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Shooting at D.C. Naval Yard leaves 12 dead

Gunman was a contractor and discharged reserve member whose past is described as violent and troubled

► **The Washington Post**

WASHINGTON — Aaron Alexis lived for a time in a bungalow in the woods near a Buddhist temple in Fort Worth, Texas, where he occasionally joined Thai immigrants in meditation. Aaron Alexis died Monday in a gun battle with police in a building at the Washington Navy Yard after he killed at least 12 people.

In between, the man named as the shooter in Monday’s mass murder at Navy Yard Building 197 was discharged from the Navy Reserve, arrested for shooting a bullet into his downstairs neighbor’s apartment and then asked to leave his Fort Worth apartment.

A Navy official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Alexis was discharged in January 2011 for “a pattern of misconduct” and that the 2010 gun incident in Texas played a role in his departure.

Another Navy official said Alexis was given a “general discharge,” a classification often used to designate a blemished record of performance. In some cases, a general discharge can make it difficult to land a civilian job.

Alexis, 34, arrived in Washington about four months ago, friends said. He had worked recently for a defense contractor called The Experts, which is a sub-

contractor on an HP Enterprise Services contract to work on the Navy Marine Corps’s Intranet network, according to Hewlett-Packard spokesman Michael Thacker. Officials at The Experts did not immediately reply to phone messages. It was unclear if Alexis was still employed by that subcontractor, or if his work had brought him to the Navy Yard.

Investigators Monday night were examining how Alexis got into the Navy Yard, and whether he had or used the identification card of a former Navy petty officer that was found near Alexis’s body after police killed him.

Those who knew Alexis in recent years describe him as a “sweet and intelligent guy” (a regular customer at the Thai restaurant where he worked as a waiter), as “a good boy” (his landlord), but also as someone who was “very aggressive,” someone who seemed like he might one day kill himself (a lay worker at the Buddhist temple where Alexis worshipped.)

In 2004, Alexis was arrested in Seattle after he fired three shots from a Glock pistol into the tires of a Honda Accord that two construction workers had parked in a driveway adjacent to Alexis’ s house. Alexis’s father told Seattle detectives then that his son “had experienced



Washington Post photo by Matt McClain
FBI OFFICERS joined District of Columbia police in response to the shooting at the Navy Yard military complex in Washington. Police closed the 11th Street Bridge, as well as M Street between Second and Fourth streets.

anger management problems that the family believed was associated with PTSD,” or post-traumatic stress disorder, according to the police report. The father said that Alexis “was an active participant in rescue attempts of Sept. 11, 2001.”

Alexis’s own explanation for his behavior that day: the construction workers had “mocked” and “disrespected” him and then he had had “a black-out fueled by anger.”

Alexis was not charged in the Seattle incident.

More recently, Alexis struck those who crossed his path as a man of sharp con-

trasts. He studied the Thai language, visited Thailand for a month, was studying for an online degree in aeronautical engineering and seemed to enjoy conversing with customers, according to friends, customers and fellow worshippers. But

Nov.’s TEDxUSU features survival

► **By Lis Stewart**
news editor

Tickets for USU’s second TEDx conference are available online on a first-come, first-serve basis as of 7 a.m. today.

The world-famous TED Talks, which bring together thinkers from technology, entertainment and design to share “ideas worth spreading,” according to the TED website, give the rights to a number of communities and organizations each year to put on their own independently organized TEDx conference.

This year’s TEDxUSU theme is “Survive,” according to Brandon Crouch, the communications assistant in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. Speakers and presenters from around the university and beyond were chosen based on the story of survival they can tell, he said.

“The ‘Survive’ theme is going to go along with the theme for next year, which is ‘Thrive,’” Crouch said.

TEDxUSU will be held from 1-5 p.m. Nov. 5 in the USU Manon Caine Russell Kathryn Caine Wanlass Performance Hall.

Although registration

for event tickets, which are free, was done by way of lottery last year, tickets are at a first-come, first-serve basis this time, Crouch said, adding he suspects the 300 available tickets will be spoken for within three days. Tickets are available at www.rgs.usu.edu.

Last year’s TEDxUSU was a success and featured a student, slam poet Buddy Wakefield, a Rhodes scholar who is a USU alumni and several professors. This year, the organizers at the USU Office of Research and Graduate Studies chose to include a musical performance by Mike Christiansen, the former head of the guitar program at USU.

“TEDx is an opportunity to showcase the talent at Utah State University and the researchers,” Crouch said.

Christiansen was awarded Utah Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in 2012 and has authored numerous books on guitar teaching, according to his biography on the TEDxUSU website.

Norman Augustine,

►See **TEDX**, Page X

Being LGBT and not alone

Gay conference in Salt Lake City helps USU students find support

► **By Mariah Noble**
staff writer

Several USU students stood among a group of more than 400 lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and allies gathered in Salt Lake City over the weekend for a conference hosted by Affirmation, an organization providing support to LGBT people.

“Affirmation is extremely important because it provides a place for everyone,” said Josh DeFriez, a senior majoring in economics. “It’s not there to say one person’s right or one person’s wrong.”

DeFriez said the conference increased his awareness of the diversity of the LDS LGBT issue. He said there were people from age 13 to 60, some gay who want to be active in the LDS church, some who have left the LDS church, some married who struggle with same-gender attraction but want to stay with their heterosexual spouses, and children. Some were also members of other faiths who felt united in the cause.

DeFriez said he first heard of Affirmation seven years ago but wasn’t yet open to the group.

“At the time, I was deeply closeted and deeply disliking myself,” DeFriez said. “I looked quickly at the website and just thought they were anti-Mormon.”

DeFriez remained in the closet for years and returned from an LDS mission in December 2011.

Josh DeFriez
USU senior

“The things that touched me the most were things that had to do with reconciling belief in the church and being gay.”

He came out last March and said he decided to go to the conference after some friends told him about it.

“The things that touched me the most were things that had to do with reconciling belief in the church and being gay,” DeFriez said. “It’s extremely important that people start to think and talk about homosexuality and Mormonism, or even just homosexuality and religion. People don’t bring it up, don’t talk about it, and it leaves so many people to suffer in silence.”

Bringing families together

Randall Thacker, president of Affirmation, said there are four main purposes of the organization: encouraging spirituality, reconciliation and healing, providing community and social



Nicole Stacey photo
PATRICK WENDEL, an undeclared sophomore, attended the Affirmation Conference for gay and lesbian Mormons last weekend, was glad to see his mom associate with other gay people because it helped her understand him better.

Thacker has been involved with Affirmation since he came out in 2005. He has seen it grow and

►See **LGBT**, Page 3

In brief

Campus & Community

National anthem tryouts going on for Athletics dept

Utah State University’s Athletics program is looking for a few good singers. More than a few, in fact.

Anyone interested in singing the national anthem at a USU athletic event is invited to audition Monday, Sept. 16, at 6 p.m. or Wednesday, Sept. 18, beginning at 10 a.m. Singers are needed to perform the national anthem throughout the year at athletic events, including volleyball, gymnastics and men’s and women’s basketball.

Auditions will be held at the Champ Room on the third floor of the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum. Those auditioning should come prepared to sing the “Star Spangled Banner” and auditions will be limited to two minutes.

Those interested need to reserve an audition time and should contact Kyndall Peterson, USU athletics marketing intern, 208-230-2057, kyndallpeterson@aggiemail.usu.edu. Those auditioning should enter the Smith Spectrum from the west side where limited parking is also available in the west lot.

In Program’s 30th Year, USU-led Natural Resource Days in Full Swing

If you happen to wander into Logan Canyon’s Guinavah-Malibu campground this September, you won’t find the peace and quiet you might be after. Instead, you’ll find local fourth graders squealing with enthusiasm as they participate in hands-on discovery.

In an annual activity coordinated through a long-running collaborative effort, hundreds of youngsters are searching for stream insects in the river, creating soil profiles, learning about wildlife migration and identifying plants.

This year, as in each fall for the past 30 years, more than 1,500 Cache County school children are participating in Cache County Natural Resource Field Days. Coordinated by USU Water Quality Extension, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Hardware Ranch, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Stokes Nature Center, Utah Association of Conservation District and USU Cache County Extension, the popular event, held over two weeks, introduces children to basic concepts of soils, plants, wildlife and water quality.

“The students love it because they have fun while discovering new things,” says Tiffany Kinder, a USU Water Quality Extension outreach coordinator. “A young participant told me, ‘You may think the Logan River’s small, but it’s a whole new world in there.’”

Kinder says teachers applaud the program because it corresponds closely to the state’s core science curriculum, while getting children out of the classroom and into nature.

Utah State University students volunteer more than 600 hours of teaching time to the program, which includes leading varied learning activities in field data collection, crafts and games.

This year’s Natural Resource Field Days, which began Sept. 9, continue through Sept. 16.

► Compiled from staff and media reports

The policy of The Utah Statesman is to correct any error made as soon as possible. If you find something you would like clarified or find in error, please contact the editor at 797-1742, statesman@aggiemail.usu.edu or come in to TSC 311.

Together again

Joshua Larisch photo

A nearly sold out Romney Stadium wasn’t the only event highlighting Aggie athletics on Saturday.

Marvin Roberts, Vice President of Student Services, organized an event to honor former USU athletes who have passed away.

“We did kind of a search of student athletes from 2010 to 2013,” Jimmy Moore said. “Whoever had passed away that we had on our records from that time. We didn’t single out one individual at all. It was just a kind of remembrance of all of our former athletes that had passed on.”

TEDx

From Page 1

the “survival of the American dream,” or the lack of national competitiveness in science, technology, engineering and mathematical fields.

Augustine is a recipient of the National Medal of Technology, awarded by the U.S. president, according to his biography.

TEDxUSU attendees will also learn about “turning water into

food” from USU crop physiology and plant nutrition professor Bruce Bugbee, according to his biography. He is a past chairman of the crop physiology division of the American Society of Agronomy, and much of his research is funded by NASA to see how plants grow in space.

John Dehlin, a USU doctoral candidate, will speak about “his transformation from homophobe to LGBTQ ally,” according to his biography.

Dehlin’s research focuses on the connection between religion and mental health. He recently conducted a survey of more than 1,600

LGBTQ Mormons.

Joanna Endter-Wada, an associate professor of natural resource and environmental policy in the S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources, will give a presentation about considerations that must be made when evaluating water policy in the U.S., according to her biography.

Photographer Angelo Merendino’s photo documentary, “The Battle We Didn’t Choose: My Wife’s Fight With Breast Cancer,” will be topic of his talk titled “Photo>1000,” according to his TEDxUSU biography.

Merendino’s wife let him photograph the day-to-day struggles of the four years she fought, and finally succumbed to, breast cancer.

“Since Jennifer passed in 2011 these photographs — our love story — have been vital to my accepting Jennifer’s death, embracing my own mortality and finding peace within myself,” Merendino said.

David Rosenberg, a USU assistant professor in the department of civil and environmental engineering, will speak on “near optimal management to survive and thrive in a complex world,” according to his TEDxUSU biography.

Navy

From Page 1

some of those same people said that Alexis had an aggressive streak, one that caused them to keep their distance and avoid personal questions.

Alexis grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., with his mother Sarah and father Anthony Alexis, according to his aunt Helen Weeks. “We haven’t seen him for years,” Weeks said in a phone interview. “I know he was in the military. He served abroad. I think he was doing some kind of computer work.”

Alexis spent nearly four years in the Navy as a full-time reservist from May 2007 until he was discharged in January 2011, according to a summary of personnel records released by the Navy. A Navy official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Alexis was discharged from the service in January 2011 for “misconduct,” and that the 2010 firearms incident in Texas played a role in his departure.

He achieved his final rank of Aviation Electrician’s Mate 3rd Class in December 2009.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said Alexis worked as a defense contractor after his discharge. A deleted LinkedIn page under Alexis’s name listed SinglePoint Technologies, a Richmond, Va., firm, as his employer; the company did not return a call seeking comment.

