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Students added to courtyard conversation

► **By Amanda Grover**
staff writer

The renovation project to the Kent Concert Hall entrance courtyard has led to a design competition for landscape architecture students.

Sam Taylor, a junior in landscape architecture, ran a petition to save the trees in the courtyard prior to the construction starting mid-October. He said it was a big piece of the courtyard's integrity and had the added benefit of energy savings for the building from the shade.

"Some people think the petition was a failure, but it was actually pretty successful in enacting some change," Taylor said.

Through the petition process, Taylor met with Caine College of the Arts dean Craig Jessop and faculty also expressed concern. Jessop arranged with USU facilities to save the trees.

There was broad public interest in the space, and the deans of the arts college and the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences wanted to involve students more. Construction began on the architectural aspect of the building, but the courtyard is being left alone for now.

As a result, they are hosting a courtyard design competition. David Evans, coordinator of the competition, said both colleges donated cash awards to go to the top four designs, with a grand prize of \$1,750. The grand prize winner's design will also be implemented, and they will the opportunity to work with the landscape architect for the project.

Entries are due Dec. 9 and will be reviewed by a jury directly involved in the project, according to Evans. The entries will be narrowed to a short list, and the competitors will be able to produce additional work to present to the jury to sell their design in January.

"It's getting the student involvement and going to yield a very high end, quality result," Taylor said.

The designs are difficult and a lot of work, according to Taylor. There are a lot of things people want to see the courtyard space used for, and applicants must consider the biology associated to work around roots of trees.

Evans was worried students would not participate with the short notice and finals coming up. However, the information meeting room was packed. They expect between 30-40 applicants.

"Students seem really excited to have an opportunity to compete for a real-world project that could become a really important portfolio item and set someone's career on a good path," Evans said.



Taylor Murray photo

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS stand in the courtyard being redesigned with the help of landscape architecture majors.

Jessop hosted commissions that invited faculty to weigh in on highest goals and objectives for redesign of courtyard throughout several half-day sessions prior to the competition, Evans said.

Competitors were provided with the list of these project goals and objectives, and they have made efforts to ensure no competitor is disadvantaged, Evans said. The entries are anonymous in the first round, and any answers to questions asked of the coordinator are sent to the lists of applicants, he added.

There is no set budget for the courtyard design competition.

However, designs will be judged off feasibility, according to Evans. Once a winner is selected, there will be a cost estimate and the university will begin raising money. It may be built in phases.

"We see courtyard as the heart of fine arts, for the university and the whole logan community," Evans said. "There will be a sense of real student involvement. I hope we can find a way to do more of it."

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In brief

Campus & Community

USU-built instruments headed for space station

Two Miniature Orbital Temperature References instruments — MOTRs — built by Utah State University Research Foundation's Space Dynamics Laboratory were successfully launched Nov. 25 and are heading to the International Space Station.

The instruments will test a technology critical for maintaining accurate calibration of the space-based temperature sensors used for many satellite programs.

The MOTR instruments were carried in the Progress 53 cargo vehicle which lifted off on a Soyuz rocket at 1:53 (MST) Nov. 25 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan and is scheduled to dock with the International Space Station Nov. 29 when the MOTR instruments will undergo further testing.

Asparagus researchers assemble for symposium

The asparagus plant is just one of many vegetables, but there is one Utah State University professor who has built much of his research around this one plant.

College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences CAAS professor, Daniel Drost, is a leader in asparagus research, and is among other specialists from around the globe who gathered recently at the 13th International Asparagus Symposium.

"My wife says that you can only look at asparagus so much before it kind of bores you," Drost said. "[I say], 'well no I don't think so.' We [researchers] get together and that's what we do. We start talking about asparagus at breakfast, and when we go to bed at night, we're still talking about asparagus."

► **Compiled from staff and media reports**

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Grad student gets influential space studies fellowship

► **By Danielle Manley**
assistant news editor

She's a woman of many talents — scientist, physicist, engineer and theorist. Padmashri Suresh was recently chosen to complete a prestigious fellowship with the National Academies, an organization employing the best of the best across the world and throughout many areas of study.

An international student, Suresh came to USU from India in fall 2008 to complete her master's degree. Suresh is now finishing her Ph.D. in electrical engineering, specifically studying space instrumentation and physics.

Following in the footsteps of her mentor, adviser and professor Charles Swenson, Suresh is interested in working in space exploration policy, which is her link to the fellowship. Swenson is an experimental space scientist working in spacecraft systems and

engineering at USU.

"There's the actual science and engineering and doing it, and then there's the administration of it, or policy," Swenson said.

Swenson has worked with NASA doing policy reviews since 1992, almost as long as he started teaching at USU in 1991. Scientists working in policy ponder questions dealing with the future of the aerospace program and how it affects the global society.

"I like looking at big picture," Suresh said. "That's one of the reasons I'm doing this fellowship at the academies is to look at the big picture of the space industry as a whole. That's one of the career options, to do space policy, to see how could my research impact the society."

Attending the Christine Mirzayan Science and



SURESH

Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship next semester in Washington, D.C., Suresh will be working with the most elite professionals in her field.

"Academies is like the premier organization, which advises the nation as a whole on matters like engineering and science and medicine," Suresh said. "What happens is you have the creme de la creme of each field that get elected as members of the academies, and that's considered the most prestigious thing. You have the most distinguished

scientists getting elected by their peers to do this."

