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## The Utah Statesman, December 5, 2013

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# Shooting beyond the stars

Special infrared telescope USU's Space Dynamics Lab helped build gets a second chance at mapping the heavens

► By David Berg  
staff writer

USU's Space Dynamics Laboratory is preparing to propose a new program that would build on the success of the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer satellite program in partnership with NASA.

After being in hibernation for almost two years, NASA has granted the reactivation and renewed use of the WISE satellite, which had its entire payload developed at SDL.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to reuse our assets," said Amy Mainzer, the principal investigator of the renewed project at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab.

According to Mainzer, the WISE satellite was put into orbit December 2009. It had an initial run of 10 months with the liquid hydrogen supply that kept the instrumentation cooled being exhausted during that time. Instead of being decommissioned, NASA decided to put the satellite into hibernation. With the satellite still functional, the JPL received the reactivation authorization last August.

If all goes well, the satellite will be able to extend its original lifetime well into 2017, Mainzer said. The renewed project will be known as the Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer.

According Mainzer, all looks good so far in the recalibration process. At the current rate of recalibration, conservative estimates for the satellite to be prepared for data collection are for the end of March.

When discussing the importance of this program, Shane Larson, a research associate professor of astronomy working jointly with Northwestern University and USU, said, "The game is about cataloging."

From an astronomer's perspective, the importance of the both the WISE and NEOWISE programs, is its ability to look at the universe in infrared wavelengths, according to Larson. Infrared is light that doesn't have enough energy to be seen by the human eye.

To view in the infrared, satellites need to be kept extremely cold, according to Larson. The WISE satellite was kept cooled with a cryostat using liquid hydrogen, which stays a liquid at temperatures just above absolute zero, or -460 degrees Fahrenheit. The cryostat was part of the payload developed at the Space Dynamics Laboratory.

Larson said some items in space can only be observed through the use of infrared instru-

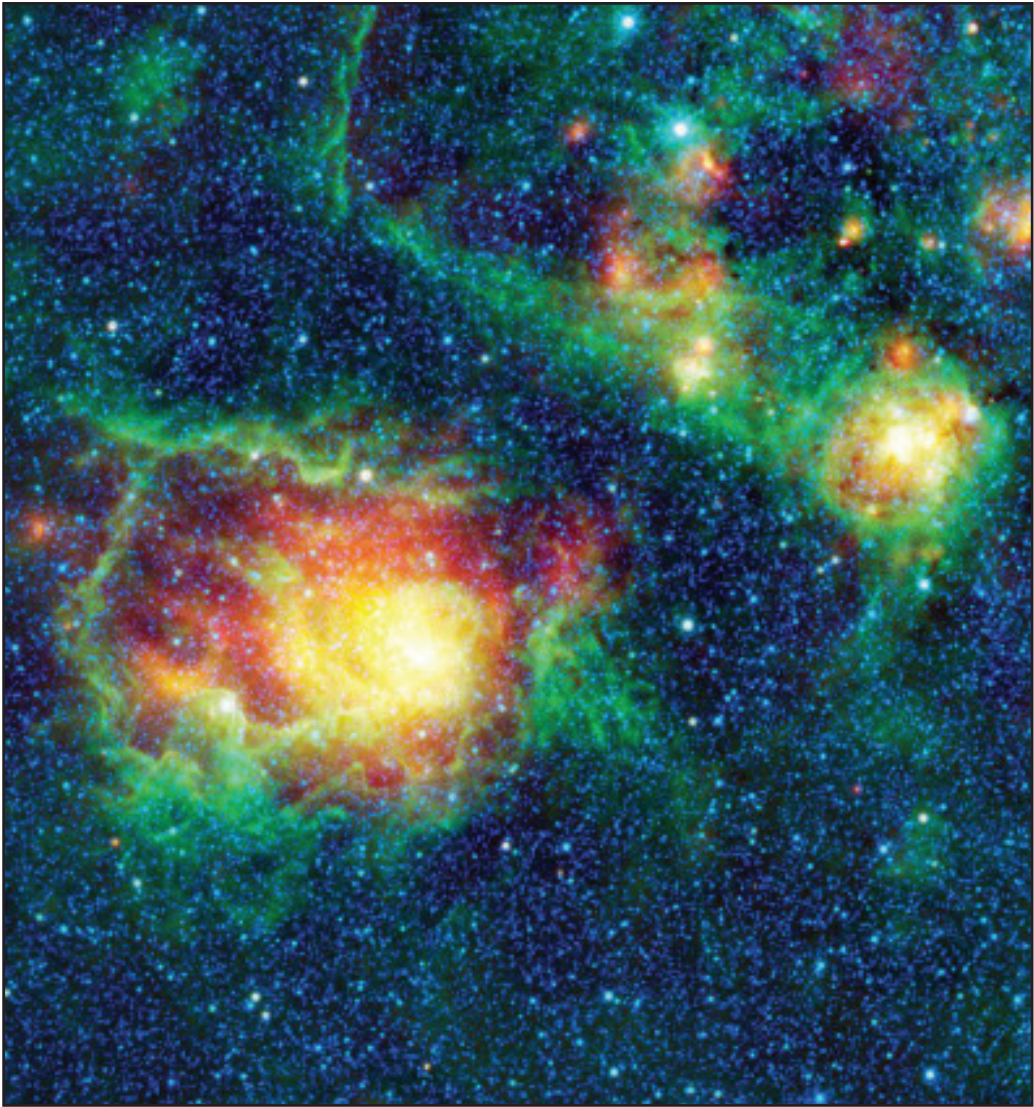


Photo courtesy NASA

**THIS INFRARED IMAGE** from NASA's Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer, or WISE, shows the Lambda Centauri nebula, a star-forming cloud in our Milky Way galaxy, also known as the Running Chicken nebula. The nebula, cataloged as IC 2944, is about 5,800 light-years from Earth and is home to a new cluster of stars born from the cloud nearly 8 million years ago.

ments. Some of the objects are known as dark asteroids, and there could be many in close orbit to Earth.

One such object was the meteor that struck Chelyabinsk, Russia back in February 2013. The airburst from the meteor's explosion injured close to 15,000 people and damaged more than 7,000 buildings.

According to Larson, events like this occur regularly. By charting out the orbits using the WISE and NEOWISE programs, it will be easier

to predict when and where these events occur.

Once recalibration is finished, the data collected will aid in predicting such events. According to Mainzer, the reason that recalibration will take until at least March comes from the fact that the satellite needs to finish lowering to its operational temperature. In hibernation, the satellite was pointed toward Earth for half of its orbit. This is a problem because Earth radiates heat at

►See **TELESCOPE**, Page 2

## World-record Secret Santa reaches USU community

► By Morgan Pratt  
staff writer

Students at USU are getting into the Christmas spirit by participating in the world's largest Secret Santa.

