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## The Utah Statesman, March 5, 2019

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## SPORTS | Down go the Wolf Pack

Aggie women pickup third-straight win, defeating Nevada, 71-59.

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## STUDENT LIFE | Nerdy Talent Show

USU's Society of Women Engineers hosts a talent show featuring 'nerdy' student talents.

see PAGE 5

## NEWS | Alabama tornado kills 23

The National Weather Service said possibly two tornadoes struck the area.

see PAGE 3



# TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN

## Men's basketball upsets Nevada in sold-out Spectrum



PHOTO BY Tim Carpenter

Redshirt freshman forward Justin Bean crowd surfs after students and fans rushed the court in the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum on Saturday, March 2. The Utah State men's basketball team played against the Nevada Wolf Pack in front of a sold-out crowd, 81-76, putting the Aggies first in the Mountain West conference. The men's team plays Colorado State Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

What's next? see **pg. 6**

Photos from the game, see **pg. 8**

## Black Student Union hosts annual Soul Food event on campus



PHOTO BY Jason Rimando

Black Student Union hosted the annual Soul Food night on Friday, March 1. USU Dining Services worked with BSU to serve southern-style macaroni and cheese and fried chicken, as well as African foods like plantains and African rice.

By Erick Graham Wood  
STUDENT LIFE STAFF WRITER

Students came together in the TSC Ballroom to celebrate black identity and African culture at Utah State University's Soul Food dinner, which was hosted by the Black Student Union on Friday.

"It is a two-hour banquet event complete with entertainment, great food and a 30-minute dance party," said BSU president Keke Trawally.

The theme this year was "More Than Just a Color." According to Trawally, the Soul Food

event is the biggest event the group puts on every year.

"We've been thinking about this since October," Trawally said. "It's a formal event; we wanted people to dress up and come and have fun."

USU Dining Services worked with BSU to serve southern-style macaroni and cheese and fried chicken, as well as African foods like plantains and African rice. Aeden Anbesse, BSU secretary, said the group is thankful for Dining Services making it easier to put on such a big event.

see "Soul Food" PAGE 5

## Trump claims Cohen hearing may have hurt North Korea summit



PHOTO BY Evan Vucci/AP Photo

U.S. President Donald Trump meets North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019, in Hanoi.

By Jonathan Lemire and Kevin Freking  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is suggesting that a congressional hearing Democrats arranged with his former personal attorney may have contributed to his failure to reach a summit deal with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Trump left his summit in Vietnam with the North Korean leader last week without reaching an agreement after Trump said he wasn't willing to give in to Kim's demand to lift U.S. sanctions at this time. He lashed out at Democrats in a tweet on Sunday, criticizing their decision

to hold the hearing featuring his former lawyer, Michael Cohen, while he was overseas.

"For the Democrats to interview in open hearings a convicted liar & fraudster, at the same time as the very important Nuclear Summit with North Korea, is perhaps a new low in American politics and may have contributed to the 'walk,'" Trump tweeted. "Never done when a president is overseas. Shame!"

While in Vietnam, Trump was unhappy that Democrats had scheduled the Cohen hearing to occur during the summit, believing it was an attempt to counter-program and distract,

see "North Korea Summit" PAGE 3



# Students write letters to sexual assault survivors

By Jordan Forest  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

The Utah State Sexual Assault and Violence Information program, SAAVI, has been providing an opportunity for Aggies to write love letters to survivors of sexual assault. For the past two Wednesdays, SAAVI has set up a booth on the first floor of the Taggart Student Center, outside of the campus store, where students can find blank cards to write their love letters.

Felicia Gallegos, SAAVI's outreach and prevention coordinator, said she wanted "to give a means for people to be able to express their support and their encouragement to survivors."

In addition to creating a means for the community to reach out to survivors, she wanted to create a means for survivors to feel that support.

"It can be really hard for survivors to feel like they're supported or feel like they can speak out about what's happened to them. Some individuals don't even have the support of their friends or family," Gallegos said. "I wanted to be able to give them something to show them that there are people out there that care and that are in your corner, even if they're a complete stranger."

Sydney Kraker, member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority, which is connected to supporting and raising awareness for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, was one of the volunteers at the booth. Kraker spoke about the power of the letters for survivors.

"You're in this time where you're struggling and trying to get back on your feet with everything. It's just like a little ray of sunshine to open at the end of the day," said Kraker.

Gallegos said that the event has been "super successful." She bought 50 cards total for the month-long event, hoping that they could fill them all as a goal. During their first Wednesday of doing the booth, almost all of the cards were used.

"It was just amazing to see. It's so awesome to think of how

many people came and were so willing too, not even knowing who was on the other side of the card that was gonna get it," said Kraker.

SAAVI goes on to give these letters to their clients, both those that have been coming and getting advocacy or therapy for a while and those who are new to the program. For those coming in for their first time, there is a letter of support for them following that initial intake session.

"We are an office that provides therapy and advocacy to help someone heal. When we first see somebody come in here, they're often broken and they feel very alone and very scared," said Gallegos. "After we've met with them and told them that we're here for them, being able to give them a letter just to say, 'Just so you also know, there are people out there — complete strangers — that care too and believe in you.'"