Alexis spent the bulk of his service time — from 2008 to 2011 — assigned to the Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 46 at Naval Air Station Fort

J. Sirun
Assistant to monks

“I didn’t think he could be this violent. I would not have been surprised to hear he committed suicide. But I didn’t think he could commit murder.”

Worth in Texas, from 2008 until he left the service in 2011, records show. He was awarded the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal — two awards of minor distinction.

In Fort Worth, Alexis lived for a time in a gated townhouse community called Orion at Oak Hill. In September, 2010, police were called to Apartment 2023 after Alexis’s downstairs neighbor complained that Alexis had fired a bullet through his floor and into her ceiling below.

The woman told police that she had had occasion to call them about Alexis several times for being too loud, but that nothing had been done. The woman said Alexis had confronted her a few days earlier in the complex’s parking lot, where he complained that she had been making too much noise. The woman told police that “she is terrified of Aaron and feels that this was done intentionally,” the police report

said.

Police made three attempts to contact Alexis by knocking on his door, but he didn’t respond. Only after police called in firefighters to force entry into his apartment did Alexis emerge. Alexis then told police that he had been cleaning his gun while he was cooking and his hands had become greasy and the weapon discharged by accident, according to the police report.

“He told me that he began to take the gun apart when his hands slipped and pulled the trigger, discharging a round into the ceiling,” the officer wrote.

Alexis was arrested for improper discharge of a firearm, but a spokesman for the county district attorney’s office said no charges were brought in the matter. Alexis’s mugshot from that arrest shows a clean-shaven man with soft eyes and an impassive expression.

A couple of weeks later, the apartment complex began eviction proceedings against Alexis, according to county court records.

Soon after that, Srisan Somsak, a Thai immigrant in Fort Worth, met Alexis at the Wat Busayadhammavanaram Meditation Center, where Alexis had occasionally shown up for meditation starting in summer of 2010. Alexis said he needed a place to stay and Somsak offered to rent him the two-bedroom white bungalow behind the center — if he promised not to smoke or drink.

Alexis rented the place for \$600 a month, lived up to those promises and never missed a payment, said Somsak, 57.

“He’s a good boy,” said Somsak, who spoke English with a heavy accent. “Everybody would say, ‘He’s a good boy’ here. Not only me. He’s a good boy.”

Alexis occasionally meditated at the temple and helped out there when needed, said Somsak, who was pleased to find that his tenant studied the Thai language and visited Thailand.

On Monday, as word spread about the shooting, the temple filled with members eager to share their recollections of Alexis. “They don’t believed it that he could kill 12 people like that,” Somsak said. “I think probably somebody tried to put him down. I don’t know. ‘Did somebody try to discriminate against him? That’s the only way. That’s what I keep thinking.’”

Somsak asked Alexis only once about why he had left his job at the naval base. It was a brief conversation.

“I asked him, ‘Why you quit the job with the government?’ Somsak said. “He said, ‘Somebody doesn’t like me.’”

Somsak left it there because “I don’t want to go too deep with him.”

Alexis visited the center about twice a week and was known as a quiet, if tightly wound, participant, according to a temple staff member.

“He would help people if they came in carrying heavy things,” said J. Sirun, an assistant to the monks. “From the outside, he was a quiet person. But on the inside, I think he was very aggressive. He did not like to be close with anybody, like a soldier who has been at war.”

Sirun said he avoided Alexis,

who preferred to keep to himself. But Alexis was no longer; he had many Thai friends and spoke Thai “very well,” Sirun said. “He understood about 75 percent of the language.”

During that period, Alexis worked as a waiter and delivery man for the Happy Bowl Thai restaurant in White Settlement, Texas, according to customers and workers there. Customers saw him studying Thai at a table there during his off hours.

Alexis stopped showing up at the Buddhist center early in 2011, Sirun said.

“I didn’t think he could be this violent,” Sirun said. “I would not have been surprised to hear he had committed suicide. But I didn’t think he could commit murder.”

Relatives contacted by reporters were stunned to hear that he was involved in the Washington shootings. “I’d be shocked if it was him, but I don’t know,” said Weeks, his aunt, her voice trailing off.

Even as he worked for the defense contractor, Alexis was pursuing a bachelor’s degree in aeronautics as an online student at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. The university, in Daytona Beach, Fla., said Alexis enrolled in July 2012, via the school’s Fort Worth campus. He remained a student in good standing, said Melanie Hanns, Director of University Communications.

“He was enrolled for this semester,” she said.

FBI Assistant Director Valerie Parlave asked the public to call 1-800-CALL-FBI with details about Alexis: “No piece of information is too small.”

LGBT

From Page 1

change over the years and said he was especially impressed this year with the increased support from families of LGBT members of the group.

"Seeing families come together — that is a very new thing," Thacker said. "Seeing a husband and wife with their gay child, brothers and sisters coming together to the conference was amazing and beautiful."

Thacker was not the only one touched by the support shown by allies. Patrick Wendel, an undeclared sophomore, said one thing that really touched him at the conference was seeing his mom associate with other gay people.

Wendel came out this past June and said it was difficult for his parents because they didn't know anyone else who was gay, but his mother attended the conference this weekend to support him.

"Even though they take a very conservative standpoint, they're still very loving and supportive," Wendel said of his family. "Now that my mom actually knows some gay people, she can be like, 'They're really nice. They're normal. They're fun to be with.' It was a good eye-opener for my mom."

Becoming more comfortable

Wendel said taking the risk of going to the conference was a step out of his comfort zone.

"To be honest, at first I was a little hesitant to go," Wendel said. "I didn't want to be too associated with such openly gay and flamboyant gay people. I still kind of think with that conservative background, and I was worried I was just going to hate it."

But Wendel said those feelings changed as he felt the acceptance, love and connection he had with other participants there.

"It was good to see gay people who are so confident and so okay with themselves," Wendel said. "They are so happy, and for me who obviously has just come out, I'm struggling with a lot of confusion, have strug-



Heidi Bruner

JOSH DEFRIEZ, a senior majoring in economics, attended the Affirmation conference for gay and lesbian Mormons last weekend. He says it helped him partially heal from damage caused by misunderstandings.

gled with self-loathing, and so on. I see them as examples."

Wendel said he appreciated the support his family received from allies like guest speakers Steve and Barb Young.

"We're all children of God, all coming from different places in life," Wendel said. "But we all deserve to feel that love, that sense of self-worth. (Affirmation) is there to affirm that God loves you as a gay person, but it goes for more than just gay people. You shouldn't have to be someone you're not. You don't have to be ashamed of who you are."

Facing the fear and forgiving the thoughtless

Ryan Adair, a senior majoring in

English education, said the conference also helped him feel like he has a place where he belongs. He said it's not easy when someone first faces the fact they are gay.

"You come out and try to go to church and you feel all alone," Adair said. "There's not a lot of Mormons who are gay and keep trying to go to church."

DeFriez said he had similar feelings when he was struggling with coming out to himself and others. He said he knows of many who experience this extreme loneliness.

"People are dying," DeFriez said. "People are killing themselves because of this. We have a moral obligation to talk about it."

DeFriez said suicide is a huge issue for the LDS LGBT community and

for the state of Utah. He also said a significant amount of Salt Lake City's homeless youth population have been kicked out of their homes for being LGBT. He said talking about LGBT issues can solve part of this problem.

"I care much less about what side people take in the end," DeFriez said. "I care about whether they listen and become educated. I want them to be willing to think about it and talk about it and be willing to love people anyway."

DeFriez said affirmation has helped him to partially heal from damage caused by misunderstanding.

"A big part of affirmation's message is forgiveness," DeFriez said. "It helps people not to be bitter towards their families or bitter towards the church. It helps us forgive people who have ignorantly harmed us."

But this weekend helped both DeFriez and Adair to put their past aside be part of a group bigger than just them. Participants came from all over the world — including countries as far as China and South Africa — to join their "brothers and sisters" for the event.

"The one who came from South Africa said it was his first time to the United States," Adair said. "It really made me realize the sacrifices that people made to be there. It made me realize I needed to do more. I needed to be more involved."

Adair, DeFriez and Wendel said the conference has motivated them to try and talk more openly about LGBT issues so that resources are available for those who need information. They said there are many who want to know more but are too afraid to seek it out.

"I was terrified to go to LIFE before I came out because I was like, 'People will know I'm gay,'" Adair said. "I would go by the door and peek in but would never actually go in."

Despite the fears of those who want to learn more, DeFriez said he wants people to seek him out so he can help them. He said together, we can change our culture and create a place where everyone belongs.

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Accounting school ranks 34th in U.S.

► By **Connor Comeaus**
staff writer

The Jon M. Huntsman School of Business got a big boost last week when its school of accountancy was ranked in a national magazine.

The Public Accounting Report, a magazine that covers the accounting industry, ranked the school's undergraduate accounting program 34th in the nation out of 50, an increase from the 46th-place ranking the school received a year ago.

The graduate accounting program made the list for the first time, ranked 37th in the nation.

This is very good news, said Larry Walther, the head of the school of accountancy. He said this is a testament to just how much the business school has grown over the years.

"With these rankings, it is helping to bring the school into the national spotlight," Walther said. "We have certain aspirations here in the School of Business, and this report helps solidify the school as one of the best in the nation."

Walther said there are a certain number of things he believes helped the school of accountancy achieve the rankings. One of those was the Certified Public Accountant exam. The exam is taken to become certified in the United States as an accountant. More than 92,000 people in the nation took the exam last year, with a total 39 passing the test and becoming qualified.

"Out of the 39 people that passed the exam, two of them were from our school," Walther said. "Having such outstanding students pass this exam really helped the School of Business start to gain national recognition."

Jill Aoki, a recent graduate from the school of accountancy, was one of the two students from USU to pass. She said this is a credit to the program's professors.

"It was such an honor to receive this award," Aoki said. "The professors within the school are very encouraging, and that, along with strong determination, is what really helped me gain the motivation to do well."

Walther the addition of well-known staff to the department also helped the rankings. The school hired three new members to the department, and Walther said this was good for the school overall.

► See **ACCOUNTING**, Page 11

CAAS week organizers raise money for man injured in car accident

► By **Maile Burnett**
staff writer

The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Week will feature a fundraiser for a USU student injured in a car accident this summer who is now recovering in Arizona.

Dallin Wengert, a pre-veterinary student, was broadsided by an SUV this as he was leaving work at USU's sheep farm on May 30, according to police reports.

"CAAS Council members and students knew him," said Casey Spackman, CAAS council vice president.

CAAS Week, which includes a variety of activities, will wrap up with a fundraiser country swing dance at 9 p.m. in the TSC Ballroom on Friday. Admission is free, but a \$2 donation to help with Wengert's recovery is requested, according to Spackman.

Wengert, who suffered brain damage and other injuries from the accident, has made a good recovery over the summer, according to posts by family on a Facebook page dedicated to him and his wife called "Pray for Dallin and Amy Wengert."

Ashley Lee, CAAS senator, said planning for CAAS Week started in May, with the CAAS council, ambassadors, the dean and many others contributing. Ideas came from tradition and students from every major and department.

This year's theme is "Get to Know CAAS," and the activities are designed to showcase the departments and majors of the college.

There's a special Twitter competition during CAAS Week with a sweet prize. Whoever posts the most tweets with #GetToKnowCAAS during the week will win a year's supply of Aggie Ice Cream, Lee said.

CAAS Week, formerly known as Ag Week, will also feature a variety of events in celebration of USU's oldest college.

Events start Tuesday with shish kebabs and student clubs and a magic show on the TSC Patio.

The shish kebabs, sold for 50 cents each, start selling at 10 a.m. and are a popular staple of the week, according to Lee.

"They go fast," Lee said. "The line gets very long."

The week began Monday with the technology expo on the Quad, where different departments showed off technology from sewing machines to airplanes to robots. This is the event's second appearance in CAAS Week, Lee said. They hope the Technology Expo grows into a CAAS Week tradition.