Reddit.com shattered its previous world record of 44,000 participants in the holiday tradition with 122,000 Secret Santas from 163 different countries. This met and surpassed the social news site's original goal to have 100,000 people sign up this year.

Kaylynn Kimball, a sophomore, participated in the gift exchange two years ago. The event works by signing up and getting matched with someone and secretly buying Christmas present for them.

"You go to their Reddit page, and you see what they're interested in and things like that," Kimball said. "The more you read into it, the more likely you're

## Professor asks students how they feel about faith diversity

► By Maile Burnett  
staff writer

An anthropology professor is starting a study of the spiritual and religious diversity environment on campus by interviewing students about their religious experiences.

It is Bonnie Glass-Coffin's hope that the study will reveal what programs the university should develop to promote religious diversity on campus.

"We want to ask students, faculty, staff and administrators about our particular campus climate, so we know the right kinds of programs to develop," she said.

During the interview, students are asked how they feel about religious and spiritual issues, if they feel their spiritual needs are being met, and how others view their religion, according to Glass-Coffin. She wants to know if there is a desire for conversations crossing lines of religion in the public university setting.

"We have a lot of history, expertise, people and offices who are committed to creating a climate of diversity, safety, inclusion and support for many kinds of diversity on



Meghann Nixon photo

**MICHELLE BOGDAN**, director of the Access and Diversity Center, says religious diversity is important to have on campus.

campus," Glass-Coffin said. "But we don't have any history talking about religious diversity."

Glass-Coffin wants to improve students' religious literacy and their ability to have difficult discussions with those of a different background, especially in today's diverse and conflict-filled world.

Michelle Bogdan, director of

the Access and Diversity Center, believes it is important for Student Services to not only promote cultural, racial, ethnic and sexual orientation diversity, but also spiritual diversity amongst faith-based and non-believers.

"Academics is part of your expe-

►See **STUDY**, Page 2

## Campaigning for office off-campus gets additional look, still banned

► By Danielle Manley  
assistant news editor

The USU Student Association Executive Council passed changes to its election bylaws at their final meeting for the semester Tuesday night.

Continuing debates from Nov. 25, the council looked at the new bylaws for the second time and the officers had mixed feelings about off-campus campaigning. The final decision upheld the restriction of off-campus campaigns, but further specified the allowed use of campaign materials in apartment buildings or other residential properties.

Organizations and Diversity Vice President Sonina Hernandez initially had a concern with the election rules allowing candidates to hang large banners outside businesses but not being able to campaign with flyers inside the building. The thought sparked a 40-minute discussion between the council.

After learning of the discussion, Associate Vice President of Student Services Eric Olsen wrote an email where he worried about the image of USU, which USU/SA President Doug Fiefia shared with the council. The group talked about the importance of being a good neighbor to the residents of the valley.

Charley Riddle, Athletics and Campus Recreation VP, compared elections to a trip to Las Vegas.

"If we have our own student body getting pissed off because of elections, I'd rather not be annoying Main Street in Logan," Riddle said. "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. What happens in elections should stay in elections."

The council decided to restrict campaigns off-campus because it would be too difficult to regulate the actions, but campaigning will be allowed in apartment complexes and private residential areas. After another discussion, the group also decided to restrict vehicle campaigning.

"We'd have to make a lot of exceptions," said Graduate Studies Sen. Brittney Garbrick about

►See **ELECTION**, Page 2

## Count My Vote gets support from presidents

► By Lis Stewart  
news editor

Utah's colleges and universities are joining the conversation on Count My Vote, an initiative to put the question of replacing the state's caucus system on the ballot and replace it with a direct primary.

The Utah Student Association, comprised of all college and university student body presidents in the state, voted to support the measure and gather signatures for the petition at their regular meeting Nov. 13.

"Do I believe that Count My Vote is necessarily the perfect fix for the caucus system? No, but there are definitely problems with the caucus system as it stands," said Doug Fiefia, president of the USA and president of the USU Student Association. "I believe that we should at least support it to get on the ballot so that all Utah voters can decide if this is something that is

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utahstatesman.com



# USU/SA discussing easier registration

► By **Danielle Manley**  
assistant news editor

The USU Student Association Executive Council discussed improvements class registration, in addition to Common Hour and its meeting time, at their regular meeting Tuesday night.

Executive Vice President Emily Esplin said the organization in charge of Banner, the electronic system used to track grades, register for classes and make payments, is coming to campus to fix a bug causing the site's crashes on registration night.

"This year they had problems with senior registration, and I think it's pathetic they haven't fixed it," said Casey Saxton, Public Relations and Marketing director.

An idea was brought to Fiefia about changing registration times even further. Though the council made the time earlier, the system still crashed and many students had the same problems as in previous years. It was proposed to split each class group two times to lessen the amount of students on the server at the same time. Students currently register on separate designated days based on their class level to lessen the surge of people on Banner.

Trevor Olsen, USU/SA's administrative assistant, said the main problem is often with big classes, like creative arts. He suggested splitting the lower classes in half because there tend to be more students in them.

Several other officers said changing times wouldn't fix anything because the problem is about something different.

"Changing it too much is going to create more problems... seniors have problems as well," said Sonina Hernandez, Organizations and Diversity VP. "I don't think it's how many people are registering. Something's wrong."

Esplin said as long as Banner gets fixed, changing registration times won't need to happen.

"I think that if we can get the root problem solved, this would be an unnecessary change," Esplin said.

In other business, Fiefia asked for feedback from the officers about Common Hour. Certain professors expressed disinterest in the time change because it affects the Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule.

A recent survey administered to students showed a majority support for Common Hour. However, Graduate Studies Sen. Brittney Garbrick said the council should gather more qualitative data versus relying on quantitative data.

The council also discussed changing their regular meeting time because an officer had a time conflict next semester. A time was not decided, but will be worked out at the latest at the next meeting on at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7.

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# Election

From Page 1

allowing car campaigning. "Except for those who live on campus, except for those of you who park on campus."

The council also decided to restrict campaigns on the Taggart Student Center Patio plaza.

Another issue somewhat controversially discussed was how much candidates could talk about their campaign before the official announcements. In previous years, students running contacted and talked with clubs and groups to find out what they wanted to see in a candidate and which issues they were passionate about.

Garbrick said it might present a disadvantage to certain candidates. For example, she said if a student gets to a Greek organization first, a large portion of the voting population, they'd unofficially announce their candidacy and gain votes earlier.

Fiefia disagreed and said there wouldn't be any disadvantage to candidates participating in early conversation.