The important players in the fields of science and technology come to the academies for advice on big

► See **BIG**, Page 4

Business school expansion to open 2015

► **By Marissa Neeley**
staff writer

Huntsman Hall, projected to open fall 2015, will provide much-needed space for current Aggies and students to come.

Despite some setbacks in getting permit approvals, the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business would like to meet the 2015 deadline, according to Joe Beck, architect for USU facilities.

"We took advantage of the summer weather as much as we could, but because the permits were not ready yet, we were not allowed to pour concrete until they were," Beck said.

The old building, still in use, was dedicated in 1970 — 43 years ago.

"Enrollment has grown tremendously in 43 years," said Dave Patel, assistant dean of external affairs for the Huntsman School of Business. "There hasn't been enough room in decades."

There will be 21 new classrooms and 21 new meeting rooms in the new building, with the smallest classroom's capacity at 50 and the largest room's capacity at 80, Patel said.

What those from the business school are the most proud of are the 21 meeting rooms, Patel said. There are so many team projects and there isn't space for them to work. With the new building, there will be real space for collaborating.

"Between the two buildings, most classes will be business classes, so students don't have to traipse

across campus," Patel said.

The building is partially funded by USU's facilities and construction management departments and the business school, Beck said.

"The money from both these entities is to pay for the entire structure as well as some audio/visual, furniture, IT, as well as remodels to the existing building that are required because of the new connections being made between the two buildings," Beck said.

The official contract for the building is \$42 million, Patel said. Utah taxpayers are paying \$14 million, and the rest is had to be fundraised for the 117,000 square-foot building.

"My guess is that it will end up costing more than \$42 million," Patel said.

Patel said donations are the result of relationships over time with 27,000 known business alumni. They keep in touch with these alumni through the magazines the business school puts out and the website.

"Our message to the community is however you can help, we love your help," Patel said.

"We are humbled by the support that has been given," he said. "Support comes from the great work of students and faculty."

"I am so excited for the new building," said Steve Mortenson, business senator for the Huntsman School of Business. "So many people have been kind in helping fund this building through donations. It is going to be huge for students. New classrooms, new study rooms, a cafe and the best view of the valley will all be available to students.



Nick Carpenter photo

A CRANE looms over the construction for the new addition to the business building, which is due to open doors in fall 2015.

This building is a great outward expression of the progress that the school of business is making internally."

A&E Diversions

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Aggie Health club raises money for Shriners children's hospital through candy grams sale

► **By Mariah Noble**
staff writer

Aggie Health will sell candy grams Tuesday to raise money for the Salt Lake City branch of Shriners Hospitals for Children. Students, faculty and staff members can buy candy or soda and send it to others on campus, according to Kellie Shelton, a junior majoring in English technical writing and member of the Aggie Health organization.

"The dollar you spend goes directly to Shriners Hospital just before the holiday season," Shelton said. "While it's always nice to do service, I think it's an especially good thing to remember during the holidays when so many people are sick or without loved ones."

The club has sold candy grams each Wednesday for the past few weeks, but Tuesday will be the last day of sales, said Caleb Carroll, the club's director and a junior majoring in political science.

Carroll said students who want to send candy grams should come to the group's booth on Wednesday in the basement of the Taggart Student Center between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. to select which items they want to send.

"Soda is a dollar, or you can get two candies for a dollar or four candy canes for a dollar," Carroll said. "Everything is a dollar."

He said those who send the candy grams can include a personalized message with the item. The name and phone number of the recipient is given to Aggie Health, and the organization then sends a text message to the person receiving the candy gram, letting them know they can pick up the gift.

Those who have received text messages in the past few weeks but were unable to collect their item may do so any time on Tuesday, Carroll said. Nearly half of the candy grams that have been sent so far were sent anonymously.

"I've always had fun anonymously sending



Samantha Behl photo

MAEGAN KASTELER, recruitment chair for the USU service center, helps organize and craft candy grams as part of the Aggie Health fundraiser for Salt Lake City's branch of Shriners Hospitals for Children.

and receiving small gifts or notes," Shelton said. "It's an easy way to make someone's day a bit more fun and helps me be more thankful for all the good people in my life."

Brandon Woodward, a junior majoring in marketing, said he has enjoyed sending candy grams.

"It just makes people very happy," Woodward said. "It makes your day. It can make other people's day, and it just spreads Christmas cheer."

Carroll said he has enjoyed this project because it benefits not only those in the hospital but also those who send and receive the candy grams. He said he hopes lots of students will get involved.

"Lots of people who go to college, we've

had very blessed lives," Carroll said. "We've identified a group of people who aren't having the easiest times currently, and I think it's important to help those less fortunate than we are. This fundraiser is a way to do it."

Carroll said he hopes the fundraiser will expand in the future with more items and participation and become an annual event.

"Overall we'll probably make about \$350, which I think is good because it's the first time we've ever done it," Carroll said. "But I hope that future directors will continue to do it so we'll make more money each year and people will become more aware."

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Christmas traditions are most common at USU, but diversity still exists this season

► **By Gillian Ponce**
staff writer

Christmas is a holiday celebrated around the world — by Christians. It is a remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ and a reflection on the three wise men who brought him gifts. This is where the symbolism of receiving presents on Christmas comes from. However, it is not the only holiday celebrated during the month of December, and there are many other religions that celebrate different holidays during this time.