The Recycled Fashion Show, where all the



Randy Golding photo

MANNEQUINS SPORT DRESSES designed by students in previous years' recycled fashion shows in the Agricultural Sciences Building.

clothing featured was made of recycled materials, was also on Monday in the TSC Ballroom.

Festivities continue with the Magic of Food and Fitness at 7 p.m. tonight in the TSC Ballroom, where a walking magician will perform while Zumba classes and cooking contests will be held.

Utah Climate Center Director Robert Gillies will speak about climate change in Utah from 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Wednesday in AGRS 101.

CAAS Week organizers will hold an awards and honors banquet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, where scholarships will be presented and donors to the college recognized, by invitation only, according to Lee.

The Tractor Parade starts at 10:20 a.m. Friday morning with tractors rolling down Aggie Boulevard. This is one of the biggest traditions of CAAS Week, Lee said.

Landscape architecture students will transform parking spots into temporary parks on Friday for National Parking Day.

— mburnett@aggiemail.usu.edu

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GARDEN

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Student fashion show benefits SNAC pantry

► By Gillian Ponce
staff writer

The Taggart Student Center Ballroom was dark as it quickly filled up. Lights started flashing around in blue, green and purple. Sometimes they were strobing, and other times they were just lighting up different areas in the room. Music pulsed with today's pop hits.

The family and consumer science education 3080 class, dress and humanity, hosted "Re:Play, Fashion with a Cause" on Monday night. Each year, the class hosts this event to showcase the FCSE 3080 students' designs, said Dr. Lindsey Shirley, assistant professor to the FCSE department.

"The purpose of them creating the design is to apply the elements and principles of design to creating a look...in recyclable materials," Shirley said.

The cost to get in was a can of food. All cans were donated to the Student Nutrition Access Center, a food pantry serving USU students and the Cache Valley community. The pantry, run entirely by students, received more than 500 cans of food.

The students had to design outfits individually or in groups as their first assignment in FCSE 3080. They had multiple category choices to design from, which included role play, video games, playground, outdoors, music, movies, "let's pretend," card games, board games and sports. There were nearly 85 different outfit designs in the show, as well as models ranging in age



Shanda Call photo

DESIGNERS HAYLEY JOHNSON AND ASHLEY LINDBERG who off the fashion project they entered in the FCSE fashion show "Re:Play, Fashion with a Cause" on Monday evening in the TSC Ballroom. The project, entitled "Falling To Pieces," earned the two students overall winner in the show. More than 80 student projects were presented in the runway-style event.

from babies to college students.

"I went and bought a dress at Deseret Industries, so I went and asked all my friends if the dress would fit them," said sophomore Cameron Etherington, who won the video games category. "The first one who said they were free tonight, and the dress fit, became my model."

Different factors inspired the outfit design.

"I was just trying to think of something that nobody else would do," Etherington said. "So I originally thought of playing cards, then I thought, 'Why not take it one step further and make it out of Pokemon cards?'"

Shirley said her favorite part of the event was seeing what the students created and also the empowerment of students to walk on the runway and be

proud of something they've created.

The students had many different challenges while they were designing their outfits and put a lot of time into them. Etherington dedicated 14 hours to his design, and others needed up to 20. There was also the issue on how the designers would keep their outfits together.

"I did not realize how small the Pokemon cards would be, so

I used a lot more than I thought I would," Etherington said.

"And I glued most of them with a hot glue gun, so I burned my model's arm on accident, so that was tough. Keeping an eye on that and making sure that everything went on right, I would say those were my two challenges."

"This event is a service learning event that brings together food and fashion to raise awareness about hunger and sustain-

ability," Shirley wrote on her blog about the show last year.

Shirley said many improvements from last year were applied to the 2013 show.

"Every semester is a success," Shirley said.

Haley Johnson and Ashley Lindberg's design "Falling To Pieces" was the overall winner of the show.

— gillian.ponce95@gmail.com

Student-run organic farm is finally up and running

► By Clayton Leuba
assistant features editor

After months of planning, preparation and care, students and community members are reaping the rewards of USU's student organic farm.

The one-acre student-run farm, which was formed in the spring of 2008, has since provided fresh, organic produce for distribution while offering students a unique opportunity to further their education.

Faculty advisor Jennifer Reeve, who oversees the farm program to ensure university policies are followed, said the farm is a valuable asset to students studying in the plant science program.

"The vision was really to provide hands on experience for much of what students learn in the classroom, here in crops and soils," Reeve said. "A student farm is just an ideal way for students to get hands-on experience."

Reeve said the farm provides students a place to put the technical skills they learn in the classroom into practice.

Chloe Wardle, who began working as a volunteer on the farm in 2011 and is now one of two on-farm interns, said her experience at the farm has been valuable to her academic career in environmental studies.

"It's a completely hands on learning experience for students where they can explore, learn from their mistakes that they make on the farm and not really have to deal with the risk of losing their crop and not making a profit," Wardle said.



Meghan Nixon photo

THE USU STUDENT-RUN ORGANIC FARM is up and running. It will be open on the TSC patio every Wednesday and Thursday through the end of September.

Run by two student managers, a handful of interns and numerous volunteers from various organizations, Reeve said the farm is able to maintain a high level of productivity, making it possible to provide produce for a low cost to students as well as share its excess with those who volunteer their time at the farm.

"We've always got plenty to share," she said.

Funding for the farm, which does not receive any programmatic support from the university, is raised through its twice-weekly produce stand on campus held on the Taggart Student Center patio

► See **FARM**, Page 6

Alt-metal band Sevendust prepares to return to Salt Lake City's In the Venue

► By Paul Christiansen
Hard News Cafe

"We're old enough and we've matured to the point where we've realized that nothing is forever," said John Connolly, rhythm guitarist for and one of the founding members of alternative-metal band Sevendust. "But as long as you take care of something, you can get some miles out of it for sure."

Connolly and his fellow Sevendust bandmates will take the stage Thursday night at In the Venue in Salt Lake City.

"Honestly, we've played Salt Lake so little," Connolly said. "I don't know that much about it. I think we've only been there once or twice over the past few years. We've got a lot of friends in Salt Lake that usually make road trips out to see us when we're in any of the neighboring states, but it's exciting to get back there now. We love Salt Lake."

The members of Sevendust have certainly found longevity since first coming together in 1994, exercising an ability to "take care" of themselves and finding success with several charting albums — most recently with the release of "Black Out the Sun," the band's ninth album.

"Black Out the Sun" is Sevendust's most successful album to date. It reached the No. 1 position on the Billboard Top Hard Music Albums charts during the first week of its re-

lease in March.

Before recording "Black Out the Sun" at the end of 2012, Connolly said the band members were in need of a change of pace and the opportunity to "take a break" from Sevendust.

"That's the thing for us, taking breaks and taking the time off when we got to that point," he said of the band's time away that lasted nearly a year. "It gets frustrating. No matter what you do, if you do something too much — it can be your favorite thing on earth — you kind of lose that perspective. Us taking some time off and then hitting the studio, that was our way to kind of hit the reset button."

In their time together, Connolly said the bandmates have learned the importance of knowing when to get away from each other and how to best read each other, as well as taking time for other things in their lives.

"If you're pissing somebody off, figure out what you're doing," Connolly said. "Honestly, I think we just wanted to moderate everything. It used to be on the first album cycle you'd hop in the van and you didn't care about being gone for seven or eight months. But you also didn't have an eight-year-old daughter, so you've got to kind of fit everything into the bigger picture."

While Connolly didn't allude to any major turmoil or conflict within the band, he

said it's sometimes important to simply step away from something in order to appreciate it fully.

"How important is the band, really?" he asked. "Well, you'll know when you don't have it there for a minute. Then you go 'All right, you know what, I definitely took it for granted.' But sometimes you just need to check yourself. So that's kind of the way we look at our career. It's like 'Let's take care of this because it's too special for us to piss away for something stupid.'"

Connolly believes the band's time away was also good for its fans. He said "charging up the fan base and having the band back at a full 100 percent" both fed into each other when the band returned for performances.

"It sounds funny when you tell people," he said. "But sometimes it's like 'Maybe we don't need to be coming back to your town five or six times in the next year. Maybe we need to give you a break, the same way we need to give ourselves a break.'"

During the band's hiatus, which lasted from fall 2011 until September 2012, most of the members tried to broaden their musical horizons in different side projects. Lead guitarist Clint Lowery and drummer Morgan Rose branched out with their hard rock band

► See **SEVENDUST** Page 6

Should fabled pickup lines be used or not?

Chelsea Hunter

Consider yourself subscribed



There's nothing much worse than being too shy after you notice someone you want to get to know. You realize you need to react quickly, otherwise they may leave, closing the window of opportunity as they go. Now, I never thought I'd say this, but a reliable pickup line may be what you need in these moments of panic.

Pickup lines aren't something I'd usually encourage, but I've seen it work for some people. Let's face it, having the guts to approach someone you find attractive can be tough. So whatever works for you, go with it.

Have a line that is well-rehearsed and that's consistent with your personality. Contrary to popular belief, it's fine to use the same line and have the same opening conversation with many different people. This way, you can feel comfortable and confident in what you're saying and focus on one thing — the other person's reaction.

Most of the cheesy, squirm-in-your-chair awkward lines are dead. But there are some that can work to your advantage if delivered well. Below are some pickup lines I've heard in use that have actually gained some positive reactions.

"You look like a person who would enjoy some good conversation."

This conservative approach is always a winner with little to no chance of being turned

down. With this line, you imply their intellect was more noticeable than their appearance, and in today's world, that's a big hit. Everyone wants to know they're attractive, but if the conversation is started on something more than that, the complement will mean a lot more when it does come up later in the conversation.

"Quisiera ser un helado para derritirme a tu lado."

What's more romantic than a pick up line in a sexy Latin language? And an upside is that your victim doesn't know the extent of the cheesiness in the line you just delivered — when loosely translated, it means "If I were an ice cream cone, I'd melt with you." It strikes an instant conversation because, of course, the other person wants to know what the heck you just said to them. This will give you valuable time to win them over before you translate.

"Excuse me; I think it's time we met."

This happens to be my personal favorite. It shows you are assertive enough to go after what you want without being creepy. This is one line I can almost guarantee positive results, but only if it can be delivered with confidence.

"My friend wants to know if you think I'm cute."

This rearrangement of words takes a common phrase usually heard from the wingman and twists it to make you radiate with confidence. Because you were brave enough to ask what they thought of you, you impress the person who has caught your attention.

And lastly, for kicks: five lines so terrible you

➤ See **CHELSEA**, Page 11

Students combat the 'Freshman 15'

► **By Jared Dangerfield**
staff writer

When it comes to being a freshman, there are a lot of changes going on in life. This is often the first time students have lived away from their parents' house, and mom and dad aren't around to wake them up anymore. No one is badgering these students to make sure their homework is completed on time, and often students are made to fend for themselves in their attempts to make friends and survive getting around campus.

Many students at USU have experienced these things at some point. With all these changes going on in a freshman's life, there is one change most are hoping does not happen to them: weight gain.

Although it is a common rumor that freshmen tend to pack on the pounds during their new adventure, it's a different experience for every individual.

"I am not at all worried about gaining weight," said Nathan Barney, a freshman double-majoring in mathematics and economics. "As a kid I was once overweight, but I learned how to stay committed to a diet, so I know what I need to do to stay healthy despite all the changes in my life."

Liesl Cannon, a senior in the art program, said the stereotype of weight gain doesn't have to be daunting.

"Before I started my freshman year, a lot of people warned me about the so-called 'freshman 15,'" Cannon said. "But I knew that with the active habits I had developed in high school I would not have any problems, and I didn't."

Linsey Rogerson, a freshman majoring in



Jared Dangerfield photo

USU FRESHMEN STUDENTS Shalai Martagi, left, and Linsey Rogerson, right, take a break from their workout regiments at USU's Nelson Fieldhouse.

art, said she is always trying to stay fit and make sure unwanted pounds do not come to her.