"I think it promotes voting," he said. "Our voting turnout is high compared to everyone else in Utah, but is still very very low. I think it involves a lot of people, that they feel like they have a decision toward who their leaders actually are, that they have a say. They get to help form a platform."

The council decided not to change the new bylaws relating to election speech before official announcements. Students will be allowed to speak with groups and organizations about important issues as long as they don't officially announce candidacy.

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# Telescope

From Page 1

temperatures around 300 degrees above absolute zero, which is just more than 200 degrees warmer than the operational temperature.

"It would be just like looking at stars during daylight," Mainzer said, speaking about this problem.

Once the satellite finishes recalibration, it will operate at a relatively warmer temperature; 75 degrees above absolute zero, Mainzer said. It will continue to collect data in the infrared to look for objects in space that would have near-Earth orbits.

Both Mainzer and Larson are optimistic about the information that will be collected from the NEOWISE program. Mainzer said JPL and SDL are working together to put another camera into space within the next few years.

New technology has been developed to keep the camera operating at temperatures warmer than the equipment used by the WISE satellite, Mainzer said. It would serve as a stepping stone toward having a more comprehensive understanding of this part of the universe.

In order to learn more about the program, Mainzer encourages those interested to check out the program's website at [neowise.ipac.caltech.edu](http://neowise.ipac.caltech.edu), or contact her

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# In brief

Campus & Community

## Major interior designer speaking tonight at USU

One of the leading designers in boutique lifestyle hotels in the U.S., Colum McCartan, will speak at 5:30 p.m. today at the Performance Hall. The appearance is hosted by the interior design program in the art and design department and the Caine College of the Arts.

McCartan is the founder of MCCARTAN, an award-winning design company based in New York City. The firm's portfolio covers everything from resorts to healthcare, including the Eventi Hotel in New York and Hotel Vitale in San Francisco.

Darrin Brooks, associate professor of interior design in the Caine College of the Arts, said he chose McCartan as a speaker because of the quality and distinction of the hotels he designs.

## Professor gets \$20 M for squirrel research

USU professor Carsten Meier is part of a team of professors that was granted \$20,000 to continue research on ground squirrels of the Uinta Basin based on a long-term study that has rested for many decades. The study will focus on adaptive responses of the squirrels, a hibernating indicator species, to climate change.

"My photography will be used as a public outreach component," said Meier, assistant professor of photography in the Caine College of the Arts. "I will be making photographic panels that allow the viewer a better understanding of the ground squirrel's habitat, and the final art product will be used to advocate the need for this scientific investigation."

## ► 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](mailto:statesman@aggiemail.usu.edu) or come in to TSC 311.

# Build-a-beard December



Heidi Bruner photo

**A SANTA ADVENT CALENDAR** counts down the days to Christmas in the Academic Resource Center, TSC 305. Holiday craft idea, anyone?

# Santa

From Page 1

going to find something that they want to have."

With a minimum purchase of \$20, participants buy a gift and send it in the mail by Dec. 20. The presents then arrive just in time to be opened on Christmas morning. The presents, received on Christmas, can be serious or funny, ranging from music albums to bicycles, from books to toys and more.

"Some people go all out — I've seen people get laptops from complete strangers," Kimball said. "I also saw one where someone had a hard time paying their bills and someone gave them \$500 dollar gift cards to Walmart to feed their family."

In 2012, a Reddit marketplace opened specifically for Secret Santas where participants spent an estimated \$2 million on presents and shipping and handling on gifts.

Reddit's Secret Santa was inspired by a TED Talk given by Michael Norton, an asso-

ciate professor of business administration at Harvard, entitled "How to Buy Happiness." His presentation was on how people who spend money on others tend to be happier than people who spend money on themselves.

"If you think money can't buy happiness, you're not spending it right," Norton said. "People who spent money on other people got happier. People who spent money on themselves, didn't make them less happy, it just didn't do much for them."

After watching this presentation in 2009, Reddit user /u/kickme444 said he felt moved by the TED Talk and he started the world's first online Secret Santa.

"I signed up for the fun of it, because I like the idea of giving gifts to someone," said Kevin Beutler, a junior.

USU students aren't the only ones participating in this year's gift exchange. Celebrities like Paul Reubens, American Idol's James Durbin, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sugar Ray's Mark McGrath, Shaq and Bill Gates will also be Secret Santas this Christmas.

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# Study

From Page 1

rience as a college student, but you have a lot of other experiences outside of the classroom that are going to form a lot of your belief and perspective when you graduate and go on to your career," she said.

Ivy Bias is a freshman majoring in biology who doesn't identify herself as religious. She has found the culture at USU is predominantly LDS, and said she believes it's important for USU to create a more open environment.

"I think it would encourage people to think for themselves instead of just listening to what their parents tell them," she said.

Glass-Coffin said one concern about the study is it would be just another opportunity to bash Mormons, but the research is for everyone, both the minorities and the majority. She said even though LDS students are the majority, they still sometimes feel like professors bash their religion.

"Everything is being done to ensure all voices are being heard, from Mormons to atheists," she said. "Questions of spirituality concern everyone."

Bogdan said any program they implement will be ineffective if there is exclusion.

"The most important thing that we need to consider when we're doing this work is to ensure that everyone is welcome to the table," she said.

This is an opportunity for those who don't usually feel included to find their voice and for those who feel like they're the majority to find common ground with others, she said.

Glass-Coffin described one aspect of the study as "asset mapping," finding what resources are already in place for students, such as the religious studies program and the InterFaith House, and also determining where the best place would be for deeper, more spiritual discussions. It's unclear whether it would be better to have them inside or outside classrooms, according to Glass-Coffin.

Bogdan believes there is space both within and without the classroom, but only if it pertains to the course material, and never where the material is being slanted toward one viewpoint.

"Because we are a publicly funded university, we as a university don't want to promote one particular religious view over another," Bogdan said.

Because she was concerned about accusations of making students feel excluded, Bogdan wasn't always supportive of religious movements on campus.

"I've always just thought we should keep the whole religious thing as hands-off, but in my research and my study, religious development is a part of student development theory, and as a student services professional, it is my job to understand the whole student and belief systems are a part of that," she said.

Glass-Coffin is still looking for students who would like to be interviewed, and interested students can email her at [bonnie.glass-coffin@usu.edu](mailto:bonnie.glass-coffin@usu.edu).

"We'd really love to hear every voice," she said.

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## Year's last edition of 'Why did they ever get rid of...?'