The Jewish people, for example,

celebrate Hanukkah; an eight-day holiday celebrating the miracle that occurred during the fight between the Jewish people known as Maccabees and the Greeks. The Maccabees won the battle, but when they arrived at the sacked temple, only one day's worth of oil for their menorah was found. Miraculously, the supply lasted for eight days — enough time to collect more oil.

Because the celebration is focused on the miracle of oil, the Jewish people eat food high in oil, such as potato pancakes — called latkes —

and jelly donuts. In America and other countries outside of Israel, gifts are given throughout the eight days.

A candle is lit every night on the menorah, a candelabra with eight candles — one for each day the oil lasted — and play a game with a top called a dreidel. The top has a square body. Each face of the dreidel has a Hebrew

letter, the first of each word that together makes the phrase "A great miracle happened there." Each

letter tells the spinner to do a different thing, and individuals play with a collected

of something — often pennies, chocolate or other small treasures.

► See **TRADITONS**, Page 4

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Are the holidays the right time to take that special someone home?

Chelsea Hunter



Consider yourself subscribed

The holiday season is upon us and brings traditions and memories with friends and family. But it also makes us start to think seriously about the state of our new relationship. Should you bring them home and include them in family and holiday festivities?

If the relationship is just starting out, I think it's important to let the person you're dating know they are on your mind during the holiday season, but don't be too hasty to bring them home during this time centered around family. It may mean you want them to join the family, and unless you're ready to consider that, don't consider bringing them home with you. If you haven't been dating long, chances are you'll bring a different guest around next year.

Before you jump into anything, you should first question in your head how committed you are to each other. Ask yourself if he or she is really that serious about you and answer honestly before you decide to subject your family and them to such a meeting. If one or both of you is dating other people, the automatic answer should be no. If you're not at all sure about the whole thing, err on the side of just spending the time with you and your family.

Also, how formal is your family? If your family is open and non-traditional, you shouldn't sweat

the decision. But if your family takes you bringing someone home as a serious commitment, it will undoubtedly take more thought. It will be a big deal, and everyone involved will need to be prepared.

You should prepare your new boyfriend or girlfriend for any surprises concerning your family that will be different from what they're used to. It will help if they expect the overly racist grandma or sarcastic uncle, so they won't be offended at the constant jokes directed at them and can prevent offending grandma in the process.

When telling them about your family, be sure to tell them about any traditions or rituals your family has. Also, tell them if there's any special seating arrangements — for example, if the parents sit at the head of the table or young children eat in a special area. Never ever sit in dad or grandpas favorite chair: He may hold a grudge for years.

Before leaving for your destination, always discuss sleeping arrangements before anything else. Understand that maybe your boyfriend or girlfriend may not want to spend the night in your parents' or family's home. Be sure to make arrangements before you leave: This way, you're both clear about the plans.

Most importantly, once you get there make sure you take the time to introduce your guest. It's easy to forget when you may have been away from your family for a while, but this can make or break the experience for your boyfriend or girlfriend. There's nothing worse than being

► See **CHELSEA**, Page 4

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FOOTBALL

Bridger's rifle claimed: Aggies beat Wyoming, head to Fresno State for Mountain West Conference title game



Delayne Ripplinger photo

QUARTERBACK DARELL GARRETSON scans the field for an open receiver during USU's 35-7 win over Wyoming on Saturday at Romney Stadium.

► **By Curtis Lundstrom**
sports editor

Heading into the final week-end of the regular season, the mission at hand was simple: Win and you're in.

The Utah State football team did just that, downing Wyoming 35-7 in the first-ever "Bridger's Battle" on Saturday to earn a spot in the inaugural Mountain West Conference championship game.

"I don't know where to start except to praise those players," said USU head coach Matt Wells. "It's been a long but short road since the Boise State game. These kids put their blinders on and shut out all the noise from the outside to rally together. Today was just another testament to that, and I'm just so proud of them."

The Aggies wasted little time putting the Cowboys in a hole,

jumping out to a 21-0 halftime lead.

Quarterback Darell Garretson teamed up with fellow freshman Wyatt Houston on a 6-yard touchdown to get USU on the board, and Bruce "JoJo" Natson doubled the lead in the second quarter with a 64-yard punt return for a touchdown.

Natson recorded his second touchdown of the game on a 6-yard pass from Garretson. It was the second of three 6-yard touchdowns for Garretson, who found also found wide receiver Brandon Swindall for a 35-0 lead in the third quarter.

"I think the offense played a good game today," said running back Joey DeMartino. "We're still a little shaky in some areas, myself included. We just really wanted to come out and put on a good show today and get this win for the home crowd and

our seniors. When we look at the film we'll always find something we can fix, but looking back right now, I think we had a good game."

DeMartino finished the day with 112 yards rushing and a touchdown to put him over the 1,000 yard mark for the season. He became the 17th player in school history to reach the plateau and gave USU its third straight season with a 1,000-yard rusher.

"It's really not an individual accomplishment to me. It's my linemen up front with the push," DeMartino said. "It definitely feels good. It's a dream come true. It's a tradition here left by Robert Turbin, Kerwynn Williams and Michael Smith. I hope it just keeps continuing on. I'm glad to be a part of it. I'm grateful. I'm blessed to be in the position I'm in."