"I am taking a badminton class that is surprisingly a lot more intense than I thought it would be," Rogerson said. "I also live on the seventh floor, so I have taken the stairs quite a bit, even though the first time I did, I was

really winded when I got to the top."

Rogerson said she rides her bike to class most days.

"Not only is it good exercise, but it is way faster to get around campus," she said.

Rogerson exercises at the George Nelson

➤ See **FRESHMAN**, Page 11

Missionary age change less a factor than originally predicted

► **By Chelsea Hunter**
staff writer

Due to the missionary age change in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Oct. 2012, many USU officials and students expected the number of students enrolling at the school to drop exponentially.

Prior to this change, male churchgoers could go on missions when they turned 19, and women could go at the age of 21. This changed last fall when the age requirement was lowered to 18 for men and 19 for women.

USU President Stan Albrecht said the university had expected to lose between 1,250 to 1,450 students this fall, but due to strategies put in place to enroll more students, USU is only short about 500 students.

Vice President of Student Services James Morales has led

the effort to combat the expected problem and is involved in the implemented strategies. He has put together a plan that examines students in the lower and upper divisions, undergraduates and graduate students and in-state and out-of-state students. By looking at these different categories, Morales is working to produce a plan to find a productive approach to USU enrollment.

"After the announcement was made, I asked James and his team to put together a strategy for responding," Albrecht said. "He was working very close with the legislature to get a bill passed that allows us to recruit out-of-state students at in-state tuition rates for a period of time, as long as we are recruiting higher-end students, so we've offset most of the serious revenue impacts that

would be followed by budget cuts."

Albrecht said this has caused the average applicant index score for out-of-state students to rise 12 points above the average score of resident students.

However, Albrecht said these strategies were only able to be implemented because the bill didn't pass until March. By that time, most out-of-state students had already decided where they were going to attend school in the fall.

Albrecht said the university did all it could to prepare for the fall 2013 semester. He said it will be easier to take more steps during the 2013-14 school semesters because it has been almost a year since the administration had to strategize and plan in order to avoid budget cuts.

"The freshman class will be

Stan Albrecht
USU president

"The freshman class will be down a bit, but not down near as much as it otherwise would have been."

down a bit, but not down near as much as it otherwise would have been," Albrecht said. "The fresh-

➤ See **ENROLL**, Page 6

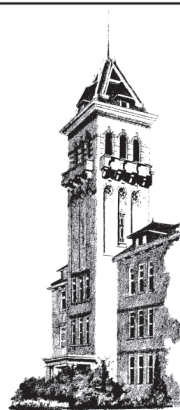
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‘The Book Thief’ keeps readers wondering what’s next



Marissa Neeley
Good Reads

“It is 1939. N a z i Germany. The country is holding its b r e a t h . D e a t h has never been busier, and will become busier

still,” the synopsis on the back of the book reads.

“The Book Thief” by Markus Zusak, published in 2005, is as unique as they come. Narrated by Death, the story is told of one Liesel Meminger, a non-Jew living in Nazi Germany. There’s a mystery regarding the subject of communism and Liesel’s mother, whom she was taken from and given to foster parents Hans and Rosa Hubermann.

The Hubermanns are poor, which is what you would expect in a country that sparked a world war. They are skin and bones, surviving on pea soup and living in a plain house on Himmel Street in the town of Molching. Hans was a painter by trade, though he has no work at all any more. Hans is one of the 10 percent of Germans not associated with the Nazi Party. As for the reason why, you’ll just have to read the book.

And Rosa? Oh, Rosa. She’s quite a colorful person. Though she may seem a tough and abusive woman, she is just a scared, good woman behind a tough shell. Though she may not show her affections, it is clear that she loves Liesel more than anyone could possibly guess./

Liesel, an illiterate girl, stole her first book “The Gravedigger’s Handbook” from the snow following her brother’s funeral. Since then words have taken hold of her, leaving her and Hans Hubermann to stay up late at night to capture them. Liesel can’t stop wanting to read, even if that means stealing from the mayor’s library.

She’s stealing more than books now. Food. Apples. With Rudy Steiner, her one and only friend besides Max Vandenburg.

But who is Max? The short answer: a Jew.

Yes, the Hubermanns are hiding a Jew in their basement and he’s dying. He had a rough life as a Jew. Hans and his father, Erik, were friends, soldiers and comrades during the first world war. Now Max has

come for the help that Hans offered years ago.

Trying to keep Max a secret takes a lot of work and Liesel, trying to write her mother and figure out what the word “communism” means, only adds worry to the Hubermanns. Meanwhile Death’s work is piling up. After all, there is a war going on.

What happens next? I don’t know. I haven’t gotten that far. I’m on page 336, but what I can tell you is that this is one story you want to read. Zusak is a brilliant author with all sorts of tricks up his sleeve. Though it may take a couple of chapters to get into the book, the intensity and mystery on every page is enough to keep you reading. Zusak offers a fresh and unheard of perspective of an infamous war from the non-Nazi, non-Jew German. He gives you a look at all the work Death had to do as well as the impoverished state of German citizens. You can broaden your understanding about World War II, as well as enjoy a fictional tale about a 13-year-old girl who fell in love with words and would do anything to get them.

It’s a beautiful and sad novel, gripping and well-written. The writing style is very unique and fun; the character development realistic and overall, fascinating. I would recommend it to anyone and everyone, no matter if there’s an interest in history or not.

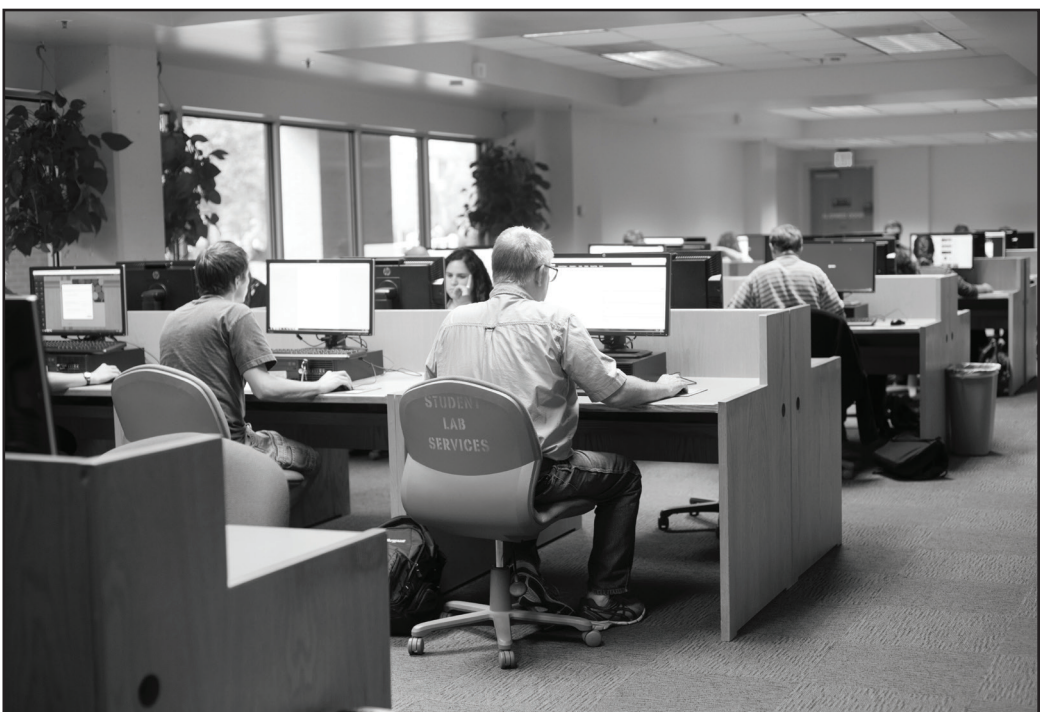
This is not a love story like a romance novel. No, quite a different kind of love. This is a novel about a love of words and writing, a love of what’s right, a love about family — especially foster family — a love about friends and last, but not least, a love about life. You will come to love and appreciate these people and what they went through during those hard times. You will gain a relationship with the characters that will last long after the last page has been read.

It’s a New York Times No. 1 Bestseller and a Michael L. Printz Honor Book for a reason.

If you are not sold on why you should read this book or how great it is, I’ll tell you one last thing that is sure to pique your interest: Death doesn’t choose how one dies; he only tells of it.

– Marissa Neeley is a freshman majoring in history with an emphasis in history teaching. She is an avid reader, reading anything from historical fiction and fantasy to romance and nonfiction. Send any comments to marissa.neeley@aggi-email.usu.edu

Campus IT works to fix Wi-Fi network



Shanda Call photo

COMPUTER LABS THROUGHOUT CAMPUS are often packed with students seeking a reliable and steady connection when USU’s Wi-Fi network is overloaded.

► By Marissa Neeley
staff writer

Students sometimes experience connectivity issues when using Bluezone, the campus wireless fidelity network. But when choosing from the list of available networks, some students have wondered exactly what the network “Bluezone Secure” is and how it works.

“Bluezone Secure is an encrypted wireless network,” said Kevin Reeve, spokesperson for USU’s information technology department. “When you connect to it, the data that flows between your wireless device and the access point nearby is encrypted. It prevents someone nearby from snooping on your wireless signal.”

Reeve said students can benefit from registering their wireless-capable devices with the university.

“Once you have registered your device on the network, it will be registered no matter which USU campus you visit or where on the campus you roam,” Reeve said. “There are 1,266 access points that make up the Bluezone wireless network, in-

cluding those at the regional campuses and in on-campus housing.”

In recent years, wireless-network use at the university has increased sharply, Reeve said.

“A year ago, we were seeing a 15 to 20 percent increase in additional wireless devices showing up on our network every semester,” Reeve said. “Now we are seeing a 25 percent increase. You now see students carrying around two or three wireless devices with them.”

Reeve said the speed of wireless devices such as laptops and smartphones can vary between service providers and other factors.

“Smart phones have the option to use the cellular carrier’s data network or Wi-Fi like Bluezone,” Reeve said. “It depends on the service provider, customer’s plan and also Wi-Fi access point location. I actually get faster downloads on my AT&T iPhone than I do on my home Comcast network because of the data plans I have purchased.”

Some students have noticed a dramatic change in wireless speed this fall. University officials are convinced this is be-

cause of an increase in the number of connected devices.

“So far this semester, we have seen a peak of 11,253 wireless devices connected to Bluezone at the exact same time. That is a 25 percent increase over the peaks we had seen the first few weeks of spring semester,” said Morlyn Seamons, USU network specialist. “On any given weekday, we will see a constant connection of 10,300-10,500 simultaneous wireless devices.”

Seamons said there are certain times when students should avoid using the network if they are looking for a fast connection.

“Those peaks happen during the noon hour,” Seamons said. “In on-campus housing areas, the peak usage happens between 10 p.m. and midnight.”

Each access point can handle between 20 and 30 simultaneous connections, Reeve said.

“The more devices that connect to it, the less bandwidth that is available to everyone, so eventually it causes access to the internet to be very slow or almost nonexistent, or you just cannot connect or keep getting

►See BLUEZONE, Page 11

Enroll

From Page 5

man class will be more diverse because we let more out-of-state students in as part of that freshman class.”

Albrecht said the university will deal with changes when the missionaries return.

“And then, of course, freshman classes in the future will be quite different because we’ll be dealing with 20-year-old freshmen as opposed to 18-year-old freshmen,” Albrecht said.

“We’re doing a lot of thinking about how that changes the culture of this institution and how it affects where students live. It’s going to affect things like what the proportion of our students are married, or which students are parents before they gradu-

ate. All of these things are things that we are building into our model as we’re going forward.”

Harley Blake, an undeclared sophomore, said she thinks there will be a lot more students going on missions now that they can go earlier. She did expect there to be fewer students this year, but she thinks it won’t affect USU for too long.

“I think it’ll even out soon, so I don’t think it’ll be that big of a deal,” she said. “Maybe this year and the next year, but I think it’ll even out.”