Steve Schwartzman



Just a few laughs

If you handle dead week and finals week anything like me, you are currently careening violently around your apartment in a heaping panic. You are sifting through dirty clothes, fast food cups, "The Best of 'ABC's One Saturday Morning'" DVDs and all other general sightings of clutter in hopes of finding notes and assignments that just now became important for you to keep in arms reach so you can, in some way, prove yourself worthy of a professional future. There is no way any of it will get found; in fact, a great deal

of it could have ended up getting thrown away during the one time you sent a compiled cargo load of trash from your room, and now in hindsight you're left dejected and shorthanded, wondering why you ever got rid of something so important.

A long-winded hypothetical story working into the verbatim title of the column? Now that's a segue. Welcome to "Why Did They Ever Get Rid of...?" for December.

**Why did they ever get rid of Post Sitcom-episode PSAs?** – Look, we all love a hearty '90s sitcom. The cozy home setting, fatherly advice given to heart-tearing music, the token stupid guy, boppy theme songs, a piercing audience "wooo" during an unexpected kiss and even freeze-framed backgrounds behind the closing credits to boot – good gravy, they just had it

➤ See STEVE, Page 4

## Restaurateur attributes success to community, USU student support

► By Gillian Ponce  
staff writer

Many students enjoy authentic Mexican food, but it can be hard to find places in Logan that sell authentic food, especially close to campus. But hidden away in the Tesoro gas station at 1400 N. 790 East, Mario Villapudua has brought a Mexican restaurant to the USU community.

It has been open for about a year, but the establishment has not taken on much recognition from the college crowd, said Villapudua, the entrepreneur behind the restaurant. While the menu only has five different items — including tacos, enchiladas and burritos — the choices offer substantial variety accentuated by several different types of meat options, he said.

Villapudua said not only are typical items like tacos and burritos — the number one flavor is sweet pork — but he delivers a signature dish called the "Aggie Roll."

The idea to open a restaurant came to Villapudua some time ago.

"It was back in '89,"



Heidi Bruner photo

**SEVERAL MEXICAN DISHES AT THE AGGIE GRILL** feature a variety of fresh ingredients and a variety of seasoned meats.

Villapudua said. "We were milking cows at the time, and I said I would never go back to milking cows. I was a kid. I was 12, 13 years old. At 14, I

was offered a job as a busboy." From there, he said, he had his connections in the restaurateur business. Through working with the former

owner of Hamilton's Steak & Seafood, Dave Bessinger, Villapudua said he was able to

➤ See EATERY, Page 4

## Fraternity sponsors annual charity Christmas concert

► By Clayton Leuba  
assistant features editor

Starry Night, a benefit concert presented by USU's Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, will return to campus for its second year on Friday.

Featuring Christmas music in a variety of musical styles, the proceeds from the event will be donated to Racing for Orphans with Down Syndrome, a local nonprofit organization which aims to raise money to aid in the adoption of children who have Down syndrome.

"We hope this can be something people can come to to take a break from the hustle and bustle and spending of the holiday season to come out, listen to some good music and really remember what Christmas is all about," said Joe Hill, the vice president of Alpha Tau Omega and the event chairman for Starry Night.

Last year's concert, which Hill said raised \$300 in donations for the Sub For Santa program despite not being a sanctioned fundraising event, lead Hill to the idea of using the concert as a philanthropic opportunity.

Tickets for the event, which requires semiformal attire for entry, are \$7. Hill said Alpha Tau Omega hopes to raise more than \$2,000 for RODS through the event, which will begin at 7 p.m. in USU's Performance Hall.

After last year's concert, which featured diverse musical performances by USU students and alumni, many people already anticipate the event as the highlight of their Christmas season, Hill said.

Katie Steed, who graduated from USU in May with a degree in graphic design, attended the concert last year and said she especially appreciated the multitude of acoustic Christmas songs which were per-



Heidi Bruner photo

**A HIGHLY-ANTICIPATED CHRISTMAS SEASON BENEFIT CONCERT** will be held and sponsored by the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity on Friday in the USU Performance Hall at 7 p.m.

formed.

"These people are crazy talented," Steed said. "It was so great."

Ian Blotter, a junior at USU studying international business, said he

attended last year's event in support of friends who were performing. Blotter said he enjoyed the night's performances and anticipates another great event this year.

"It was just the music that was so amazing," he said. "It was like the music concert of the century."

Hill said this year's concert will feature USU students and alumni performing pieces from a variety of styles and instruments including cello, piano, flamenco guitar, acapella and folk. Many classic Christmas songs will also be performed in a collaborative manner with all of the night's performers, Hill said.

Starry Night is one of two signature events put on each year by Alpha Tau Omega, according to Hill. He said the fraternity hopes the concert will grow into the university's premier Christmas event in future years.

"We want to establish this as a big thing on campus as a yearly installment," Hill said.

– c.m.leuba@gmail.com

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# ‘Their Eyes Were Watching God’ is the perfect book to immerse yourself in over the holiday break

Marissa Neeley



Good reads

Looking for a book to read over the holiday break? Look no further than “Their Eyes Were Watching God” by Zora Neale Hurston. Written during the Harlem Renaissance, “Their Eyes Were Watching God” is full of meaning, originality and intrigue. It is a book English teachers — and majors — love.

Janie is beautiful. Her father was white and her mother was black, and she was raised by her black grandmother. At a young age, her grandmother sent her off to marry Logan, a man who provides Janie with the financial security that was desirable. Though Logan loves Janie, she doesn’t feel the same for him. When the mighty Joe Starks comes around, she decides to leave Logan and go with him. The runaways marry and find a small town, Eatonville, to call home. Joe — or Jody, as Janie calls him — eventually becomes mayor, powerful and rich. He suppresses Janie’s desires, and from their relationship, Janie eventually learns the power she really has. In Jody’s old age, their relationship is strained and he dies.

Janie, now a widow, is able to take off the headwrap Jody made her wear, bringing every single man in the area to her door. But Janie is deterred by their desire for the money Joe left to her.

But of course, there has to be another love — that would be Tea Cake. Now, Tea Cake is at least 10 years

younger than Janie, but he is the one man Janie truly loves. He brings her more freedom than she had previously while married to Jody. From Tea Cake, Janie learns independence and is able to engage in a journey of self discovery. Tea Cake and Janie eventually marry and travel to the Everglades where she finds happiness and is accepted for who she is.

In the Everglades, Tea Cake and Janie get a small house. They work together in the fields and they have a little spat, but there is never a question of their love for each other. A few terrible things happen in the Everglades that will make readers grip the book. A hurricane comes and Tea Cake and Janie and the whole community is forced to run for their lives. Tea Cake and Jane are separated. While Janie finds refuge in a big house, Tea Cake is bitten by a rabid dog and becomes rabid himself. When they make it back to their house, Tea Cake becomes more and more rabid and very dangerous.

Janie grabs the shotgun and shoots Tea Cake. Janie is arrested and given a trial and at that trial, the white judge... I’ll leave that as the synopsis and let you read the book to find out what happens next. I don’t want to ruin that book for you — I’ve said too much as it is.