On the defensive side of the

ball, USU held Wyoming to 190 total yards of offense and kept the Cowboys off the scoreboard on both of their red zone trips.

"All three phases did things well at times, but I thought the defense was exceptional," Wells said. "Bottom line is that it's the best defense in the Mountain West. They proved it again and again and again this afternoon. Defense wins championships: Everybody says that, especially late in the year. Being able to run the ball, be great in special teams and play exceptional defense, and we did all three of those today and found a way to win. It's unbelievable."

With the win, the Aggies improved to 8-4 overall and 7-1 in the MWC to earn a date with No. 24 Fresno State to determine the conference winner.

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SPECIAL FEATURES

From student to Nike President: USU alumnus climbed ladder

► **By Ben Kirk**
staff writer

One would imagine an interview with Charlie Denson, president of Nike Brand, would take place in some high-tech room or security-guarded area. But for Denson, an open table in the middle of the second floor of the Merrill-Cazier Library was just fine.

Born and raised in the college town of Corvallis, Ore., Denson was a fan of the Oregon State Beavers. The oldest of four kids, Denson had opportunities to grow and also enjoy a normal childhood. Looking back at his early years, Denson said he had fond memories.

"We would go to school, work at the family business in the summer and play sports all year long," Denson said.

That love for sports eventually landed Denson at Mount Hood Junior College, where he played football. But that was no easy task.

"When I graduated from high school, I was pretty small," Denson said. "I actually grew about 4 inches and put on 35 pounds in college."

Working hard, and thanks to an opportune growth spurt, Denson helped his team to an undefeated season during his sophomore year. Mount Hood ended the season ranked No. 2 nationally.

Once again, opportunity arose as team members began to receive scholarship offers to play Division

I football. Terry Shea, who was Denson's position coach, received a job offer to be one of the coaches at USU. Although he couldn't offer him a scholarship, Shea invited Denson to walk on at Utah State.

"I didn't even know where Logan was," Denson said. "But that was my ambition. I really wanted to play Division I football."

So Denson decided to take the chance. After lots of time spent in the gym and on the football field, things worked out again as Denson earned a scholarship the following spring to play free safety.

"When I got to Utah State I realized how big and how fast everybody was, and knowing that at the pro level they were even bigger and faster, and there comes a time when you have to deal with reality," he said.

But Denson took full advantage of his time in Logan. Not only did Denson learn from sports, but also earned a bachelor's degree in business administration.

"It was a great opportunity," Denson said. "I learned a lot in athletics and I'm a big fan of athletics as a classroom. It's interesting all the parallels I have found between sport, business and life in general. Competitiveness, teamwork and preparation, to name a few."

After college, the doors continued to open for Denson. He ran into a long time family friend who tried to convince Denson to start working for a new and growing company.



Photo courtesy Utah State Today

CHARLIE DENSON, President of Nike Brand and USU alumnus, has been actively involved with the university.

Nike, named after the Greek goddess of victory, was in its early years of development.

"I had heard of the company and in fact had purchased several pairs while in high school and college," Denson said. "He asked me if I would be interested in a job, but the idea of attaching my fragile career plan to a small company run by a bunch of ex-jocks was not something I thought was a good idea."

But eventually, Denson decided to try it out.

Starting in retail and through more hard work and taking given opportunities, Denson eventually became president of Nike Brand.

"34 years later I have lived and

traveled all over the world, been to every major sporting event there is, met and worked with some of the smartest, most creative people on the planet," Denson said. "I've met with presidents, prime ministers and world leaders, and call some of the greatest athletes of our time close friends."

Denson will step down as president of Nike Brand in January. He said family played a big role in the decision.

"I have never missed track meets and cross-country meets and parent-teacher conferences, but I just want to spend more time with my 12 and 15-year-old boys," Denson said. "I don't like to say I'm retiring because I'm not ready to retire and love my job and will continue to work in another position, but I'm at a point in time in my life where that needs to be my priority."

Since becoming president of Nike Brand, Denson has given a lot back to USU. Being a member of the National Advisory Board for Aggie Athletics, Denson suggested to USU Athletic Director Scott Barnes that USU should be rebranded. With the help of Denson and Nike, everything came together. In April 2012, USU unveiled its new logo and new Nike uniforms.

"Charlie brought it up," Barnes said. "It wasn't a big priority for us at the time, but Charlie made it all happen, and the outcome was great."

"He's just a genuine, approachable

guy. His family is important to him. Considering his position, he's obviously a smart a skilled leader. But visiting with him, you'd never think he's the president of Nike because he's just so humble and real."

Apart from helping USU Athletics, Denson has been actively involved in the business school and even was the commencement speaker for at the graduation ceremonies in May 2013.

"But I don't like doing the big speech pieces," Denson said. "I'd much rather just interact with the students and spend time with them."

He took time to talk about his journey from a boy to USU to president of one of the most well-known companies around the world.

"When I talk to students, they seem to think that they have to jump into a career right away," Denson said. "I would just advise everybody to keep all your options open and follow your passion. Do what you enjoy, and it will create a lot of opportunities for you in the years to come."

At the close of the interview, hands shook and Denson went on his way. As Denson departed, a student could be heard asking, "Who was that?"