Shandy Vickers, a junior studying child psychology, is leaving on a mission in January but has plans to come back to USU after she returns. She said she expected to see fewer freshman as well, with significantly fewer girls.

“I have five of my best friends going on a mission right after I’m going, and I just think that

there are so many more girls, it seems like they are all going on missions at a younger age,” Vickers said.

Vickers always wanted to go on a mission but said once she got to college, she loved it so much that she didn’t want to leave. With missionaries being able to go at a younger age, she thinks they’d be more likely to go on a mission first before entering the college scene.

“I was expecting fewer of the young 18-year-olds,” said Sam Hurst, a junior studying biology. “I didn’t serve a mission, so I wasn’t expecting a lot of people my age just because of the age change. It’s not affecting my experience a whole lot. I mean, I still know people that are my age here, but otherwise I haven’t seen a lot of change.”

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Farm

From Page 4

as well as through its Community Supported Agriculture program, or CSA, which is open to anyone who would like to participate each year to receive a weekly supply of produce from the farm.

“People will pay up front at the beginning of the season and then for 20 weeks they’ll come once a week and pick up a basket,” Wardle said.

Reeves said the 55 CSA shares sold each year provide nearly all necessary funding for the farm as well as payment of interns and staff.

At the farm’s organic produce stand, which will be on the TSC Patio every Wednesday and



FRESH ORGANIC RASPBERRIES are just some of the fruits and vegetables available through the university organic farm.

Thursday through the end of September, Wardle said students will sell things like corn, tomatoes, cucumbers and melons as well as a few “cool season” vegetables, including cilantro, kale and chard,

for the remainder of the season.

Reeve’s said anyone interested in helping at the farm may sign up for regular volunteer hours on the program’s website.

Sevendust

From Page 4

Call Me No One, recording and releasing the album “Last Parade” in June 2012. Connolly and bassist Vinnie Hornsby banded together with Scott Phillips, drummer for Alter Bridge and Creed, and Eric Friedman, the former guitarist for Submersed, to form rock supergroup Projected. They released the album “Human” in June 2012 as well.

Connolly said looking at and exploring music through the eyes of a different project only benefitted Sevendust when the members came together in September 2012 to write and record “Black Out the Sun.” The members had learned how to throw the weight of a whole band on themselves individually, and they had learned how to carry that weight.

“It’s a lot easier when you get back with Sevendust and you have the support group of everyone,” Connolly said. “That’s not to say you don’t lean on people when you do a side project, but I think if anything, it taught us some new skills to add to our skillset.

“You always want to bring more to the table for each record — at least I do,” he said. “I know most of us in the band really feel passionately about not doing exactly the same thing every time. I mean, AC/DC’s not going to write a different kind of song, and there’s a certain thing about Sevendust that’s very inherent in probably all of our songs. But still, you want to push yourself.”

Working on music not meant for Sevendust helped Connolly to better appreciate his bandmates — specifically vocalist Lajon Wither- spoon.

“I’ve always wanted to be a singer, and I never really got to the point where I felt confident enough until I spent some time kind of sitting behind one of the best in the business and tak-

ing notes,” Connolly said. “I’ve had quite a few shows up close and personal with Lajon, and it’s cool because I think I have a better understanding and appreciation for what he goes through when we make a record now, just from doing it on my own. It’s really easy to grab another guitar when you break a string, but if you push yourself vocally you have to take a knee for a minute to let it come back.”

Sevendust plans to begin recording an acoustic album at the start of 2014, inspired by a 14-show run of tour dates the band played during promotion for their 2003 album “Seasons.”

“We wanted to go and do, like, a Storytellers thing but we didn’t want to do the normal Sevendust show,” he said.

“We wanted to give something different, so we figured we’d try the acoustic thing and see how it goes. We said, ‘If we ever do that again, let’s actually make it the full deal. Let’s actually have a record to go around it.’” The band will play an all-acoustic tour — if not multiple tours — centered around the acoustic album after recording completes, Connolly said. A complete track list hasn’t been comprised yet, but fans of the band can expect both new and old songs to be featured on the album.

“We’re talking about doing something along the lines of five or six new songs and probably five or six revisited older songs,” he said.

Connolly is confident for the band’s future, but like he said, “nothing is forever.” He said the acoustic album and accompanying tour could push the band to its limits as it morphs from a metal behemoth into a softer, more intimate entity.

“We love doing the full electric thing, but the acoustic thing puts out a different vibe,” he said. “We’re just going to play it by ear, one record at a time.”

John Connoll
Sevendust guitarist

“You always want to bring more to the table — at least I do. I know most of us in the band really feel passionately about not doing exactly the same thing every time.”

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FOOTBALL

USU thrashes Weber State in homecoming

► By **Curtis Lundstrom**
sports editor

A complete-game performance on offense, defense and special teams led to a blowout victory for the Utah State football team Saturday in a 70-6 win over in-state foe Weber State on Homecoming weekend at Romney Stadium.

"It was a tremendous atmosphere with Homecoming weekend, and I thought it was a great turnout from our fans. It was a great crowd to play in

front of early on," said USU head coach Matt Wells.

"It was a total team victory and a team effort. I liked the way these guys focused throughout the week and continued to stress it in the game. I'm happy with both sides

of the ball. We were explosive early, and that's what we wanted to do, start out aggressive."

Junior quarterback Chuckie Keeton nearly duplicated his performance at Air Force, tying his career-high with five touchdowns passes — all of which came in the first half. Keeton connected with four different receivers for touchdowns, and 10 different receivers made a catch for the Aggies.

Keeton led the offense 60 yards on six plays for USU's first touchdown, taking just two minutes off the clock before finding DJ Tialavea from five yards out to get on the board. USU replicated the drive on its next six possessions, cruising to a 49-0 lead

before sending in second and third team players just before the half.

"It was good. On offense, we got those guys in right before halftime. It was good to get Craig (Harrison) a lot of reps. I'm happy for him with his performance," Wells said. "The biggest key was to get those five guys in up front. We were able to get them some playing experience because I understand what's coming up next year."

A week after setting a personal-best with five touchdown passes, Keeton — who finished 19-of-25 for 249 yards passing — just missed out on setting a new personal best with his sixth touchdown pass, something he said he wished he could have done.

"I had the opportunity. I just missed on a couple throws. It's nothing a receiver did. If anything, he did his job more than exceptionally because he was wide open," Keeton said. "I missed Travis Van Leeuwen right down the middle. That's a ball I'd like to have back. Hopefully next week we'll have the same opportunity, and we can hit it for a touchdown. It's fun to get out there and play and have the ability to break a record, but winning is the most important thing at the end of the day."

Senior running back Joey DeMartino had a big game for the Aggies, rushing for a career-high three touchdowns and 107 yards on just



WIDE RECEIVER TRAVIS REYNOLDS AND RUNNING BACK JOEY DEMARTINO celebrate a Utah State touchdown during the Aggies' 70-6 win over Weber State on Saturday at Romney Stadium.

Delayne Ripplinger photo

eight carries.

"All the credit goes to the o-line and the perimeter blocking on the outside with the tight ends and wide receivers," DeMartino said. "They opened up the holes, and as a running back, you run through it. It wasn't much I did, all the credit to them."

The Aggies racked up 587 yards of offense in the win with seven different players finding the end zone, includ-

ing sophomore linebacker Kyler Fackrell. The 6-foot-5 Mesa, Ariz. native got in on the scoring with a 4-yard touchdown catch from Keeton to start the second quarter.

"I can tell you, that was probably the biggest celebration I had. I think I ran like 30 yards and no one really understood why," Keeton said. "It's special to get him out there. He's one of the kids on the team who we're happy to have because he's such a

great athlete. That being said, we were able to utilize his ability and go up and make a play."

USU improved to 2-1 overall this season. The Aggies have a chance to gain some national attention on Saturday, Sept. 21 when they take on USC in southern California.

"We'll be in a national spotlight. It will give us a chance to continue to brand our image. It's about marketing from a recruiting standpoint," Wells

said. "We've knocked on that door for four-straight years, and we'll see if these boys can knock it down. They'll be ready to play, they won't flinch. They've been on big stages before, and it will be a fun game."

Kickoff is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

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VOLLEYBALL

Utah State picks up win at Duke Invitational Tournament

► By **Emily Duke**
staff writer

The Utah State volleyball team returned home on a high note with a win in its final match Saturday at the Duke Invitational. The Aggies fell in four sets to South Carolina and were swept by Duke in their first two tournament games en route to a 1-2 tournament record.

USU 3, Liberty 0

With a .463 hitting percentage, the Aggies tied their previous season-high attack percentage record and doused Liberty's Lady Flames

3-0 (25-11, 25-11, 25-23).

All of the Aggies were on point Saturday with seven athletes logging above .333 attack percentages over the three sets. Junior Ashlan Rogers-Court's 11 digs gave her 859 career digs, putting her at the 9th most in USU history, just 41 short of the No. 8 spot.

USU hit above .500 in two of the three sets, including a season-high .792 hitting percentage in the second set. Junior setter Paige Neves recorded 35 assists while sophomore outside hitter Elle Brainard tallied 15 kills and junior outside hitter Rachel Orr finished with 13.

Duke 3, USU 0

The Aggies faced tournament-host Duke Friday night and were swept 3-0 (21-25, 14-25, 10-25) by the Blue Devils. USU was led by Orr and Brainard, who had seven kills apiece.

Neves dished out 17 assists, but the USU offense was unable to get anything going against a tough Blue Devils squad. Duke finished with seven blocks while holding the Aggies to a .054 hitting percentage.

South Carolina 3, USU 1

In the first match of the weekend, the Aggies took on the South Carolina Gamecocks in the two

teams' first ever match up on the volleyball court. USU took the first set, holding South Carolina to only 16 points, but hitting at less than .200 for the next three sets, the Aggies ended up dropping the match 1-3.

USU finished with nine blocks against the Gamecocks, but errors plagued USU throughout.

This weekend ends the regular season tournament schedule for USU. The Aggies will host Boise State in their Mountain West Conference debut at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 18 in the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum.

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File photo

JUNIOR SETTER PAIGE NEVES sets during a match last season at the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum.

Freshmen need to be better fans



Tavin Stucki

Show
me a
Scotsman

For the past two football seasons, I've been in the press box covering every Aggie football game. It has probably been the best professional opportunity I've stumbled upon in my college career.

But you'd better believe I'm not giving anything up to be on the front row during my senior season, losing my voice every Saturday.

Saturday's blowout win over Weber State was awesome. I loved being at Romney Stadium all day, waiting in line for the gates to open. I loved watching the Aggie Stampede run down 1000 North. I loved seeing nearly everyone wear their throwback gameday shirts. I loved the anxiety of knowing I'd have to sprint down the bleachers to get a good front-row seat. I loved tell-

ing off another guy who tried to save my seat for his friends. I loved standing over the railing and shouting all game, even as the rain came and my vocal chords went.

It was good to be back, but there were still one or two things missing.

A few years ago, the USU student section was one of the best — if not the best — at being loud, smart and coordinated. I attribute this directly to a publication known during basketball season as The Refraction and during

► See **STUCKI**, Page 9

USU students get 1/2 off kitchen sink

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WOMEN'S SOCCER

Soccer suffers first loss of season

► **By Jeff DahDah**
staff writer

Facing a pair of strong opponents, the Utah State women's soccer team went 0-1-1 over the weekend with a draw against Cal State Fullerton and a heartbreaking loss to No. 25 Arkansas.

USU 0, Cal St. Fullerton 0

Utah State tied Cal State Fullerton on Sunday on the road after two overtimes. With the tie, the Aggies moved to 4-1-2 on the season.

Sophomore goalie Jeannie Woller recorded her fourth shutout of the season. She collected five saves, three of which were in overtime. The Titans were the preseason favorite to win the Big West conference.

"It was a hard fought game," said USU head coach Heather Cairns. "It was hot and humid there. It was our first Friday-Sunday series, and we bounced back from a tough loss Friday."

The Aggies, who started out the season with three straight shut-outs, allowed seven goals in their last three games.