This book is structured into three different stories. Each story describes a different husband, relationship and love. Traveling through these different stories and relationships allows the reader to understand Janie’s

desire for love and the independence she feels she deserves. The flashback setup of the novel allows Janie to reflect on her life. This is different from most of the books I read which is another reason to love this book — it sets it apart from the rest.

Additionally, what makes this book great is the dialogue of broken English. This shows a lack of education on the part of the characters but also characterizes their ability to understand each other. The dialogue is crucial to understand the black culture, the time period and the people.

Perhaps one of the most notable quotes from the entire novel is when Janie says, “Two things everybody’s gotta do fuh theyselves. They got tuh go tuh God, and they got tuh find about livin’ fuh theyselves.”

This is one of the best books I’ve ever been required to read. It is so interesting to read about the Harlem Renaissance and black culture. There is a lot that will make think. It’s not hard to read and the broken English makes you feel like you are there, inside the book, watching everything unfold. Besides, it’s just a great story.


– Marris 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@aggiemail.usu.edu.

Marissa Neeley  
book reviewer

“There is a lot that will make you think. It’s not hard to read and the broken English makes you feel like you are there.”

# Songs guaranteed to get you in the holiday mood

Jace Smellie



Jace’s jams

flavor to your Christmas playlist, and maybe help you reconsider some songs you may have overlooked in the past.

“The Christmas Song” – Any list of the best Christmas songs would be absolutely incomplete if it didn’t have “The Christmas Song” by Nat King Cole. It’s such an iconic song for the season, but it does without the annoying bells and chimes ringing over and over. It’s just a slow, simple, beautiful song to celebrate the season and everything that comes with it. To me, it is Christmas with class.

“Last Christmas” — So this may not be the best example of a song to add flavor to your playlist, but it is a creative and fun song for the holidays. With lyrics just as cold as the season, it seems to fit perfectly. The most popular rendition by Wham! is great, but I know it is one that many people feel is overplayed for the season. I have found the Taylor Swift version is a pretty great alternative. I guess singing a song about giving her heart to the wrong person was a perfect fit for T-Swift. Go figure.

“All I Want For Christmas Is You” — It wouldn’t be Christmas for me without opening my ears to Mariah Carey belting out her incomparable voice and vocal range with this carol of love.

Like “Last Christmas,” this

Jace Smellie  
music reviewer

“Don’t get me wrong, I love the Christmas season... why do we have poorly-written and performed music to accompany the season?”

is one that is pretty popular for the season, but what sets it apart for me is that it’s a very creative song. It is a fun and upbeat song that everyone can jam out to without any shame — or at least, not that much shame. Oh, and it’s definitely one that will be stuck in your head all day long, too.

“Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)” — This song is definitely a close second for the position of my favorite. Again, it is a perfect storm that captures the fun spirit of the season without compromising quality lyrics and music to do so. Another fun thing about this song for me is there are a lot of fun renditions out there. Mariah Carey’s

is probably the most popular along with Michael Buble’s. I think the overall best version is that performed by U2. But I would also recommend looking up the version of this song done by the band Anberlin. It isn’t very popular, but I thought they did a great job with it.

“Christmas Shoes” — I realize not everyone will agree with my No. 1 spot. I have learned this is one that people either love or hate, but there is one fact that cannot be argued: absolutely everyone cried at least a little when they first heard this song. If you try to tell me you didn’t cry even a little the first time you heard this song, then you are telling me a flat out lie. There is no way anyone could hear those lyrics with the sweet reflective music and voice and still keep emotions under control. Again, this is set apart from the pack by creativity; instead of a creative Christmas love song it is a creative and emotionally-touching slap to the face. By far, this is my favorite Christmas song.

So there it is, my top five. In the words of Nat King Cole, “Though it’s been said many times, many ways, merry Christmas to you.”

– Jace Smellie is a freshman majoring in English and an avid music lover. comments can be sent to jace.smellie@aggiemail.usu.edu.

# Steve

From Page 3

all.

Unfortunately for the bane of reality, the hallowed genre slipped through our fingers and an even more watered down generation of television entertainment took over and put many of our favorite idiosyncrasies to bed, none more painstaking than the post-episode public service announcement.

You know what I mean. The credits roll, then cut to close up: “Hi. I’m Ben Savage from ‘Boy Meets World.’ Every year, thousands of people suffer greatly from a lack of mayonnaise on their sandwiches. If you or someone close to you is suffering the loss of mayonnaise, please call this hotline now. You can find the help you need.”

At this point, the camera has panned out to the entire cast piled on an on-set living room couch. Then, tears. Every time. Those PSAs made us feel real. They made us feel loved, and then they were taken from us. Some things are unfair, but this, no, this was a travesty. Never again will I have quick resources to societal need all from the mouth of Carl from “Family Matters,” and that’s truth we all have to live with forever. But even then, we press on.

Why did they ever get rid of MTV Rock N’ Jock? – And I mean, seriously, why? Was there anything cooler than every conceivable under-30 celebrity matched with professional athletes in the most comically caricatured adaptation of a basketball game that it even made “NBA Jam” giggle?

Where else could one see Jonathan Taylor Thomas zipping a bounce pass over every member of Boyz II Men to Moon Shoe-clad Steve Urkel who jumps in a pool of Jell-O and makes a 75-point layup while being defended by Reggie Miller

Steve Schwartzman  
humor columnist

“Best of luck wih finals, and if you are somehow able to actually find those notes in a pile of filth and copy them onto your LA Lights, consider yourself one of the lucky ones. See you in January.”

holding a rake? I submit, nowhere — not even in your dreams.

And speaking of MTV’s entertainment flubs, when did “Rock the Vote” stop being cool? They used to have rock concerts and interview cutaways that made Jon Stewart embarrassed. Get with it, MTV. You used to have a good thing.

Why did they ever get rid of not really opening soda cans? — Don’t lie to me, you did it. You didn’t want to guzzle down your entire can of Surge because you wanted to have something to drink during third period. So what did you do? Delicately — I’d even say masterfully — you just barely cracked that sucker open. Sure, the amount of beverage you got at a time was so miniscule you couldn’t even taste it, but before the age of recycling freaks and crazy green-goers, you were the first real sustainable ones, turning 12 ounces into an entire afternoon of sugared-water companion-

ship. You made the best of a good thing by constructively taking the worst sips possible. In its own way, it was a liquid allegory about life.

Why did they ever get rid of “B.U.M.” Equipment T-shirts? – Stop giggling! I’m trying to make a point. No, seriously, what were the point of those things? Will you stop giggling? How old are you? Never mind. I can’t work under these conditions.