Before giving them to clients, Gallegos mentioned that they will read the letters to confirm there isn't anything triggering for a survivor as well as to see if any letters are specifically written to female survivors.

In that process, Gallegos said, "We were all crying in our office, because they're just really heartfelt and continuous words of 'you're not alone' and 'you can do this' and 'you'll be stronger because of this.'"

"It impacted me way more than I thought it would," said Gallegos. "People are pouring their hearts out in these love letters."

Gallegos gave her own love letter to survivors: "I understand. I feel you. I know this is the hardest thing you've probably faced in your life. It's really scary. It's really lonely. But I want you to know that I know with absolute certainty that you are strong enough to get through this and you're not alone. When you look back on this time and this healing journey, you're going to be thankful that you went through it because it made you stronger than you ever would have been without it."

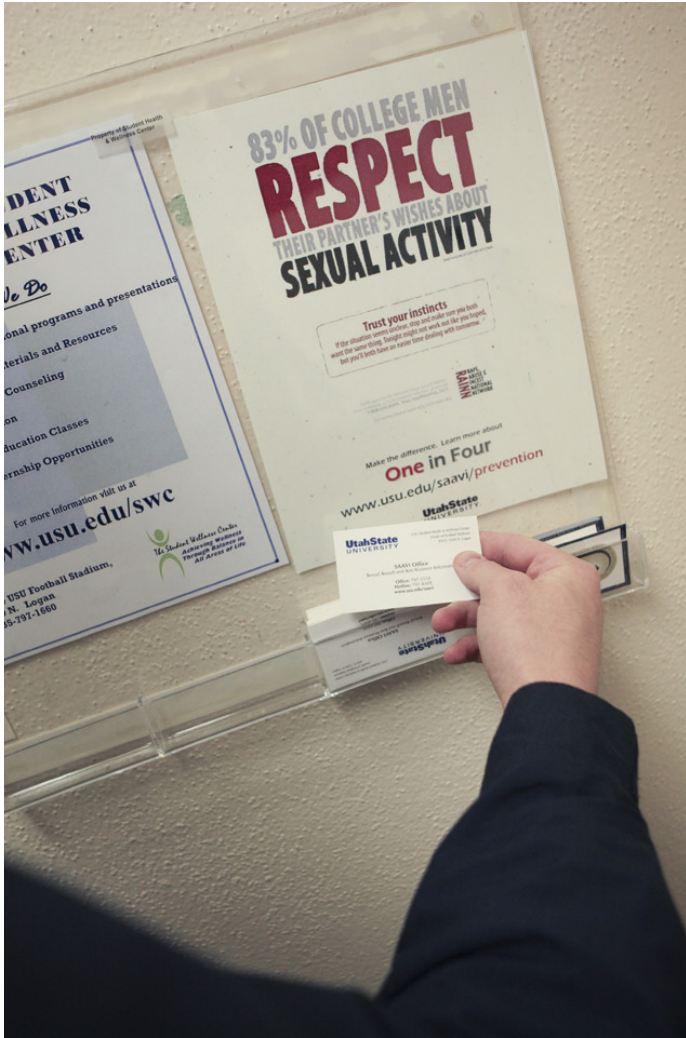


PHOTO BY Cameron Peterson  
The Utah State University Sexual Assault and anti-Violence Information office supports survivors of sexual assault.

SAAVI plans to continue the Love Letters to Survivors every year.

—jordan12321@yahoo.com

## Students no longer able to receive voice memo code blue alerts

By Josh Wilkinson  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Students at Utah State University have received an email indicating a change in the Code Blue Alert system. The email was sent from the USU IT Service Desk and indicates that an option for receiving Code Blue alerts will no longer be available to students. The email reads as follows:

"We are writing to inform you the 'voice' option will no longer be available through the Code Blue alert system. Sending emergency communications by calling 'voice' phone numbers results in long lag times between when the message is sent and when individuals receive calls. This could result in individuals receiving outdated information through voice after having received the latest information through email or text.

"All 'voice' phone numbers have been removed from the Code Blue alert system. As you had a 'voice' option selected, please update your Code Blue contact information as soon as possible by visiting <https://ss.banner.usu.edu/BannerGeneralSsb/ssb/personalInformation>."

The email also encourages students to ensure their preferred contact information is correct so that students can continue to receive Code Blue alerts from those channels. The email was signed by Mike Kuehn, chief of USU Police, and Judy Crockett, emergency manager at the USU Department of Public Safety.

Students who wish for more information can visit [www.alert.usu.edu](http://www.alert.usu.edu).



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF Utah State University  
Students at Utah State University have received an email indicating a change in the Code Blue Alert system. The email was sent from the USU IT Service Desk and indicates that an option for receiving Code Blue alerts will no longer be available to students.

## Utah police: suspect in shooting near university in custody

By Brady McCombs  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Police were searching Friday for the suspect in a fatal shooting at an apartment complex south of Salt Lake City that spurred a shelter-in-place alert for about two hours at nearby Utah Valley University.

Other people at the apartment complex in Orem, Utah, witnessed Elbert Paule, 19, shoot Dominique Barnett, 26, once in the stomach on Thursday night, said Orem Police Lt. Trent Colledge.