USU had its chances to come away with a win however. The Aggies put pressure on the Fullerton defense, taking four shots in the second overtime.

"We created great opportuni-

ties," Coach Cairns said. "We just couldn't get the ball in the back of the net."

Cairns said the Aggies came away with a lot of positives from the match that they can be excited about moving forward.

"Nobody likes to tie, but looking at the big picture, we can be happy," Coach Cairns said. "We tightened up our defense, we were able to battle in tough conditions and we can be happy about the contribution from the bench."

The Aggies conclude non-conference play next week when they play in-state rivals Utah and Weber State in another Friday-Sunday home-and-away series.

Arkansas 3, USU 2

USU suffered its first loss of the season Friday to No. 25 Arkansas. The Aggies lost 3-2 in overtime after being up by a goal on two different occasions.

The Aggies took the lead late in the first half when Ambryn McCallson had the assist off the back of her foot to Mari Miyashiro, who chipped it in past the Arkansas goalkeeper.

The Razorbacks tied the game early in the second half, but Taryn Rose came through with her third goal of the season to take the lead again. Arkansas



Nicole Stacey photo

MEMBERS OF THE USU WOMENS SOCCER TEAM celebrate scoring a goal against the University of Arkansas on Friday at Chuck and Gloria Bell Field. The Aggies fell to the Razorbacks 3-2 in overtime, despite the goal.

tied it up again 20 minutes later.

Regulation ended tied 2-2, and Arkansas scored the game-winning goal 41 seconds into overtime.

"This was disappointing," Coach Cairns said. "Not only is it disappointing the way it happened, but the fact that we had a top-25 team here and that opportunity that we failed to seize."

Miyashiro echoed Cairns' disappointment.

"We came out, we fought

hard," Miyashiro said. "We didn't end as hard as we should have, but I think it was a hard fought game."

The back-and-forth second half was played in physical fashion with the added obstacle of pouring rain.

USU went into the game with a top-10 regional ranking, tied for 9th in the Pacific Region with Utah.

"We're knocking on the door of being a top-25 team, but we need results," Coach Cairns

said. "We're talented for sure, but we've got to do something to prove our worth."

The Razorbacks only gave up three goals on the season before coming to Logan. USU's two goals were the most the team allowed in a single game thus far.

This was the first overtime loss for the Aggies since 2011 and their first loss of the season.

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Stucki

From Page 8

football as The Bull Sheet, which taught students how to be fans.

Well, now we don't have either. Other gameday publications have tried and failed to be the voice of the front row fan, just as incoming freshmen over the years have replaced the legends who have graduated.

That's not a knock on anyone or anything: It's just the way things go. But we who fill Romney week in and week out have the opportunity to be better than the fans who came before us.

I'll do my part to help out. Here are a few things I learned from the guys who produced the Refraction about how to be a fan and not just take up a spot in the student section.

1. Cheering in football is different than cheering in basketball. Just because you saw something we did

in the Spectrum, doesn't mean it's what we want in Romney.

2. When Utah State has the ball, be quiet. Chuckie is out there shouting audibles and last-second instructions to his teammates, so it doesn't help when we're making noise — even a two-clap "Aggies" chant is counterproductive.

3. Likewise, when Utah State is on defense, be loud. Don't stand there and watch. Don't chant "defense." Yell as loud as you can, clap and do anything you can to disrupt communication between the opposing team's quarterback and other offensive players.

4. Wear Aggie blue. It's like wearing your Sunday best, only it's your "gameday best." Wear your Aggie blue gameday shirt. Don't wear powder blue, don't wear a purple shirt with "Aggies" written across the chest, don't even wear pink pants like the girl next to me did Saturday. It's called a gameday shirt for a reason.

5. Follow the guys on the front row. We're the die-hards. We're the ones who have been here and know how it is supposed to be. We're the ones who miss classes to get the front row seats. We're the ones who stayed for all four quarters through the rainy blowouts before Aggie football was fun to watch. Trust us, we know what we're doing.

USU student fans are often in the conversation

for best student section in the country. If we keep doing what we do best and continue to do it better, eventually we'll be the only ones in the conversation.

— Tavin Stucki is a senior journalism student at Utah State. He is an avid Aggie fan and has been since birth. Follow him on Twitter at @StuckiAggies and send any comments to tstuckinews@gmail.com.

Tavin Stucki

"If we keep doing what we do best and continue to do it better, eventually we'll be the only ones in the conversation."

Glance

Aggie Schedules

Football

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21
USU at USC, 6 p.m.,
The Coliseum, Los Angeles

Women's Soccer

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20
USU at Utah, 7:30 p.m.,
Salt Lake City, Utah
SUNDAY, SEPT. 22
USU vs. Weber State, 1 p.m.,
Chuck and Gloria Bell Field

Volleyball

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18
USU vs. Boise St., 7 p.m.
Dee Glen Smith Spectrum
SATURDAY SEPT. 21
USU at Boise St., 7 p.m.,
Boise, Idaho

Cross Country

FRIDAY, SEPT. 13
USU at MSU Invitational, All day
Bozeman, Mont.

Men's Soccer

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20
USU at BYU, 7 p.m.,
Provo, Utah
SATURDAY, SEPT. 21
USU vs. SLCC, 7 p.m.,
Legacy Fields

Baseball

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14
USU vs. USU Eastern, Noon,
Doubleheader, Providence Field

AP Top 25

Football

RK	TEAM	RECORD	PTS
1	Alabama (59)	2-0	1499
2	Oregon (1)	3-0	1413
3	Clemson	2-0	1347
4	Ohio State	3-0	1330
5	Stanford	2-0	1241
6	LSU	3-0	1134
7	Louisville	3-0	1092
8	Florida State	2-0	1058
9	Georgia	1-1	1051
10	Texas A&M	2-1	1001
11	Oklahoma State	3-0	848
12	South Carolina	2-1	821
13	UCLA	2-0	757
14	Oklahoma	3-0	692
15	Michigan	3-0	672
16	Miami (FL)	2-0	641
17	Washington	2-0	496
18	Northwestern	3-0	487
19	Florida	1-1	412
20	Baylor	2-0	355
21	Ole Miss	3-0	300
22	Notre Dame	2-1	277
23	Arizona State	2-0	229
24	Wisconsin	2-1	87
25	Texas Tech	3-0	60

Others receiving votes: Michigan State 59, Fresno State 27, UCF 25, Northern Illinois 24, Georgia Tech 17, Nebraska 15, Arizona 11, Auburn 9, Boise State 4, TCU 3, Virginia Tech 3, Arkansas 2, Navy 1

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LGBT church members deserve love and respect

“We’re all children of God, all coming from different places in life,” Patrick Wendel said. “But we all deserve to feel that love, that sense of self worth... You shouldn’t have to be someone you’re not. You don’t have to be ashamed of who you are.”

Wendel, a USU student who came out as gay last June, said it right when he told our reporter that everyone deserves to be loved.

Our View

An Editorial Opinion

It is not the government’s job to tell people how to feel, nor how to believe. Change in our churches needs to come

from the inside, from the people who associate with LGBTQ individuals every day and may not know it.

For too long, there were many in the Christian community, including members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who feel ostracized and alone because of their sexual orientation or identity. From angry bias to a now obvious lack of information about what it means to be gay or trans-gender, those who profess to be good, church-going people have exercised some of the worst human attributes in regards to how they treat their LGBTQ neighbors and loved ones.

There are many LGBTQ Mormons who would like to come back to church if they were treated better.

Being national suicide month, we feel it is appropriate to point out that statistics show that LGBTQ teenagers are four times as likely to attempt suicide as others in their age group. This is often because loved ones do not know how to handle the knowledge that their son, daughter, mother, father, cousin, best friend or co-worker has an orientation that is not “normal.”

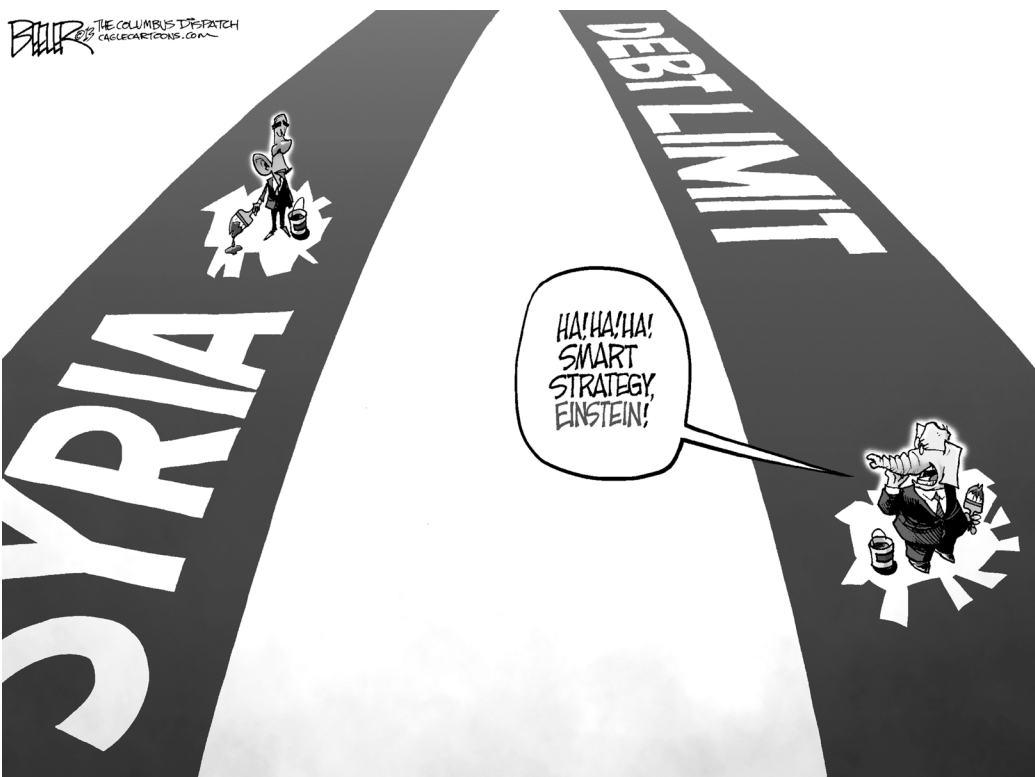
When someone goes to church, they need not feel like they are going to be attacked at every turn for the choices they make and their personal beliefs. In the LDS faith, there’s this thing called agency that is fiercely clung to. What makes you better than the two guys sitting together in the next pew with their family? Take our advice and work on your own personal problems instead of judging others. Leave that to God or whatever deity you believe in.

It does not matter what a person believes doctrinally about being gay, lesbian, queer, questioning or trans-gender. People have the right to be treated with love and respect when they go into a house of worship.

“Love and respect” does not mean someone is falling into a trap of tolerance where they have to make concessions or allow someone to be sealed to their partner in the temple. Love and respect means you are treating those people as your neighbor and as Jesus Christ would.

Here’s our advice: If you feel uncomfortable in the presence of a gay or trans-gender person, don’t walk away or refuse to let your children play with their children. Instead, try talking with them. You will find that, for the most part, they are just like you. They just feel differently than you do about certain things.

We applaud the strides churches, especially the LDS Church, have made towards acceptance. The website mormonsandgays.org gave many in the gay Mormon community hope that attitudes are changing. We only hope that church members will take the opportunity provided them to remedy some of the unintentional, and occasionally deadly, mistakes made in the past by others of their faith.



It’s not isolationism, but skepticism in US

► By Doyle McManus
Los Angeles Times (MCT)

President Obama and his aides were surprised this month by the strength of public opposition to their call for military action against Syria. They shouldn’t have been.

Americans have almost always been reluctant to go to war. In 1939, polls showed that most Americans not only wanted to stay out of war against Nazi Germany, they weren’t even sure they wanted to send military aid to Britain — fearing, perhaps, a slippery slope.

Today, Americans have additional reasons to be skeptical. There’s the toll of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. There’s the fear that any war in the Middle East will inevitably become a quagmire. And there’s also a fundamental change in American attitudes toward their leaders.