Best of luck with finals and if you are somehow able to actually find those notes in a pile of filth and copy them onto your LA Lights, consider yourself one of the lucky ones. See you in January.

– Steve Schwartzman is a senior finishing a degree in communication studies. With eight years of column writing and improvisational comedy under his belt, he lives to make you laugh. Send thoughts to steve.schwartzman@aggiemail.usu.edu and have a lovely holiday break.

# Eatery

From Page 3

put the business into motion.

“At the time, we were working with Mr. Bessinger over at the old Hamilton’s, and he had this little place here and he asked me if I wanted to help him run this location,” Villapudua said of the business’ start. “And that’s what we’re doing now. We’re working together with Mr. Bessinger.”

The restaurant has gotten most of its business by word of mouth and has never done any other type of advertising. Still, the restaurant is getting more than 200 customers per day, Villapudua said.

“It goes to tell you that when you put out a good product with a good attitude, it will come back to you,” Villapudua said.

The location was a big factor about what Villapudua would have on his menu and how much the items would cost, he said.

“When we first made the menu here, we thought of the

students,” he said. “That was the first thing in mind, was making it affordable for the university, and that was our target, to target the kids.”

Though his intended patrons were the students from the university, Villapudua said he’s been surprised to find they aren’t the main source of business.

“The community is really supportive of the little place here,” he said.

Even though nearly 80 percent of the restaurant’s dishes are made as to-go orders, Villapudua said he strives to keep every item authentic and delicious.

USU football players often receive after-game burritos donated by Villapudua in one of his efforts to repay the USU community for its hospitality and support.

The restaurant opens and serves breakfast burritos from 6-10 a.m., and the regular menu is available from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, Villapudua said.

– gillian.ponce95@gmail.com



Heidi Bruner photo

**MEAL PREP ARTIST GABE NOSH** crafts together delicious Mexican meals for patrons at The Aggie Station Grill, a little-known restaurant just off of USU’s campus.



# Thursday Sports

Utah State University • Logan, Utah • www.utahstatesman.com



## FOOTBALL

# Taking An Inside Look At Fresno State

## Q&A

The Utah Statesman interviewed Ricardo Cano, sports editor of The Collegian at Fresno State, on Wednesday for an insider's look at the Lobos.

**The Utah Statesman:** Fresno State dropped its first game of the season last week and saw BCS hopes dashed. What effects has the loss had on the team in terms of morale and goals moving forward?

**Ricardo Cano:** I don't think it has affected the program much. Fresno State coach Tim DeRuyter said the team was disappointed after the loss, and senior left tackle Austin Wentworth said he was surprised with the outcome — that's what happens when you put up 52 and still lose — but a BCS bowl bid was not the main goal for team this year, DeRuyter said.

The big picture was —

and remains — repeating as Mountain West champions. The fan base really seemed to buy into the idea that Fresno State was going to bust the BCS this season, even with Northern Illinois competing for that accomplishment too. I think that it's affected the fan base more than anything, especially in the way Fresno State's BCS hopes were dashed: They lost what seemed to be a winnable game.

**US:** Bulldog quarterback Derek Carr is on the Heisman candidate list with his outstanding performance this season. How much of a motivator and/or distraction has that been for him and the team this season, and does he get an invitation to New York City?

**RC:** It hasn't been a distraction at all. Derek Carr is a humble dude, and you don't get the sense here that his Heisman campaign takes precedence over everything else going on this season. The school's athletic department launched his campaign after Fresno State beat Boise State on Sept. 20.

I don't know if he cracks the top-5 in voting. He's rewritten the Fresno State record books this year, but I'm not sure the strength of schedule helps his case. The Bulldogs haven't exactly



faced any tough secondaries in the Mountain West this season.

He's definitely deserving of an invitation, though.

**US:** Fresno State has a very high-octane offense that ranks fourth nationally in scoring, and Utah State has a stingy defense that is ranked seventh in points against. In other words, the irresistible force meets the immovable object for the championship. Who would you say has the advantage in this matchup?

**RC:** I think Fresno State has a slight advantage

because it's won games in two fashions this year: offensive routs and defensive stands in games that have been decided in the final play of the game — wins against Rutgers, Boise State, Hawaii and San Diego State.

Utah State is dominant on defense, particularly against the run, and Fresno State on offense. This is really a wild card because I'm not sure how the Aggies are planning on defending Fresno State.

I think this matchup is going to come down to Utah State's offense against Fresno State's defense.

**US:** The bowl picture in the Mountain West Conference remains muddled despite there being only one game left to play. Where do you see the Bulldogs and Aggies winding up?

**RC:** Mountain West commissioner Craig Thompson said Monday in a conference call that he was "99 percent" sure that the Las Vegas Bowl would pick up the winner of the Mountain West title game — but I would be reluctant to believe that it would deny the bid to the Bulldogs, regard-

less if they win Saturday or not.

Fresno State — whether it finishes the season 11-1 with the conference title or 10-2 without it — seems like the most deserving and attrac-



tive Mountain West team for facing what seems to be USC. It'll be the last college game for Carr, and I don't think the Bulldogs are going to fall to the Poinsettia Bowl after being in the BCS discussion up until the final week of the regular season.

If Utah State entered the game 9-3 with a nonconference win over Utah or the Trojans or a win over Boise State, it'd definitely be a different story, and in that scenario I'd believe that the Las Vegas Bowl would take the conference champion.

**US:** What is your overall analysis and prediction for Saturday's MWC championship?

**RC:** Fresno State's played in close games this season, and I don't think that the Bulldogs will snap its home game win streak Saturday.

Utah State has a really good defense and will test Fresno State and put them in uncomfortable situations, but no one has been able to stop the Bulldogs' offense for all four quarters. I wouldn't be surprised if Utah State tries to control the time of possession on offense while relying on its defense to minimize Fresno State's production on offense.

Fresno State has injury problems on defense, and it's impacted the team. Overall though, I don't think Utah State — which can also put up points on offense — has faced an offense like Fresno State.

It's going to be close, and it's going to be a shootout.

42-41 Fresno State.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Returning home: Roberts found his place at Utah State

► **By Brady Clark**  
staff writer

Nestled away in a corner office on the third floor of the Taggart Student Center, Marvin Roberts may give the appearance of being just another university employee.

But his 6-foot-8-inch frame makes him stand out, as does his pleasant demeanor.

Roberts always tries to make his fellow employees feel better about themselves everyday.

"I'm sorry Miss, I don't think I have told you to have a wonderful day today," Roberts said to a colleague on the same floor.

His polite attitude doesn't stop there though. Students walk past him and before they can pass, Roberts stops them.

"Excuse me sir, can you do me a favor? I want you to have the best day you can possibly have today," Roberts said.