The thought was entertaining: To think that there in the library amongst the students, the president of Nike Brand was casually visiting, and no one even knew who he was.

— benjamin.jacob.kirk@aggiemail.usu.edu

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Josh Larisch photo

IN ADDITION TO THE CHRISTIAN CELEBRATIONS, USU is home to many different religious and holiday traditions.

Traditions

From Page 2

Based on the letter they land on, each player takes objects out of a pot or puts one of their own items into it. When one person has the entire pot, or if the time runs out, the game ends.

Kwanzaa is traditionally celebrated by African Americans and, according to the University of Pennsylvania, began in 1966 as a ritual to welcome the first harvests home. It was a big festival and has many similarities to Thanksgiving. Five common sets of values are central to the activities of the week: ingathering, reverence, commemoration, recommitment and celebration. The seven principles of Kwanzaa utilize Kiswahili words for unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. Each of seven lit candles signifies one of

the principles, and like the Jewish Hanukkah, candles are used to represent concepts of the holiday.

There isn't a holiday like Christmas in India, but the people do celebrate Diwali in November.

"It's a festival of lights and the triumph of good over bad and light over darkness," said Aditya Chauhan, a USU freshman from India. "It is celebrated in November, typically the first week. The Indian people put candles in rivers as a show of the triumph of good over evil, and, of course, eat lots of food."

Many countries celebrate Boxing Day in addition to Christmas. Boxing Day is a week-long celebration where everything goes on sale after the holidays. It is traditionally the day following Christmas Day, when servants and tradesmen would receive gifts from their bosses or employers, known as a "Christmas box".

Whatever the holiday traditions celebrated, The Utah Statesman extends the warmest of wishes to all Aggies this season.

Big

From Page 1

world issues. Suresh and 19 of her peers were elected across fields of study to shadow the process.

"You have NASA who come to them and say, 'We have a problem, could you advise us on how to go about this?'" Suresh said. "Because they as technical people know the technical merits of something they're doing, but they also need to think about the big picture. How does this impact the society? How

does this impact maybe the legislation of the country? Then you have international relations."

Suresh was elected to shadow the space studies board. Her 19 colleagues will study engineering and medicine as well.

"They're like the think tank that tell them how to go about doing this," she said. "We, 20 of us who are selected as the Mirzayan fellows, get to see how this happens."

Suresh originally applied for a college internship and was surprised to be referred to this one instead. The majority selected for the Christine Mirzayan Fellowship

have already earned degrees and finished their Ph.D.

"Initially when I heard about this, I said, 'Are you sure I should be doing this? Because I'm still in school.' I was so nervous, to be honest. Just the fact that I'm going to go there and meet some of these people is something I'm so excited about."

Suresh said the professionals training her are celebrities in her field.

"These people who I have looked up to forever — to know that I'll be sitting in a room with them, listening to them, talking

with them," she said. "I hope I just don't sit there with my mouth open. I don't know what I'm going to do."

Aside from the work she'll do in policy in Washington, D.C., Suresh is doing hands-on research for her dissertation about the way solar activity affects the earth's atmosphere.

"The sun is active and quiet," she said. "It has this periodic and episodic activity where it gets really active and you have these auroras, which are the northern lights. You have that, but apart from having this pretty show put up at the poles where you can see this beautiful thing in the sky, it affects the atmosphere."

She said it affects things like GPS and telecommunications signals. Canada once went without power for three days because of a solar storm.

"If the sun is really active, it might not just be Canada. It might be hitting Utah depending on the activity," Suresh said. "You don't want to come across the situation where we have to go without power."

She's also working with satellite instruments to measure the solar activity and temperature in the earth's outer atmosphere. Small, handheld satellites called CubeSats are affordable and can link together to see 3-D images in space.

"Because they're so cheap you can have a string of them together," she said. "So you get real 3-D images, literally the Holy Grail of space physics, able to see it from all different places at the same time."

Swenson said Suresh is working with interesting data sets to understand the atmosphere and CubeSats. She may be one of the leaders with the technology in the future.

"The hope is that within the next 10 years, we'll be flying constellations of those satellites," Swenson said. "She may very well be one of the lead people understanding the thermosphere and how it responds."

He said the fellowship will open up many opportunities for her, and he could see her future dealing with the research and technology of space or working on the policy and administration side of it.

"I think it might open up the possibility for her to go to NASA headquarters," Swenson said. "I've talked with the people there and they're interested in someone like her, and maybe she'll be one of the first postdocs at NASA headquarters, which is something that hasn't happened yet."

- daniellekmanley@gmail.com

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



The Deep End • Tyson Cole



Wonders and Blunders • melissamw89@gmail.com



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FARE-FREE

Chelsea

From Page 2

left standing awkwardly while everyone affectionately welcomes their son or daughter with enthusiasm while others stare at you waiting for you to say something.

Always keep in mind your boyfriend or girlfriend's feelings. Don't just leave them while you go and catch up with your family members. Make sure to include them at all times possible, at least at the beginning while they are still settling in. If they look uncomfortable or a little isolated, it might be a good time to take a walk or drive together, then come back to the gathering.