Barnett died later that night at a hospital, Colledge said. Paule had been charged three times in the last year with drug-related offenses, online Utah court records show. Paule had pleaded guilty in one case and served jail time, pleaded not guilty in another and had not issued a plea in the third case.

Colledge said Paule knew Barnett but didn't elaborate. It's possible the shooting was drug-related, but investigators are still gathering information, he said.

Classes resumed on Friday morning at Utah Valley University, a college of 40,000 students with a campus next to Interstate 15 tucked in between businesses, shopping centers and housing.

The university tweeted that students should "continue to use caution."

University spokesman Scott Trotter said Paule was admitted to the college for spring 2019 semester but didn't register for any classes.

Barnett was never a student and has no affiliation with the university, Trotter said.

The apartment complex is not owned or run by Utah Valley University but most of the residents are current or former students, Colledge said.

Paule's criminal history shows he had been charged with possession of drug or drug paraphernalia in three separate incidents dating back to March 2018. His adult criminal record does not show any violent offenses.

He pleaded guilty in May 2018 to possessing marijuana and spice and was sentenced to 180 days and one year of probation. In August 2018, he pleaded not guilty to possession of marijuana and spice and drug paraphernalia. A trial was scheduled for April.



PHOTO COURTESY OF Orem Police Department  
In this undated photo provided by the Orem Police Department is Elbert Paule. A man shot at an apartment complex near Utah Valley University south of Salt Lake City has died. Orem Police tweeted Friday, March 1, 2019, that the man died, but didn't provide any information about the identity of the deceased. Officers searching for the suspect, 19-year-old Elbert Paule.

His most recent charge came in January, when he was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia in Orem. He has not yet issued a plea to that charge.

Police in Utah say the suspect in a fatal shooting at an apartment complex near Utah Valley University in Orem has turned himself in.

Orem police announced in a brief statement Saturday that 19-year-old Elbert Paule was in custody without providing details of the circumstances of the surrender.

The complex where 26-year-old Dominique Barnett was fatally wounded Thursday night is off campus but it prompted the university to issue a shelter-in-place alert for about two hours.

Online court records don't indicate whether Paule has an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

University spokesman Scott Trotter said Friday that Paule was admitted for the spring 2019 semester but didn't register for any classes and that Barnett was never a student.



# 23 dead, dozens missing in tornado-blasted Alabama community

By Kim Chandler and Jeff Martin  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rescue crews using dogs and drones searched for victims amid splintered lumber and twisted metal Monday after the deadliest U.S. tornado in nearly six years ripped through a rural Alabama community. At least 23 people were killed, some of them children.

Dozens were missing in Lee County nearly a day after the twister struck, according to the sheriff, who said that crews had combed the hardest-hit areas but that other places had yet to be searched.

The winds Sunday afternoon obliterated numerous homes, leaving huge, jumbled piles of wood and household belongings. Some homes were reduced to concrete slabs. Debris was scattered across the countryside, with shredded metal hanging from the pine trees. “I’m not going to be surprised if we don’t come up with some more deceased. Hopefully we won’t,” Coroner Bill Harris said. He said the dead included almost entire families and at least three children, ages 6, 9 and 10.

A post on the Lee-Scott Academy’s Facebook page said fourth-grader Taylor Thornton was among those killed.

On the day after the disaster, volunteers used chain saws to clear paths for emergency workers. Neighbors and friends helped one another find some of their belongings in the ruins.

Carol Dean found her wedding dress among the wreckage of her mobile home. But the storm took her 53-year-old husband. She said David Wayne Dean was at home Sunday afternoon and had texted a friend to beware when the tornado hit.

“He didn’t make it out,” she said. Dean said she rushed home from her job at Walmart when she couldn’t reach her husband on the phone. She pushed her way past sheriff’s deputies who tried to keep her out of the damaged area. Her children had found David Dean’s body in a neighbor’s yard. “They took me down to him,” Dean said, “and I got to spend a little time with him before they took him away.”

At the R&D Grocery, rattled residents asked one another if they were OK. And a big banner that read “#BEAUREGARDSTRONG” was hung on a fence at Bearegard High School. The National Weather Service said one and possibly two tornadoes struck the area, with a powerful EF-4 twister with winds estimated at 170 mph (274 kph) blamed for most of the destruction. It carved a path nearly a mile (1.6 kilometers) wide and 24 miles (39 kilometers) long, said meteorologist Chris Darden.

Darden said the “monster tornado” was the deadliest twister to hit the U.S. since May 2013, when an EF-5 killed 24 people in Moore, Oklahoma.

“It looks like someone almost just took a giant knife and scraped the ground,” Sheriff Jay Jones said.

County Emergency Management Director Kathy Carson said she was “pretty sure” that tornado sirens in Bearegard sounded



PHOTO BY Julie Bennett/Associated Press  
Julie Morrison looks through the debris of her destroyed home on Lee County Road 63 in Bearegard, Ala., Monday, March 4, 2019, the day after a deadly tornado ravaged the area, in Bearegard, Ala., Monday, March 4, 2019

warnings but that authorities were busy with the search-and-rescue and had not yet looked into the question.