The traditional center in American foreign policy — the rally-around-the-flag reflex presidents could once rely on — has eroded. One reason is partisan polarization: Many conservatives who might have supported military action under a Republican president are

disinclined to help Obama in his hour of need. But it’s not all partisan; public confidence in the federal government’s ability to do anything right has reached an all-time low, according to a Gallup Poll released last week.

Does that mean Americans have become isolationists, turning their backs on the world in a way that hasn’t been seen for a century? That’s not so clear.

It’s true that public skepticism about U.S. engagement overseas is up. The Pew Research Center reported recently that 46 percent of Americans endorsed the sentiment that “the United States should mind its own business internationally and let other countries get along the best they can on their own.”

But that isn’t an unprecedented phenomenon; Pew found anti-interventionist sentiment almost as high in 1974, at the end of the Vietnam War, and in 1992, at the end of the Cold War — and those bouts with isolationism didn’t last forever.

Americans recoiled from Obama’s proposal to attack Syria not only because they are skeptical about military

adventures in general but because they weren’t convinced that this particular venture was in the national interest.

“This was kind of a worst case,” said Andrew Kohut, the Pew Center’s founding director. “The public is very gun-shy about intervention, but especially in a case where the direct U.S. interest isn’t clear. If there were a direct and major threat to the United States, you’d probably see a different picture.”

Indeed, polls taken before earlier conflicts have shown that most Americans are willing to support military action when they are convinced that U.S. security is directly threatened — as they did, for example, when they were convinced (wrongly) by President George W. Bush that Iraq’s Saddam Hussein was building nuclear weapons. On the flip side, most Americans will not support military intervention for purely humanitarian reasons — as Bill Clinton learned in Somalia, Bosnia and Kosovo, operations that were all widely unpopular at the time.

That’s a problem Obama hasn’t solved when it comes to Syria.

America and its Miss’ed opportunities

► By Christine M. Flowers
Philadelphia Daily News (MCT)

For the longest time, I deluded myself into thinking that the only difference between me and a Miss America hopeful was the fact that I wore glasses.

Actually, I did not wear “glasses.” I wore a portable version of the Hubble Telescope. For this reason, and this reason alone, it was clear to my adolescent self that the only aisle I’d likely be strolling down was the one at the Penn Fruit. But come every Labor Day, I’d suspend reality for a few blessed hours and mentally substitute my face (including all

four of my eyes) for that of the newly crowned Queen of All That Mattered.

That’s why I’ll be sitting in front of the television this Sunday, watching as a lovely example of American exceptionalism takes this year’s title. Quick question: Who is the reigning Miss? I’m waiting. Still waiting...

Thought so. I didn’t know, either, until I googled her. This is probably because the former Miss Wisconsin, Laura Kaeppler, was crowned in some backwater town thousands of miles from Atlantic City (OK, Las Vegas.) Moving the pageant from its rightful home by the crystal blue sea was akin to updating the Hollywood sign, and misspelling it.

Changes to beloved traditions are not always good.

That is one reason I’m looking forward to this weekend’s edition of the “Scholarship Program.” Returning to the annual event is a sweet reminder of the late summer days of my childhood when, while knowing in some deep place that I would never be rewarded for my beauty or grace, I could nonetheless borrow the dreams of others.

And now that it’s back on the Boardwalk, the significance of the pageant is even more compelling to a 51-year-old woman who could probably be the (glamorously young) grandmother to some of the contestants. Thomas

Wolfe wrote that you can’t go home again, and he has been proven wrong time after time. You can most certainly go home again if the terrain of that native land is impressed firmly on your memory.

So when I tune in on Sunday, I’ll be traveling back to a place where a chubby-and-bespectacled kid could entertain the possibility of a kind of success that had nothing to do with her overworked brain.

That’s not to say that the contestants were ever one-dimensional Barbie dolls

► See FLOWERS, Page 11

Kerry makes a case — against more military strikes

► By Michael Smerconish
The Philadelphia Inquirer (MCT)

John Kerry convinced me.

The secretary of state has been the chief advocate of President Obama’s desire to launch a limited military strike against Syria. But in his efforts to sell the campaign, Kerry has given us at least three reasons to be circumspect.

The first was his reply to Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, about whether the administration would accept “a prohibition for having American boots on the ground.”

Kerry began by saying there was no intention to put boots on the ground, but added:

“But in the event Syria imploded, for instance, or in the event there was a threat of a chemical-weapons cache falling into the hands of al-Nusra (an al-Qaida group), or someone else, and it was clearly in the interest of our allies and all of us, the British, the French, and others, to prevent those weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of the worst elements, I don’t want to take off the table an option that might or might not be available to a president of the United States to secure our country.”

He attempted to retract this moment of candor by telling Menendez, “The bottom line is, the president has no intention and will not, and we do not want to, put American troops on the ground to fight this — or be involved in the fighting of this civil war, period.” When that answer was unsatisfactory to Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., Kerry added:

“Well, let me be very clear now because I don’t want anything coming out of this hearing that leaves any door open to any possibility. So let’s shut that door now as tight as we can.”

Kerry was right the first time. The

only thing certain about military action is its unpredictability, and should an American attack create chaos, we’d own the result. There are any number of calamitous scenarios that could result, not the least of which is that a U.S. attack on Syria could spark a war between Iran and Israel. The chief of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard said an attack on Syria would lead to the “destruction of Israel” and become a “second Vietnam” for America.

It’s a fair question to ask whether the United States is more or less safe

► See SMERCONISH, Page 11

Flowers

From Page 10

like their Stepford Sisters in the USA pageant. Miss America was always smarter, more articulate, and more elegant than the other examples of homegrown pulchritude. She was also classier. If USA was Marilyn Monroe with her overt sexuality and increasingly improbable bosom, America was Grace Kelly.

Miss America also had to have a “talent.” Today, some females think that it is enough to gyrate their buttocks in front of a rapt audience to demonstrate how gifted they are. As Billy Ray’s little girl taught us earlier this summer, sluts come in all shapes and sizes, and acting like a lady is one of those ancient tribal traditions that have become optional, like good hygiene.

Not so Miss America. Not only is she lovely to behold, she has a way with words, with music, with tripping the light fantastic, or doing any number of things that require something more than a dedicated client list.

It is true that this year’s slew of contestants contains a few notable surprises, like lovely Miss Kansas who sports two tattoos on her well-toned torso. Given the content of the body art, including the insignia of the Army Dental Corps on her shoulder, I don’t think Princess Grace would be sniffing in derision. Neither would my father, God rest his soul, who was a proud vet.

This is just one example of

how the pageant has evolved with time, but still represents the best of what we as American women have to offer.

Unfortunately, it was always common in some quarters to criticize Miss America. As the great sage of the Philadelphia Daily News, the inimitable Stu Bykofsky, rightly noted in his column this week, women like Bella Abzug and Gloria Steinem liked to dismiss the contestants as victims of a patriarchal society. Apparently, the right to choose didn’t include choosing pageants.

I never understood that tendency among certain sisters to demand this rejection of aesthetics. As a freshman at Bryn Mawr, there was the unspoken belief that a woman’s attractiveness was inversely related to her IQ. From personal observation, there were a lot of gals with high IQs on that campus.

Fortunately, while the feminists might fume, most Americans welcome the chance to cheer on women with brains, beauty and a well-toned booty. We see nothing strange in someone who can twirl a baton, present a blueprint for world peace and ace her MCATs all at the same time.

To paraphrase Dorothy Parker, it’s good that men still make passes at girls who wear sashes. It’s also intrusive to remember that beauty queens can go on to do exceptional things, like running for vice president.

You betcha.

— Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.

Smercornish

From Page 10

if our attack on Syria causes Iran to strike Israel and Israel to retaliate against Iran. Optimistically, Syria would then be disciplined and dictators put on notice, while Israel stood tall and Iran had its nuclear program obliterated. Then again, maybe we’d touch off a wide-ranging conflict in which every country in the Mideast is choosing sides.

Next was Kerry’s interview with MSNBC’s Chris Hayes on the day the New York Times published a chilling photograph showing Syrian rebels executing seven of President Bashar al-Assad’s soldiers. When Hayes asked if the executioners would soon become our allies, Kerry responded:

“No. In fact, I believe that those men in those videos are disadvantaged by an American response to the chemical-weapons use because it, in fact, empowers the moderate opposition. We all know there are about 11 really bad opposition groups—so-called opposition. They’re not—they’re fighting Assad. They are not part of the opposition that is being supported by our friends and ourselves. That is a moderate opposition. They condemn what has happened today and they will—they are and we are busy separating the support we’re getting from any possibility of that support going to these guys.”

Wait a minute. There are 11 “really bad” opposition groups? And somehow our disciplining Assad is not going to give them a boost but will help more moderate opposition groups? That makes no sense. Any weakening of Assad could only be a boost to all of his opponents, in-

cluding those supported by al-Qaida.

Kerry should know that we can’t control the outcome of a civil war in a far-off land any more than we can rely on the election of our friends in fledgling democracies. Americans get that. Last week, 62 percent of those responding told CBS News/New York Times pollsters they opposed U.S. intervention in Syria. When asked whether the United States should intervene to turn dictatorships into democracies, 72 percent said no—the highest in a decade of polling on that question.

Americans have had enough of foreign entanglements in which our security is not directly threatened. And while we’re heartbroken about the human toll in Syria, we’re not quite sure why 1,000 deaths from chemical weapons necessitate our involvement but 99,000 deaths from conventional weapons didn’t warrant a response.

On Monday in London, Kerry tried to assuage concerns about a deepening involvement in Syria by saying our actions would be an “unbelievably small, limited” effort.

That should only heighten our concern. Why introduce such volatility in an already unstable and dangerous part of the world if our stated goal is only to skin Assad’s knee? Wasn’t the post-Vietnam lesson to not get involved unless we are prepared to win?

Kerry gave us three good reasons to be opposed, and I can think of three more close to me. Last week, each of them began a new school year.

— Michael Smerconish writes for The Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may contact him via www.smerconish.com.

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Chelsea

From Page 5

should never ever use them. In no way are any of these flattering, and they should never even be considered. But believe it or not, I have heard every one of these used at one time or another.

“Are those space pants? Because your bum is out of this world.”

“You look cold. Want to use me as a blanket?”

“If you were a booger, I’d pick you first.”

“Come feel my coat. You know what that’s made of? Boyfriend material.”

“Is your dad a terrorist? Because you’re the bomb.”

Now that those awful lines are out of my system, it turns out if the right line is used, pleasing results can be earned. But please, if you do decide to take the route that includes a pickup line, do it tastefully. Dish it out with a good sense of humor and a confident, yet playful attitude. Don’t be too serious! Remember, this is just to break the ice.

Anyone who thinks someone will fall for their wooing cliché needs to get a clue. To really land a date, lines have got to be delivered in just the right way. Always have good conversation to back it up.

After all of this, I still believe the best pickup line is five letters long.

“Hello.”

Accounting

From Page 3

“Having these hires was very big for us,” Waltham said. “It is nice to have new members who bring a lot to the table. That is what we’re looking for.”

There are members of the department who are from different countries, and Chris Skousen, a professor in the school of accountancy, said this a big help overall. “We have an absolutely outstanding international faculty,” Skousen said. “It has really helped the school achieve the rankings it did, and they constantly bring new ideas to the table.”

USU has one of the smaller business schools in the country, but Aoki said just because the school is smaller than others doesn’t mean it acts small.

“Because of our school size, the School of Business is not normally recognized as a growing school,” Aoki said. “But having the

Bluezone

From Page 6

disconnected,” Reeve said.

This type of problem happens most commonly in classrooms where 50 or 60 devices try to connect to an access point nearby, Reeve said.