Whatever you decide, make sure that you're both on the same page in all aspects to avoid any awkward situations that could "break" it instead of "make" the getaway. It's the holiday season, do what's comfortable — no need to add unneeded stress. If both of you aren't confident in this big step, it can't hurt to wait until next year.

- Chelsea Hunter is a junior majoring in print journalism with a minor in finance. Check back after the holiday break for more dating advice and stories, and keep comments coming to hunter.chelsea92@gmail.com.

Views & Opinion

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Letters to the editor

- All letters may be shortened, edited or rejected for reasons of good taste, redundancy or volume of similar letters.
- No anonymous letters will be published. Writers must sign all letters and include a phone number or e-mail address as well as a student identification number (none of which is published). Letters will not be printed without this verification.
- Letters can be hand delivered or mailed to The Statesman in the TSC, Room 311, or can be emailed to: statesmaneditor@aggiemail.usu.edu.

The page

Opinions on this page (columns, letters) unless otherwise identified are **not** from Utah Statesman staff, but from a wide variety of members of the campus community who have strong opinions, just like you. This is an open forum. Want to write something? Contact: statesmaneditor@aggiemail.usu.edu.

erosexuality and stand up for the sanctity of marriage. I just feel that publishing an article that discriminates, talks down to, and otherwise expresses an opinion that is purposed to offend, should not be used in a good establishment such as Utah State University. You too, Mr. Jarvis, would be offended if I wrote an article about the Mountain Meadow Massacre, or African-Americans for over a century being denied the opportunity to have an Eternal Family.

– Cameron A. Mumford

Want more?

Read additional forum letters online
utahstatesman.com

Hate an intolerant view in public

Just a few days before Thanksgiving, The Utah Statesman received and printed a letter to the editor slamming homosexuality that really put me in a tight spot.

As editor-in-chief, I'm responsible for the opinion section. My policy is to print all the letters I receive, especially when I don't agree with them. When I received the letter from Michael Jarvis last week, I really questioned whether or not I should print it at all because it was so inflammatory — it would be a different story if I thought it was satire.

The Society of

Tavin Stucki



From the chief

Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics states one responsibility of reporters and editors is to "support the open exchange of views, even views they find repugnant."

I've made some controversial decisions this semester and complete-

ly understand why some people might think I hate everything that has to do with any population majority or minority at Utah State University, but nothing can summarize my feelings to Jarvis' letter than that line — especially the word "repugnant."

I'm no expert on a great many subjects, societal attitudes being one of them. But I can't help but feel that hate is unacceptable in a modern society: I don't care what reasons people think they may have. I might even go so far as to say I hate hate — a catch-22 if I've ever heard one.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

Though I respect his views and his right to have them, Jarvis' words were silly and distasteful at best.

Jesus Christ, whom Jarvis obviously worships, told his followers to "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

While I don't want to cross into the group of people who will undoubt-

edly persecute and hate Jarvis for his beliefs, his strongly worded letter seems to indicate a level of persecution and hatred toward members of the LGBT community.

If Jarvis wants to end homosexuality — which is doubtful at best — I think he's going about it in entirely the wrong way.

– Tavin Stucki is the editor in chief of The Utah Statesman. His articles have won awards and appeared in numerous news publications throughout Utah. Send any comments to statesmaneditor@aggiemail.usu.edu.

Letters to the editor: your voice

Thoughts on civil discourse

To the editor:

The recent letter in the Statesman by Michael Jarvis was clearly an act of satire, calculated to wound and hurt the the image and good name of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its adherents. The vast majority of members of the LDS Church would find the opinions expressed by Michael Jarvis to be offensive. Those familiar with the LDS Church's current teachings on homosexuality know that Michael's editorial grossly misrepresents the Church's views as well as the views of most of its members.

The Church has an official position on homosexuality: "The experience of same-sex attraction is a complex reality for many people. The attraction itself is not a sin, but acting on it. Even though individuals do not choose to have such attractions, they do choose how to respond to them. With love and understanding, the Church reaches out to all God's children, including our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters."

This topic is one that is emotionally charged for many people. As a diverse community, we need to adopt norms of civil discourse on these subjects. Learning to coexist respectfully with those with whom we disagree should be

a common value, regardless of our diverse opinions, perspectives and backgrounds.

Michael Jarvis' letter, as an effort to misrepresent and malign the views of a large population in the community and in this school, is not example of civil discourse.

I'm sure the Statesman receives many letters that present more measured opinions with more respectful rhetoric, and so I must question the Statesman's motives in printing it. It was not in good taste. I hope that The Statesman will print future editorials and perspectives that more respectfully represents the actual views of the LDS Church and the Latter-day Saint population at USU on these matters.

– Jeffrey Thayne

Thank you Utah Statesman and Mr. Jarvis

To the editor:

The Nov. 27th edition of the USU Statesman has a short letter that falls somewhere between bigoted libel and a faithful statement of "God's Will". This letter is aptly summed by the title, "Homosexuality is a sin." Regardless of your opinion on this charged matter, you're likely to be affected in some way by this man's letter. Personally, I'm quite offended.

So I would like to thank the Utah Statesman for printing that letter.

Too often we only read that which agrees with our predispositions. This is a problem that exists outside of Utah State University as much as it exists within it. Our news feeds are filled with material that caters to our political and social biases. We choose friends who share our morals and interests, and avoid those who do not. We attend only the churches that agree with our religious beliefs.