Crews searching door-to-door used dogs as well as drones that can detect heat from a body. “We’re basically using everything we can get our hands on,” the sheriff said.

President Donald Trump tweeted that he told the Federal Emergency Management Agency to give Alabama “the A Plus treatment.”

The twister was part of a powerful storm system that slashed its way across the Deep South, spawning numerous tornado warnings in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida.

“All we could do is just hold on for life and pray,” said Jonathan Clardy, who huddled with his family inside their Bearegard trailer as

the tornado ripped the roof off. “It’s a blessing from God that me and my young’uns are alive.”

Bearegard, named for a Confederate general, is an unincorporated community of roughly 10,000 people near the Georgia state line. The community is in the same county as Auburn University and has a few small stores, two schools and a volunteer fire department dotting the main highway.

“Everybody in Bearegard is a real close-knit family,” Clardy said. “Everybody knows everybody around here. Everybody is heartbroken.”

Julie Morrison and her daughter-in-law picked through the ruins of Morrison’s home in Bearegard, looking for keys and a wallet.



PHOTO BY Mickey Welsh/Montgomery Advertiser via AP  
A man salvages belongings near Bearegard, Ala., on Monday March 4, 2019. Friends in eastern Alabama are helping tornado survivors retrieve the scattered pieces of their lives after devastating winds destroyed their homes and killed at least 23 people.

## “North Korea Summit” FROM PAGE 1

according to two Republicans close to the White House who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

But after returning to Washington, and seeing the largely negative media reaction to the summit, including about his answer about the death of college student Otto Warmbier, Trump went a step further. He seized upon an idea being floated on the right, including by his eldest son Don Jr. on social media, that the Democrats’ hearing was not just a distraction, but a deliberate attempt to undermine the negotiations in Hanoi, according to the Republicans.

The president complained to one confidant that the hearing made him “look weak” to Kim Jong Un, as did a reporter’s shouted question about the Cohen matter in front of the North Korean leader.

Trump has said he ended the negotiations because Kim was demanding that all sanctions would be lifted, but observers note that the president has long been eager to find a scapegoat to blame for a perceived failure and has not been shy to question the patriotism of his political opponents.

The White House did not immediately respond to questions about why the hearing would have contributed to Trump’s decision not to accept Kim’s terms or whether members of the North Korean negotiating team indicated they were aware of the Cohen news coverage in the U.S.

As Trump wrapped up his trip to the summit last week, he complained that Democrats had scheduled the hearing at the same time as his negotiations. He described it as a “fake hearing” and said having it in the middle of this “very important summit” was “really a terrible thing.” Trump said they could have held it a few days later and had more time to prepare.

During the House Oversight Committee hearing, Cohen, who has turned on Trump and has pleaded guilty to lying to Congress earlier to protect Trump, was harshly critical of his former boss, calling him a racist, a con man and a cheat.

In his Sunday talk show appearances, National Security Adviser John Bolton described the summit as a success despite the lack of an agreement providing for verifiable dismantling of the North’s nuclear sites. Bolton, in three television interviews, tried to make the case that Trump advanced America’s national security interests by rejecting a bad agreement while working to persuade Kim to take “the big deal that really could make a difference for North

Korea.”

Bolton said Trump has “turned traditional diplomacy on its head, and after all in the case of North Korea, why not? Traditional diplomacy has failed in the last three administrations.”

An example of that non-traditional diplomacy was formally unveiled Sunday when South Korea and the U.S. announced they would not conduct massive springtime military drills and were replacing them with smaller exercises. They described it as an effort to support diplomacy aimed at resolving the North Korean nuclear crisis.

Trump on Monday complained about how that decision was covered in the media, tweeting: “The military drills, or war games as I call them, were never even discussed in my mtg w/ Kim Jong Un of NK\_FAKE NEWS! I made that decision long ago because it costs the U.S. far too much money to have those “games”, especially since we are not reimbursed for the tremendous cost!”

The U.S. and North Korea have offered contradictory accounts of why last week’s summit in Vietnam broke down, though both have pointed to western sanctions as a sticking point.

—  
Lemire reported from New York



SL

STUDENT LIFE

# Going off-script with The Antics Comedy Improv



The Antics Comedy Improv Show perform at the Dansante Theater every Friday. The group began as a USU club and have since moved to the big stage.

PHOTOS BY Iain Laurence

By Shelby Black  
STUDENT LIFE SENIOR WRITER

No script and no rehearsal are the ingredients of The Antics Comedy Improv show. The local comedy group performs at the Dansante Theater every Friday, making audiences laugh with their witty and unexpected humor.

The group began as a Utah State University club. Members felt they were good enough to perform for live audiences and took the club to the big stage. This has allowed them to interact with the community and create an audience that keeps coming back for more.

Carl Calderwood, group manager, gave some insight into how their shows keep people interested.

“No two shows are alike. This is one of the few forms of entertainment that involves the audience to make sure everyone has fun,” Calderwood said.

At The Antics’ show, audience participation is the driving force. A typical show consists of the audience offering a topic and the cast basing an entire scene off it.

