as well as a collector of Indian artifacts.

DUELING FOOL

A 24-year-old man entered an Orem pawn shop wearing a white sheet over his head, smashed a glass display case with a hammer, and removed a sword from the shelf. He then reportedly started toward a clerk with the sword raised. He stopped when the clerk and store manager pulled handguns and ordered him to stop. The man then ran to the back of the store before approaching store workers a second time. After being warned again he would be shot, the man fled. He was picked up by police a short time later. "The guy was very lucky he wasn't shot right there in the store," a police spokesman told the Deseret News.

THE BOTTLE MADE ME DO IT

Explaining to authorities that he "had no intention of stealing the bus, but alcohol took over," a 20-year-old Orem man went on a joy ride around southwestern Utah in a pillered St. George school bus, doing an estimated ten thousand dollars in damage. After abandoning the vehicle 15 miles away in Hurricane, the man allegedly burglarized two vehicles in a nearby motel, taking cash and personal items. He then checked into a motel and was asleep when St. George and Hurricane police arrested him the next morning.

OF ALL THE LUCK

Former NBC newsman Lucky Severson, who also once reported for KUTV Channel 2 News in Salt Lake City, was arrested in August for allegedly carrying a small plastic bag of marijuana at The Salt Lake International Airport. "I have an idea where it came from," Severson told the Deseret News, but declined to elaborate.