Some may ask, "Who exactly is this man?" A man who dearly loves his wife and family, but also has a competitive side. Marv — as he likes to be called — was a three-time

All-American for Utah State's basketball team back in his day.

As a senior in high school, Roberts contemplated over many colleges, but his teammates were shocked when he announced he would attend USU. Roberts didn't grow up anywhere near Cache Valley; in fact, he lived nearly 1,971 miles away in New York City.

His decision to move from the skyscrapers of New York City to the Wasatch Mountains of Utah was a smart decision on his part. Marvin averaged 23.6 points per game and 12.8 rebounds per game — those numbers still rank third and first in school history.

Roberts' junior year was one of his fondest memories at USU, when he led the Aggies to the Western Regional Final — today known as the Elite Eight — where the Aggies fell to the one of the greatest college basketball coaches of all time in John Wooden and his UCLA Bruins.

"I really enjoyed that year, but our best team and my best year was during my senior year," Roberts said.

Excitement buzzed around



Photo courtesy Doug Fiefia

**MARVIN ROBERTS, RIGHT, POSES WITH** former Utah Jazz player Thurl Bailey, left, and USU/SA president Doug Fiefia in the TSC.

Logan during the fall of 1971, not only for Roberts' senior season, but because a partic-

ular stadium was built that season.

"Before my senior year

we played our games in the Fieldhouse, but we were really excited to play in the Spectrum my senior year," Roberts said. "Our fans weren't as rowdy as they are now, but we played some exciting basketball in that stadium."

In its inaugural season, the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum was the home to Western Regionals and the Aggies were looking to make USU history and bring home a national championship to Cache Valley.

Things seemed to fall into place with the Aggies being the host of the regionals, and they wouldn't have to play powerhouse UCLA until the regional championship game. With the game in Logan that year, they hoped the game would end favorably.

But the Aggies weren't able to make it to the regional final. They didn't make out of the first round of the playoffs.

Roberts had an amazing career as an Aggie. There is a large poster of him in the Spectrum and his jersey hangs in the rafters as well.

After his senior season, he went on to have a successful

professional career playing for notable NBA franchises like the Los Angeles Lakers and the Detroit Pistons. He eventually made his way to the American Basketball Association.

Roberts had a career in the corporate world of human resources following pro basketball, and he even had opportunities to act in the film industry. Roberts wanted a change of scenery a few years ago and felt like his job was feeling more like work and he wasn't having any fun.

That's when USU President Stan Albrecht called Roberts about a job opportunity that they opened up just for him. Roberts, now the assistant vice president for Student Engagement and Diversity, jumped at the opportunity to help students at the school where it all began for him.

"They say when you do something you love, you never work a day in your life," Roberts said. "I started on July 1, and haven't worked a day since."

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## THIS WEEK IN UTAH STATE ATHLETICS

**MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. PACIFIC**  
SATURDAY | 5 P.M.  
DEE GLEN SMITH SPECTRUM

**FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY**  
SATURDAY | 8 P.M.  
DEE GLEN SMITH SPECTRUM  
WATCH THE MOUNTAIN WEST CHAMPIONSHIP  
GAME ON THE BIG SCREEN!







Heidi Bruner photo

**SENIOR DANNY BERGER DRIVES** past a Weber State defender during USU's 77-71 win over the Wildcats on Nov. 26 at the Dee Events Center in Ogden.

# USU's Berger nominated for NABC Good Works team

By USU Media Relations

LOGAN, Utah — Utah State men's basketball player Danny Berger is a candidate for the 2014 Allstate NABC Good Works Team, as the Allstate Insurance Company and the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) announced Tuesday the candidate list with 118 men's basketball student-athletes on it. The award recognizes a select group of college basketball student-athletes who have made significant contributions to the greater good of their communities through volunteerism and civic service.

In its second year, the Allstate NABC and WBCA Good Works Teams honor players at all levels of college basketball who represent the sport's finest in the areas of leadership and charitable achievements amongst their peers. The student-athletes nominated for this prestigious award embody the true spirit of teamwork and giving back.

Of the 118 nominees for the

2014 Allstate NABC Good Works Team, 75 are from NCAA Division I, and Berger is the lone Mountain West Conference player as well as one of two players from the state of Utah, joined by Brigham Young's Tyler Haws.

Berger, a 6-6, 205-pound junior forward from Medford, Ore. (North Medford/Chemeketa (Ore.) CC), has returned to action this season after missing 26 games last year after a medical situation. He was averaging 7.6 points, 3.6 rebounds and 2.2 assists per game in 22.2 minutes of action per contest, shooting 40.0 percent from the floor (12-of-30), making 25.0 percent behind the arc (4-of-16) as well as 83.3 percent at the free throw line (10-of-12). At time of medical situation, he ranked sixth in the Western Athletic Conference in free throw percentage.

This season, Berger is averaging 2.0 points and 2.7 rebounds in 11.3 minutes of action per game, shooting 25.0 percent (4-of-16) from the field, including 20.0

percent (2-of-10) from three-point range, as well as 66.7 percent (2-of-3) at the free throw line.

Off the court, Berger has participated in Ryan Gomes' Foundation Hoops For Heart Health Foundation. Gomes' Foundation provided the AED (automated external defibrillator) that was used on Berger during his medical situation. Danny and his father, Brain Berger, raised money and collected donations from the community last spring and summer to get an AED for the Kids Unlimited Activity Center in Danny's hometown of Medford, Ore.

Danny and athletic trainer Mike Williams were both recognized and honored by the Utah State Legislature as Senator Lyle Hillyard presented them to the Senate Floor and Representative Jack Draxler presented them to the House Floor in late February. During their visit, Williams was also awarded the Heartsaver Hero Award by the American Heart Association.

# State your case: Which football program boasts the best all-around team in the NCAA?



► By **Curtis Lundstrom**  
sports editor



► By **Jeff Dahdah**  
assistant sports editor

## NEW CHALLENGER

One need only take a glance at Florida State's schedule to see they are the best team in the country and are rightfully No. 1 in all the polls and BCS standings.

The Seminoles offense is on a level matched arguably by only Baylor. FSU has put up 53.7 points per game this season, and Jameis Winston is the runaway favorite for Heisman with the astronomical statistics he's put up despite poor vision.

Winston has thrown for 35 touchdowns and eight interceptions and has rushed for three more.

For heaven's sake, their lowest scoring output of the season is 37 points against a Florida team that may be horrible on offense, but is still a top-20 defense.

They've had games of 59-plus points five times, and have topped the 40-point plateau in every game except for the win over the Gators. Eight different players have rushed for a touchdown this season and seven different players have caught a touchdown pass.