Alyssa Landrosche, theater education major, said, “It is fun to see them break out of their shell and experience the magic and fun of improv.”

The cast also explained that they have several games they regularly play with the audience, one of which is called “a musical day in the life.” The Antics choose an audience member and recreate their day as a musical. Landrosche said it is always hilarious and unexpected.

The cast also said they have began getting recognized by audience members in public. Brad Melville, social studies composite teaching major, appreciates this taste of fame.

“It makes me feel like I am celebrity for a second,” Melville said. “It is nice to know that in a town with a lot of college students, we can give them something fun to do on a weekend. It makes me feel

like I am contributing.”

The Antics are a nonprofit group and all ticket sales from their show go towards putting on the next one. It is not about the money, but rather the member’s love of improv.

Andrew Davis, Antics member, said he used to dislike improv. It wasn’t until he went to a show and tried it out for himself that he discovered how fun it was.

“It is about instilling and improving confidence in yourself. When you are on stage and you are in character, you have nowhere to hide. You are that character,” Davis said. “It’s amazing what going out there can do to change yourself. It is a life skill that can help you find yourself and come out of your shell.”

Other members of the Antics also agreed that improv has taught them skills that they have found useful in everyday life. Callie Lythgoe, costume design major, explained

that through improv, her confidence had been elevated.

“My confidence in every moment has increased, especially in times when you need to be ready to answer a question. That skill has been tremendously useful and I love cultivating it,” Lythgoe said.

The Antics are an open group and they encourage students to come to their open practices, which are held in the Lundstrom Student Center. If students would rather watch and laugh along with The Antics, they can catch one of their shows Fridays at the Dansante Theater at 7:30 p.m. The Antics said audiences are sure to enjoy themselves and leave laughing.

“If you go, you will not believe how it exceeds your expectations. It’s not funny because we are trying to be funny, it is funny because we understand life is funny,” Davis said. “For anyone who is skeptical, they have to come and see one. The chances are they are going to love it and we are going to laugh right with them.”

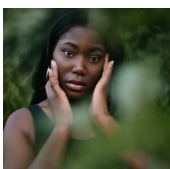
For more information about The Antics, visit their Facebook page.

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@shelbsterblack

“My confidence in every moment has increased ... I love cultivating it.”

— Aeden Anbesse  
Black Student Union Secretary

## TWEETS of the WEEK



@KhairoTRobinson

Hey Marie Kondo, I heard you love mess. If this is true please come to Utah State. We need you.



@thespaceman712

What a time for USU twitter!! Elections are piping hot rn and we all love Aggie basketball (and The Spectrum) way too much to shut up about it. I AM HERE FOR ALL OF IT.



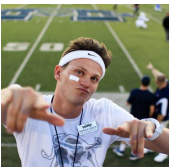
@GageCarling

I think the thing I love most about USU and college in general is that I finally get to be the person I’ve wanted to be my whole life and not have to worry about others not accepting that



@MyNameisEmAllen

I sacrificed my voice at tonight’s game, just like any good Scotsman would. #AggiesAllTheWay



@BannonGreer

I spent a long time figuring this one out ... Hope y’all liked it!



# USU approves Young Democratic Socialists club



By Abigail Slade  
STUDENT LIFE CONTRIBUTOR

A Utah State University chapter of the Young Democratic Socialists of America is the newest political club on campus.

Spearheaded by Diego Mendiola, the USU DSA is the farthest-left club USU has ever known. Despite this, the members maintain that it’s more important to focus on mutual respect and joint effort to achieve common goals than to get hung up on differences.

The DSA holds values that are congruent with other political parties, such as transparency and accountability within government institutions.

Lynsey Kinchla, a club leader, said that some of the main points on the DSA docket are “prison reform, livable wages, universal healthcare, education, and equality and

justice.”

According to DSA members, the way to navigate these issues is with a horizontal structure of government rather than the present hierarchical system. This is also the way the club leadership is organized.

“We all have the same say on the issues that we focus on, on the things that we do, and on the activities we have,” said Mendiola.

Brandon Christensen, another prominent DSA member, said he hopes the club “promotes a diverse range of ideologies” because “it’s better to have a lot of different people with different ideas coming together.”

Members stress that people of all perspectives are welcome to attend club meetings.



Visit [usstatesman.com](http://usstatesman.com)  
to read more of this story



# Fun, farce and fanfare: USU’s Nerdy Talent Show

By Abigail Slade  
STUDENT LIFE CONTRIBUTOR

As part of the festivities rounding up Engineering Week, the Society of Women Engineers organized a talent show with a twist: the more nerdy the entry, the better.

Participants didn’t disappoint, with talents ranging from original songs to mathematical wizardry and from deceitful origami to team jump rope tricks.

Amy Carmellini, the Vice President of Activities for SWE, directed the event. She said her main goal was that the Engineering Week activities would bring students together to have a good time.

In addition to being involved with SWE, Carmellini also organized the cardboard boat races. “We put on a number of events that are meant to further students in their careers,” she said.

Activities like this help bring people with niche talents out of the woodwork and into the limelight. This is what happened for Alex Beeston, a contestant who explained chess tactics and displayed his expertise with a few real-time challenges online.