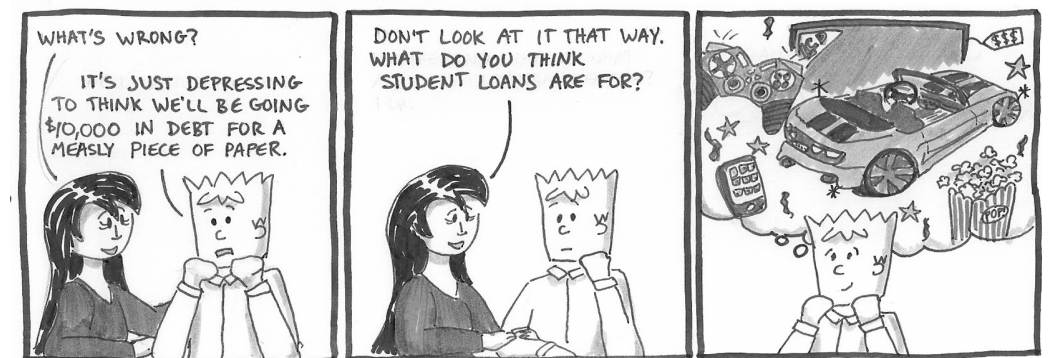
“Sometimes those devices are still in your pocket but still alive and still connect to the wireless access point,” Reeve said. “You can help by turning the Wi-Fi off on your devices when not in use.”

With such a huge change in the usage of the Wi-Fi, there’s not enough bandwidth to accommodate all the electronic devices on campus. However, there is a solution to the problem.

“We recognized last year that the current wireless system, while only 3 years old, needed to be replaced to keep up with the demand,” said Eric Hawley, associate vice president for information technology and chief information officer. “We started the process to find a more robust wireless system that can better accommodate the rapidly-growing number of wireless devices and support the newest wireless technologies.”



All But Dead • sarah.a@aggiemail.usu.edu



— Chelsea Hunter is a junior majoring in print journalism with a minor in finance. Being the oldest in her family, she’s familiar with giving advice, and her friends often come to her about their relationships. Keep the questions and experiences coming to hunter.chelsesa92@gmail.com

rankings come is making people become more aware of us as a strong business school.”

Walther said the School of Business will continue to be recognized and hopefully drive more nationally-prominent professors to join the school.

“With these rankings, we hope that professors and experts across the country see this as a perfect opportunity to join a growing school,” Walther said.

Aoki said another reason the rankings are high is the future addition of Huntsman Hall, which will open in fall 2015. She said she believes without the donation of Jon Huntsman, the building would not have been possible.

“With everything that is going on, this is going to be a welcome addition to the campus,” Aoki said. “This will most likely be the single thing that helps put Utah State over the top as a world-renowned business school.”

— connor.comeau@aggiemail.usu.edu
Twitter: @Connor_Comeau

After an extensive trial-and-error process, the university has chosen a new system and has started working to replace the entire wireless network, Hawley said. USU is making an investment of \$1.5 million to upgrade the wireless system.

“This will not be a simple upgrade,” said Kevin Grover, USU networking team coordinator. “We are not just going in and pulling the old access points out and putting new ones in their place. We are going through every building, looking at the high demand areas, checking wireless coverage patterns in every room and re-engineering where every access point will go. We expect this effort will result in more access points, and better coverage for everyone.”

Reeve said the network replacement will not happen overnight, but the IT team is committed to getting it in and operational as soon as possible.

“We plan to start the upgrade in high demand areas, like the business building, Old Main, and the library,” Reeve said. “The engineering of the new system is happening now, and we will start installing as soon as we can.”

— marissa.needley@aggiemail.usu.edu

Freshman

From Page 5

Fieldhouse at least four times a week, something she believes helps her the most.

Jared Liechti, coordinator for the Nelson Fieldhouse and the Health, Physical Education and Recreation building, said he doesn’t think most freshmen realize what opportunities are available to them.

“My advice to them would be to just come in, find out what there is and take advantage of it,” Liecht said. “All you need is your student ID, and you have full access to the equipment.”

The Fieldhouse and the HPER are only just the beginning for students attending USU, Cannon said.

“I really feel that the school provides a ton of different ways for students to stay active,” Cannon said. “All you have to do is get involved. Take a lot of P.E. classes and enjoy the great outdoors that surround us.”

Aaron Montgomery, a sophomore studying business and finance, said he advises new freshmen to take at least one physical education class every semester and to find other ways to stay active.

“One of my favorite things to do was get out and play some pickup basketball games with my roommates,” he said.

But when it comes to staying in shape and keeping off the pounds, Barney said there is more to it than just being active.

“Eating right, you have to stay away from fatty foods,” he said. “I know it can be hard, but you just have to find the right balance and make sure that you are eating enough of the healthy foods.”

Although he is not worried about gaining weight, Barney said he is not surprised to hear that freshman tend to gain weight.

“I see a lot of idleness and way too many late-night food runs,” he said. “That kind of behavior adds up before you know it.”

“I really tried to stay away from fast food,” Cannon said of his freshman year. “I ate smaller portions and I limited my snacking.”

Cannon said his habits were shaped by a limited budget.

“I was too poor to gain weight,” he said. “Really though, my budget was pretty slim when it came to groceries.”

Shalai Matagi, a freshman majoring in sociology, is trying to make sure she eats smart while being on a university meal plan.

“The meal plan might not be the healthiest choice because, after all, it is buffet-style, so you almost feel like you have to eat more,” Matagi said. “But I am staying conscious of how much I eat, and I have really been trying to stay away from deserts.”

Along with trying to maintain a balanced diet, Matagi is making sure she gets the most out of her freshman experience by staying involved on campus.

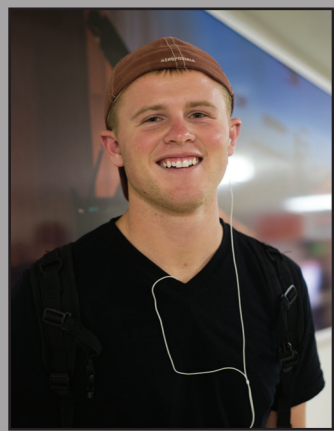
“In high school I was on dance company and the volleyball team, and now I am an ambassador and am still trying to stay involved in any way that I can,” she said. “My favorite activity would probably have to be playing on a dodgeball team on campus.”

Whether students are new freshmen or seasoned seniors, Cannon said keeping off those unwanted pounds has never been easier with all the resources, equipment and facilities available to students.

“Know what your surroundings are, and take advantage of it,” he said. “We live in such a beautiful area with so much around us. Make friends with people who are active and enjoy this great time of your life.”

—jared.dangerfield22@gmail.com

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Today is Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013. Today's issue of The Utah Statesman is published especially for Mitchell Nichols, a sophomore majoring in community health from American Fork, Utah.

Almanac

Today in History: In 1862, Confederate and Union troops in the Civil War clashed near Maryland's Antietam Creek in the bloodiest one-day battle in American history.
The Battle of Antietam marked the culmination of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the Northern states. Guiding his Army of Northern Virginia across the Potomac River, the general divided his men, sending half of them, under the command of General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, to capture the Union garrison at Harper's Ferry.

Weather

High: 79° Low: 48°
Skies: Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and a chance of rain in the afternoon. Breezy. Gusts up to 30 mph. Chance of rain 20 percent.
Record high: 89° (1981)
Low: 31° (1965)

TheUSU Back Burner

TuesSeptember 17

- Course withdrawals show as a W on transcript
- Classes Added by Petition Only (Charged \$100 late fee)
- CAAS Day on the Patio, TSC Patio 10-1 p.m.
- Group Meditation, TSC 335 3-4 p.m.
- The Magic of Food and Fitness, TSC Ballroom 7 p.m.
- Learn to Swim Registration, HPER All Day
- Stress Management and Wellness, TSC 310 4-5:30 p.m.

WedSeptember 18

- Course withdrawals show as a W on transcript
- Classes Added by Petition Only (Charged \$100 late fee)
- National Anthem Auditions, Spectrum 10-12 p.m.
- Organic Produce Stand, TSC Patio 11-2 p.m.
- Health Professions Orientation Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- Common Hour: Utah's Climate Symphony, Ag Science 101 11:30-12:45 p.m.
- Ecology Center Seminar Series, ENG 103 6-7 p.m.
- Volleyball vs. Boise State, Spectrum 7-9 p.m.

ThursSeptember 19

- Course withdrawals show as a W on transcript
- Classes Added by Petition Only (Charged \$100 late fee)
- Learn to Swim Registration, HPER All Day
- True Aggie Night, Quad, midnight
- Note Taking and Textbook Annotations, TSC 315A 10-11 a.m.
- Organic Produce Stand, TSC Patio 11-2 p.m.
- Joy of Depression, TSC 310B 11:30-1 p.m.
- Internship Q&A, Library 154 3-4 p.m.
- CAAS Awards and Honors Banquet, TSC Ballroom 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Ecology Center Seminar Series, ENG 103 4-5 p.m.
- 19th Annual Leonard J. Arrington Mormon History Lecture, 7-8 p.m.

FriSeptember 20

- Classes Added by Petition Only (Charged \$100 late fee)
- National Parking Day, All Day
- Tractor Parade, 10:20 a.m.
- Evan's Biography and Handcart Awards Ceremony, Haight Alumni Center 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- Democracy Interrupted:Constructing a Food Etopie on Top of Crumbling Foundations, AGS 101 3 p.m.
- Dallin Wengert Fundraiser: Country Swing Dancing, TSC Ballroom 9 p.m.

FYI:

Want a **free workout**? Come to our Women's Only Hour in HPER 109, every Friday at 10:30 a.m. Available for employees and students.

USU Athletics are holding **auditions for the National Anthem** at athletic events. Auditions are Sept 16 at 6 p.m. and Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. in the Champ Room on the third floor of the Spectrum.

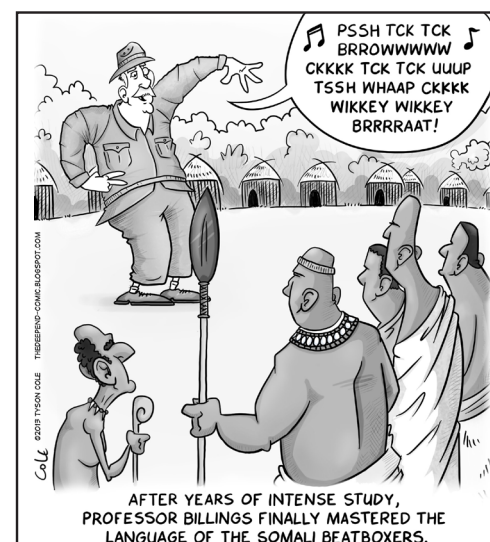
Come enjoy pizza and learn how you can enjoy a **policy internship**. Ask past interns about their experiences and learn what kind of internships interest you. Make some great connections for internships in the future. In Library 154 at 3 p.m. on Sept 19.

Come make a splash with the **USU Collegiate 4-H Club**. Swimming, food and fun at Crystal Hot Springs on Sept. 25 from 5:30- 8:30 p.m. This is event is free for all USU students. Bring your friends and get to know Collegiate 4-H. 8215 Utah 38 Honeyville, UT 84314. Questions? Contact Cassie at breedingca@gmail.com

Panel event discussing the **Future of Higher Education** will be held in TSC Auditorium at 11:30 a.m. on Oct. 11. Panelists include: Sen. Urquhart (R-St. George), Ann Millner and Doug Fiefia.

Come see what USU students who traveled to Norway this past summer created in the **Norway Travel Abroad Exhibit**. Located in Gallery 102 of the Chase Fine Arts Center, this exhibit will be full

Argyle Sweater• Universal



of pieces inspired by the students' experience. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 10 -4 p.m. and is free and open to the public. An opening reception will be held on Oct. 4 at 5 p.m.

Guitarist John Scofield is coming to USU to perform on Oct. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Morgan Theatre. Scofield toured and recorded with Miles Davis from 1982 - 1985 and has recorded over 30 albums as a leader. He is an adjunct professor of music at New York University and tours the world 200 days of the year.

More Calendar and FYI listings, Interactive Calendar and Comics at

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