Hell, even our Pandora stations get a "thumbs down" when they play something mildly unpleasant. This, in my opinion, is a problem.

Here at Utah State University, our goal should be to embrace our own understandings as well as the hard questions, opposing opinions, novel ideas and genuine desire to become better people than we were yesterday. This cannot be accomplished if we discount information that causes conflict within ourselves, and embrace that which requires no reconciliation.

I refuse to say that we must accept the world as it is thrust upon us by others. Rather, we must approach uncomfortable or novel concepts with the intention of becoming better. For example, I outright reject Mr. Jarvis's strongly-stated opinion. This is because his appeal to "our Heavenly Father" as justification seems baseless to me.

At no point does he imply any other authority or even second opinions, other than that of his God and himself. He states no specific examples, but rather generalizes and stereotypes in a way that is too vague for me to take seriously. What he does quite well is inflame and antagonize the general populace. In fact, he does this so well that I am not convinced he really believes his seemingly extreme position.

On those grounds, I reject his appeal.

The purpose of my letter is not to say that we should publish the wild opinions of extremists, but rather that we should protect free speech. We should evaluate other ideas based on their merits and act accordingly, rather than discounting off-handedly those ideas which do not match with our own.

That being said, Mr. Jarvis, I think you are a bigot.

– Kenny Fryar-Ludwig

Discrimination is a sin

To the editor:

I first acknowledge that yes indeed the Letter to the Editor section of Utah Statesman is as you say it, "Opinions not from Utah Statesman staff, but from a wide variety of members

of the campus community who have strong opinions." However, I was extremely disgusted with the Letter to the Editor article, "Homosexuality is a Sin."

I have written several Letter to the Editors in response to several articles in the Utah Statesman, but have not been ever published. So I am not only disgusted, and offended that one of the Letter to the Editor that were published would be such a disgusting, offensive, and rude article on homosexuality.

This article reminded me of Nazi Germany in their campaign that being a Jew was a sin. I am a heterosexual that is very religious, but to openly publish an article that contains phrases such as, "Gay pride is a filthy sin that finds refuge in atheism and intolerance" disturbs me. Your personal ethics may deem that this phrase is a fact, but there is a lot of Anti-Mormon material, specifically historical events, that are based on fact, that although do not nullify the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, still cause discomfort and pain in us.

I venture to say that the comparisons are the same. We do not want other people to share information that they feel are fact in an open and discriminatory fashion, and we should reflect. There are plenty of good ways to promote het-

Nuclear option can only destroy American politics, democracy

Things went nuclear almost two weeks ago in Washington, D.C. when Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Senate Democrats bowled over Republicans in a highly controversial procedural rules change that limits the power of the minority party. The tactic used by Reid, called the nuclear option, required a simple majority vote to pass. By eliminating the use of the filibuster on all presidential nominees except those to the U.S. Supreme Court, Reid and the rest of the Democrats who voted in favor trampled over 200 years of precedence and procedure with contempt.

This is not a partisan issue.

Back in 2005, some Republicans threatened to use the nuclear option when Democrats filibustered Miguel Estrada, who was nominated by President Bush to the D.C. Circuit Court.

"I urge my Republican colleagues not to go through with changing these rules. In the long run, it is not a good result for either party. One day Democrats will be in the majority again, and this rule

Andy Pierucci



From the right

change will be no fairer to a Republican minority than it is to a Democratic minority." Those were the words of then-Sen. Barack Obama in 2005 when some Republicans in the Senate threatened the nuclear option.

Last week in an act of gross hypocrisy, he praised Reid for bringing about necessary changes to the Senate.

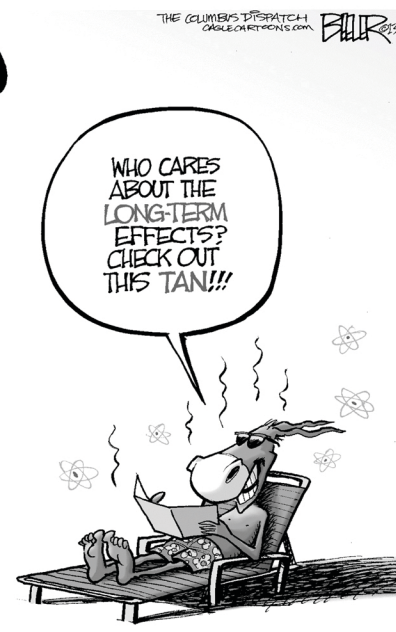
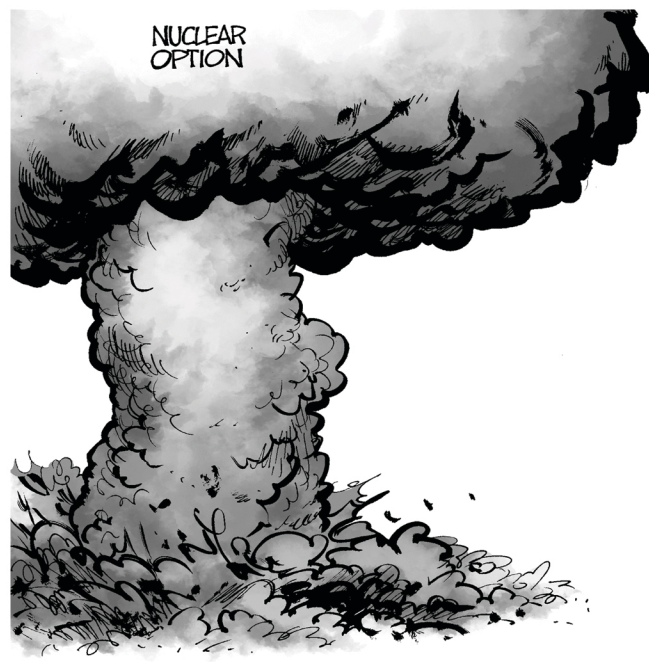
At the heart of the issue are three nominees to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. This is the same court that struck down President Obama's recess appointments. It's the court that can advance or reject much of the president's legislative and regulatory agenda. The court is even-