Beeston said he enjoyed this venue because it is a great opportunity to “be yourself and share what you are good at.”

Beeston said his inclination toward chess began when he was a kid playing with his dad. Several other contestants also expressed that their affinity for their talent began at a young age.

Chad Withers developed his talent in the second grade when he “got annoyed with not doing well on spelling tests.” Withers can now hear any sentence and instantly tell you how many letters are in that sentence. Even more impressive is that he can do this not just in English, but in Spanish as well.

Joshua Carpenter is a student of business at USU who attended the event. He said the best part of spectating was “to see so many people with similar backgrounds celebrate individualities.” He went on to say that the event was a “fun reminder that we aren’t



The Nerdy Talent Show hosted by the Society of Women Engineers provided a variety of entertaining talents from USU students.

PHOTO BY Iain Laurence

all only defined by our majors and associated stereotypes.”

When the show came to an end, the judges handed out prizes for first, second, and third place, as well as prizes for Most Nerdy Talent and Most Unique Talent.

First prize went to Chad Withers and his linguistic sums, second prize went to Oscar Silva for his side-splitting comedy act throwing shade at business majors, and third place was Pablo Honey for his unique renditions of Radiohead favorites. The prize for Most

Unique Talent went to Levi Manley for showcasing an original song, and Alex Beeston won Nerdiest Talent with his chess skills.

To learn more about SWE and the other engineering clubs on campus, check out the USU College of Engineering’s club list.

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## “Soul Food” FROM PAGE 1

“It’s just grown over the years,” said Anbesse. “We wish we could open it up to more people and the entire community, but there are fire regulations.”

The event was sold out at 220 people. In past years, the group has had to turn individuals away at the door.

“People come because they want to see me perform,” joked Khairo Robinson, the public relations manager for BSU. “Honestly, we just have so many great partners who come and perform. That’s what makes our night so special.”

Entertainment included the USU jump rope club, a Kahoot trivia game, spoken-word pieces, a fashion show and a dance party at the end of the night.

“We want people to see the beauty of black culture and to feel included,” Anbesse said. “Our goal is to promote a higher level of black consciousness and create a mutual un-

derstanding among all cultures and people.”

“Why wouldn’t anyone want to learn about black culture?” Trawally said. “I want every culture to have the opportunity to be spotlighted and bring people together.”

The BSU presidency has pushed for more events on campus, such as guest speaker Lex Scott from the Black Lives Matter movement.

“This spring we’ve done a lot with a lot of attention,” Trawally said. “This will be our big bang end-of-the-semester event.”

Soul Food is an annual event, and its reggae beat and southern smells will be back in spring 2020.

“We hope everyone will come out, dance, eat some good food, have a great time and leave with a better understanding of community, black culture, inclusiveness and what the Black Student Union does,” Trawally said.

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PHOTO BY Jason Rimando

Students came together in the TSC Ballroom to celebrate black identity and African culture at USU’s Soul Food Dinner.



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# Magic at the Spectrum



Nevada's Caleb Martin attempts to make a free throw basket during play against Utah State on Saturday. Utah State won over No. 12 Nevada, 81-76. The Utah State student section rushed the court immediately following the Aggies' first win over a ranked opponent since 2007. PHOTO BY Tim Carpenter

## Aggies take down No. 12 Nevada to move into first place in the Mountain West Conference

By Dalton Renshaw  
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

In front of a sold-out Spectrum crowd Saturday night, the Utah State men's basketball team took down No. 12 Nevada 81-76. This was USU's first win over a nationally ranked team since 2007, and put the Aggies in the driver's seat for at least a share of the Mountain West regular season title.

Just ten seconds after tip-off, Utah State freshman center Neemias Queta steals the ball from a Nevada player and drives down the court, nearly making the layup. But, as Nevada tries to take advantage of an open lane, Aggie senior forward Quinn Taylor flies in to block the shot. Utah State gets into transition and Queta finds himself with at the rim with a bucket and a chance for and-one, 19:20 left in the first half.

This is just a snapshot of how the game between Nevada and Utah State went Saturday night, both teams giving maximum effort for 40 minutes.

It was a night where fouls were a problem for both teams, which became evident really early on. Taylor picked up his second foul with just three minutes played, and Queta found himself with his second just minutes after. Utah State's help defense was very effective on the night, quick switches in the

paint leading to Nevada having to take poor shots. Unfortunately, the extra bodies in the paint led to a lot of foul calls under the basket for the Aggies, with the refs calling a tight one throughout.

But Utah State was persistent in its defensive play, and was able to hold Nevada's two top scorers to a combined 14 points in the half, also limiting the team to shoot just 36 percent from the floor and 25 percent from three. The Aggies shot the ball much better in the half, 48 percent to be exact, but really it came down to junior guard Sam Merrill leading the charge yet again. Merrill had a team-high 17 points at the half, going 4-4 from the line as well as making all three of the Aggies three-point attempts.

"The kid is relentless, he's just so good," said USU head coach Craig Smith. "And everyone wants to talk about his offense, and deservedly so, but what people miss the boat on is how good he is defensively. He guards the other team's best player, most nights, on the perimeter and he doesn't make many mistakes you see him out there taking charges."

Utah State took a 37-33 lead into the half and never looked back.

Nevada junior guard Jazz Johnson hits a jumper with 14:22 left in the game to bring the Wolf Pack within two points, 65-63.

But that was the closest they would get for

the rest of the game. This doesn't mean the second half wasn't filled with drama, seven players total fouled out in the game, three Aggies and four from the Pack. This meant that the benches had to play a major part if they wanted to win, and for Utah State, that was the difference.

"It's amazing how a lot of the times on senior nights, seniors will really step up and play," Smith said. "Our bench had 29 points

with Brito, and Dwayne and of course Bean. Going into any game you gotta be able to win 91-87, you gotta be able to win 67-65 and I think the best teams can really just find different ways to win and that's what we've been doing lately."

Junior guard Diogo Brito led the Aggies' bench and finished second on the team with

see "Spectrum Magic" PAGE 8



Utah State freshman forward Justin Bean crowd surfs on top of Aggie fans following Utah State's 81-76 victory over No. 12 Nevada. The Utah State student section rushed the court immediately following the Aggies' first win over a ranked opponent since 2007. PHOTO BY Tim Carpenter

WOMEN'S  
GYMNASTICS

VS. SOUTHERN UTAH  
FRIDAY | 7 PM  
SENIOR NIGHT



MEN'S  
TENNIS

VS. UTSA  
MARCH 17TH  
SUNDAY | 2 PM





PHOTO BY Iain Laurence  
Utah State junior forward dribbles the ball during USU's 82-49 win over San Jose State on Jan. 16 at the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum. In USU's Saturday contest against Nevada, West had a season-high 18 points, along with eight assists, six rebounds and three steals as the Aggies defeated the Wolf Pack 71-59.

# West leads Aggies to victory

## Utah State completes road trip sweep, wins third-straight with 71-59 victory over Nevada

By Daedan Olander  
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, the Utah State women's basketball team traveled to Reno, Nev. and closed out the Wolf Pack 71-59, in a game which the Aggies led for the vast majority of the time. USU junior guard Eliza West played a pivotal role in the win, as the Australia native had one of her best performances of the season with a season-high 18-points to go along with eight assists, six rebounds and three steals. She also shot 4-of-4 from three. "I didn't want to try to do too much of anything," West said. "But when my shots came, I was able to make them." Several Aggies ran into foul trouble early, with junior forward Hailey Bassett and junior forward Shannon Dufficy each picking up two fouls in the first quarter, however, their

teammates responded. "It didn't hurt us because our bench did a really good job," said USU head coach Jerry Finkbeiner of his team's foul trouble. Utah State came alive after a tight first quarter, and in the second period scored eight unanswered points, a run which came in the middle of the quarter and which put the Wolf Pack down 33-18. "I just felt like everybody had really good flow on offense and defense," West said. Nevada crept back in ito the game, however, and with a little over six minutes remaining in the third quarter, freshman guard Essence Booker hit a three which put the Wolf Pack within five points of USU. They weren't able to capitalize and take the lead, however,

and Utah State finished the quarter up by 12. "Even when we had little bad patches, it didn't bother us too much because we already had the lead," West said. The Aggies kept their composure throughout the final period and cruised to a 71-59 win, albeit, in a competitive game. "This is a good win for us from a lot of different perspectives," Finkbeiner said. This wrapped up a 2-0 road trip for the Aggies, who defeated San Diego State a few days prior on Wednesday, 65-52. Utah State has now won three-straight games, and four of its past five, with just one game remaining in the regular season. The Aggies will play Colorado State next on Monday night at 7 p.m. as they look to get a win on senior night while continuing to build their momentum heading into the Mountain West tournament. The tournament begins Sunday afternoon in Las Vegas. "We need some momentum, everybody needs momentum going in (to the MW tournament)," Finkbeiner said. "We've got a home game Monday night, so all our fans and Cache Valley listening to this, let's come out and support Rachel (Brewster) and Deja (Mason)."

— daedanolander@gmail.com



PHOTO BY Tim Carpenter  
Utah State junior forward Hailey Bassett lays the ball up over New Mexico Senior Center Jaissa Nunn during a Jan. 26 game at the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum.



(Left) Utah State freshman center Neemias Queta dunks over Nevada senior forward Tre'Shawn Thurman during the Aggies' 81-76 victory over the Wolf Pack Saturday night at the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum. (Right) Queta shoots a free throw in front of the USU student section.

### "Spectrum Magic" FROM PAGE 7

15 points, along with eight rebounds and two steals. "The second half, we got in a little bit of foul trouble," Brito said. "But the fact that we were able to stay in the game and keep the lead was a really good sign of our toughness. The overall team effort that guys had to do whatever they needed to do even though they were not playing in their usual position, that was huge for us." With Taylor, Queta and sophomore guard Abel Porter all being sent to the bench with five fouls, the Aggies were able to rally and grind their way to the finish, pulling out an 81-76 win over the top team in the conference and the 12th ranked team in the

country. As for where this puts them in the national conversation, it's still up for debate until the end of the season. "I just hope they're watching us," Merrill said. "I don't feel like this one win is going to put us in or not, maybe it will. But I feel like we're one of the 64 best teams in the country. But our goal is to win a Mountain West championship first and foremost, then we will worry about the tournament later on, and we have one more opportunity to go do that Tuesday night." Utah State travels to Fort Collins, Colorado Tuesday night to take on the Rams in the Aggies' final game of the regular season.