ly split between Republican and Democratic nominees. President Obama's nominees would provide the court with a liberal majority.

President Obama, Reid and the rest of the Senate Democrats were tired of being defeated. They wanted so-called progress at the cost of compromise. They were willing to drastically change the Senate so they could more easily push their liberal agenda.

When the president appoints nominees, every member who would like to can interview the nominees to determine their suitability for the position. I saw this firsthand last summer when I interned in the office of Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz.

I sat in on a number of meetings with the senator and a variety of presidential nominees. In each meeting the senator would ask the nominee questions pertinent to the position he or she was nominated for. The nuclear option has eliminated the need for this important interview process. Presidential nominees will no longer be accountable to the



entire body of congress, only to the party that nominated them.

The Senate was established as a cooling place for legislation and issues. Senators must work together to have nominations approved or to pass any bills. By employing the nuclear option, Reid and his cronies

have only exacerbated the partisan bickering in Washington, D.C. Reid acted like one of the kids who everyone hated playing with on the playground, the one who changes the rules of a game when losing.

The House is meant to reflect the majority. In the Senate, each individual mem-

ber is supposed to have a voice. The rights of the minority are meant to be protected.

– Andrew is a former news writer for The Utah Statesman and a current member of the USU College Republicans. Send any comments to andypierucci@gmail.com.

30/13
Tuesday
 Mostly cloudy

23/7
Wednesday
 Partly cloudy

22/11
Thursday
 Partly cloudy

25/13
Friday
 Overcast

26/14
Saturday
 Snow showers

Tuesday Dec. 3

- No Test Week
- Art Talk, Library 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Group Meditation, TSC 335 3-4 p.m.
- Utah's 2013 Carnegie Professor of the Year Reception, Haight Alumni Center 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Joyful & Triumphant, Kent Concert Hall 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Wednesday Dec. 4

- No Test Week
- Reliefs: The Art of Woodcuts, Nora Eccles Harri-son Museum of Art, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 4th Annual Swaner Holiday Art Market, Swaner EcoCenter from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Looking at the West, Chase Fine Arts Center 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Bully, TSC Auditorium 4-5:30 p.m.

Thursday Dec. 5

- No Test Week
- The Joy of Depression, TSC 310B 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- CWG Webinar with Dr. Britney Brinkman-Iden-tity Based Bullying, 2-3 p.m.
- Jeff Martin Magic Show, 7-8:30 p.m.

More events online: www.utahstatesman.com/calendar

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013. Today's issue of The Utah Statesman is published especially for Kylee Hopkin, a junior majoring in public relations from Dallas.

Across 1 Brother of Raúl and Juanita 6 Purple candle scent 11 Poetic time reference 14 Tequila source 15 Month in Madrid 16 Sprinkling on French fries? 17 Uses as a reference 18 Many pets 19 For example 20 Calendar entry 21 Kyrgyzstan city 22 Construction beams 24 Julia's "Ocean's Twelve" role 25 Legend of the links 27 Old __, Connecticut 28 "They went __ in a Sieve, they did": Lear 30 Logan of "60 Minutes"	32 Words in a dish 34 Relinquish 36 Jazz double bassist Charlie 40 Web concerns ... and based on six familiar names hidden in rows 1, 4, 12 and 15 of this puzzle grid, what the black squares in those rows symbolize 43 West Texas city 44 Approaching 45 Tiny complaint 46 Uno y dos y tres 48 Migratory birds 50 Oaf 53 Some Staples employees 55 Bear whose bed was too hard 58 Source of much Indian tea	60 Sky light? 61 Pumpkin, e.g. 62 Moo __ pork 63 Graduated series 65 10th-century Holy Roman emperor 66 Mountain end 67 Increases, with "up" 68 "It Wasn't All Velvet" memoirist 69 Diddy ditty 70 Arraignment answers 71 "That's all __, dude": "Not my fault" Down 1 Aspect 2 "Just tell me" 3 Librarian's device 4 Nevertheless 5 Out of concern that 6 Summer quaff	7 Taken 8 More than harmful 9 Works on walls 10 Mozart's " __ fan tulle" 11 David Sedaris work 12 Lack faith in a truce, maybe 13 "Family Ties" mother 23 Space on a form 25 "I want results!" 26 Lawsuit goal 29 " __ Me While I Kiss This Guy": book of mis-heard lyrics 31 Loaded, in Limoges 32 Big club 33 Cyberchuckle 35 Predatory bird 37 Singer and longtime owner of baseball's Angels 38 Sch. 30 miles
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