@dren\_sports



PHOTO BY Iain Laurence





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# Who cares?

By Naomi Ward  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

*Editor's Note: To submit a response to this column, or submit a letter to the editor on a new topic, email your submission to [opinion@usustatesman.com](mailto:opinion@usustatesman.com).*

Standing outside to campaign during USUSA elections week feels cold and hopeless, and not only because the weather is bad. For the past two years I've spent elections week handing out fliers, practically

On a smaller scale, the same might be said for student elections.

Voting in USUSA elections is easy, much easier than voting in national elections. You don't have to register, wait in poll lines, or mail anything. As you've likely heard from dozens of people in the last week, you can vote on your smartphone as you're walking to class and submit your ballot in less than a minute. There are laptops set up across campus just for voting. Even researching candidates is made easy, with profiles readily accessible online and in the paper, and numerous debates scheduled and broadcasted on social media.

As comedian John Mulaney said jokingly, "It is so much easier not to do things than to do them, that you would do anything is totally remarkable. Percentage wise, it is 100% easier not to do things than to do them."

As we discussed in my class, one of the difficulties of creating change is convincing yourself and others to push past the temptation to do what seems easy — past the convenience of throwing containers in the trash rather than washing and recycling them, or watching a movie rather than watching student candidates debate their platforms.

Cultural and habitual changes are often more possible than they seem, but that doesn't matter if people don't care enough to try.

If climate change and student elections don't feel important to you, maybe you can consider yourself lucky. Extreme weather events and rising sea levels disproportionately affect people living in poverty. One of the common arguments for the importance of student elections is that your tuition money helps pay for the officers' scholarships and stipends, but maybe tuition money isn't very important to you either.

Maybe the candidates' goals for sexual assault, mental health or diversity aren't important to you, because maybe you've never experienced assault firsthand. Maybe you've never gone to the CAPS office and wondered whether you could make it another three weeks while you wait for the next

available therapist. Maybe you don't think about representation on campus because almost everyone on campus already looks like you. Sometimes the question isn't so much why you should care about the environment or about elections, but why you should care about other people.

Getting people to care about something is difficult, maybe impossible. You can't force someone to be compassionate, or to develop empathy where there is none. But there can be ways to reach people: through creative storytelling, personal narratives, leadership by example, persistence.

Passion, especially about causes that seem hopeless, can be exhausting. Still, I wonder if that hopelessness could be eased by each person more that decides to care, in a positive and productive cycle of people lifting each other's burdens through action motivated by education and compassion. In climate science, the idea of equity in climate justice insists that world powers must take the lead in reducing emissions for change to work on a global scale. In student elections, students must vote and vote informed for change to work on a university scale. Then, caring enough to act is not only a question of convenience, but also a question of justice.

This year and next and all the years after that, I hope you care. I hope you vote, and

**“Why don't more people vote?”**

begging the people passing by to vote and have been met with silence, fake phone calls, and the classic “I'm not going to vote, sorry!”

I suppose at least they are being honest with me.

Despite more than 16,000 students on the Logan campus, less than 3,000 votes were cast in the USUSA presidential election. Why don't more people vote? Why don't more people care?

This same general apathy also creeps into other, more universal topics.

In my physical science course this semester, we've discussed how we might convince people to care about climate change and environmental destruction. To sum up the last several weeks of conversation — it's not easy.

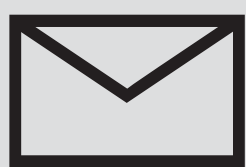
At the current rate humans are consuming energy and resources, we would need 1.6 planets to sustain life, and if everyone consumed at the same rates as the average American, we would need more like five to six. The scientific consensus is straightforward: the earth is warming because of us, and that warming is disrupting the climate and posing extreme risks for humans.

The reality of man-made climate change is undeniably urgent and dangerous. Most frustrating, however, is the fact that even while civilization in its current state is unsustainable, we have the means to fix it. We just don't seem to have the motivation.

**“Why don't more people care?”**

that you find time in the next elections week to engage with the candidates, rather than sticking your headphones in and running away, your hands in your pockets and your head down.

*Naomi Ward is a news writer for the Statesman and a junior studying journalism, communication, and English*



## Letters to the editor

Have an opinion you'd like to share? Email your letter to [opinion@usustatesman.com](mailto:opinion@usustatesman.com).

Letters must not contain personal attacks or other inappropriate language and should be limited to 400 words or less. Anonymous letters will also not be published; please include your name and a phone number or email address (neither of which will be published).

Letters received by The Utah Statesman will be published online at [www.usustatesman.com](http://www.usustatesman.com), as well as in the print issue of the Statesman, depending on space.



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1	8	5	7	4	9	3	2	6
4	6	9	3	7	1	2	5	8
7	2	8	6	9	5	4	1	3
3	5	1	4	8	2	7	6	9
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