Speaking of defense, naysayers will argue the Seminoles have benefited from a weak ACC and out-of-conference schedule, and while there's truth to that, keep in mind two things.

First, everyone has patty cakes on their schedule. Second, Florida State has two wins against top-5 teams this season, and another top-25 win. That defense that has faced nobodys? Yeah, they allowed a combined 28 points to those three top-25 teams and shut out one of them.

Their defense is ranked first in scoring defense at 11.0 points per game and 31 turnovers this season — fifth best nationally — in 12 games. They've held six of 12 opponents to less than 10 points this season.

A good offense and good defense yields good results. A stellar offense combined with a stellar defense equates to almost unstoppable.

It's too bad for the Seminoles that Winston's off-field hurdles mean the best team in the country won't end up national champions.

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LUNDSTROM



DAHDAH

Mizzou might not play for the national championship on Jan. 6, but they are the best team in college football.

Let that sink in.

It is unlikely that Ohio State or Florida State lose in their respective championship games, and if neither does then it blocks Mizzou from getting the opportunity to prove that they deserve to raise that crystal ball.

The Tigers only loss was to South Carolina. The Tigers played that game without James Franklin, one of the best quarterbacks that you don't know. They also took 17-point lead into the fourth quarter, and lost in double overtime when a 24-yard field goal hit off the post.

That loss is no worse than Auburn's 14-point loss to LSU.

Many people haven't seen Mizzou play. As a result the general consensus is that they are 11-1 by accident. However what people may not know is that Tigers are fourth in the nation in sacks, with 39. Mizzou is no. 14 in the nation with rush yards allowed, with 119 yards per game. The Tigers are in the top 15 in the nation in both points for and points against.

Between Ohio State and Florida State the two teams have faced five total ranked teams. Mizzou took on five ranked teams alone this season, and won four. Mizzou has gone through their schedule with dominance. Of their 11 wins only one wasn't won by double digit points, and that was against Texas A&M. Meanwhile Ohio state has been entirely unconvincing, of their twelve wins four have been by ten points or less. Including a one point win to free falling Michigan last week.

As far as their comparison to the two one loss SEC teams, Auburn and Alabama, they will prove they are better than both teams when they win the SEC title game on Saturday.

Mizzou is solid in special teams, offense and defense. They are athletic and disciplined, fast and smart and they are no longer bottom feeders, in fact they only were for one year.

People need to learn to respect Mizzou, especially Auburn who is already talking about playing for the championship themselves. If people don't start to take this team seriously, they will sneak up on everybody.

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# New rules marring NCAA basketball, disrupting flow of game

**Calvin Makelky**



**Don't drink the Kool-aid**

It's a tally that reached 73 fouls and 102 free throws. No, that's not the number of fouls LeBron James has drawn and amount of free throws he's taken from preferential treatment, but a result of a recent NCAA basketball game between Niagara and Seton Hall.

And no, I'm not kidding. The game was only 11 fouls short of the record for fouls in a game set way back in 1953.

Although it may be a bit of an outlier, it represents a trend going on in college basketball this year. So what's the cause of these whistle-filled games? New rule changes implemented by the NCAA are the culprit, which are con-

sequently slowing down and taking the physicality out of the game.

NCAA's rule changes for this season include cracking down on hand-checking, arm bars and altering the basis for a charge to call to where it's now rare to see a charge taken in a game — think of the BYU-USU game this year.

What brought about these new rules? Scoring. After the scoring average for a team dropped to 67.5 points per game last year, the lowest since the 1981-82 season, the NCAA rules committee understandably wanted to make games more fun and higher scoring.

But just like with prohibition, sometimes good intentions have a negative effect.

At first glance, you would think they are succeeding with scoring having increased 4.5 points per game so far this year. However, upon further inspection, nearly three more fouls and nine more free throws per game on average accompany this

uptick. In addition, tempo has only increased by one possession per team. Therefore, almost all of the scoring increase can be accounted for in the increase in fouls.

So instead of making the game more fun to watch, it is actually making the game a more foul-filled, free-throw happy game which nobody enjoys watching.

We are going to see less of those hard-fought games in the range of 60 points, but more games in the 80s and 90s that will have less tempo, more fouls and drag on for more than three hours. These longer games gives the NCAA more opportunity to commercialize the game like the NBA.

These rule changes really have an impact on how teams play the game now as defenses have to adjust to them. Shaka Smart's vaunted "havoc" defense at VCU and Rick Pitino's in-your-face pressure defense at Louisville that has led these teams in March may become a

**Calvin Makelky**

**“Putting the game even more in the referees' hands is a terrible decision in my opinion.”**

thing of the past, as teams can no longer afford to be physical anymore if it means the other team gets a foul every time.

The NBA had a similar rule changes back in 2005, which has helped the growing demise of defense in the NBA, to where defensive effort has gone all but extinct — insert Amare Stoudemire and James Harden here. Now the word "defense" is mentioned more often as a punch line than in the NBA.

Scoring should not come easy, but with these

new rules, teams like BYU with athletic slashing guards become hard to stop because they cut to the basket and dribble into the lane so much.

This leaves the defenders with little options because almost anything they do results in a foul. These new rules "sissy-fy" the sport just like the NFL is currently doing by giving offenses the advantage, making NCAA basketball a lot less enjoyable to watch.

The new rules have had their proponents and naysayers. The new head coach at Colorado State, Larry Eustachy, hates the new emphasis made by the rule changes.

"What are we thinking, trying to put players in situations where they can be eliminated even more?" he said at the Mountain West Conference's media day. "If you pay to go see Celine Dion, she's not going to be fouled out at intermission."

Then there are people like college basketball analyst Jay Bilas who love the

new rules and think they will make the game better with more free-flowing play and athleticism. Yet the constant stream of whistles and parade of free throws that accompany the new rules makes the game less free-flowing and less enjoyable.

Putting the game even more in the referees' hands is a terrible decision in my opinion.

Instead of making offenses earn their points, they can drive like a mad man whenever they want and be assured of either scoring or getting fouled on the drive to the bucket. So please NCAA, don't turn college basketball into the NBA, because your good intentions are failing miserably.

— Calvin Makelky is a freshman studying statistics. He is a diehard sports enthusiast who hopes to be a statistical analyst for a pro sports team someday. Follow him on Twitter @makelky and send any comments to him at [cmakelky@gmail.com](mailto:cmakelky@gmail.com).



# Opinions & More

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# War on Christmas is a fallacy

It's that time again — the "most wonderful time of the year." And along with the carols, the lights and the frosty chill flowing through the winter air, a plague has been released upon the world and, most importantly, we kind, warmhearted folks here in the United States — better known as God's country.

Yes, this "War on Christmas" — affectionately deemed "World War C" by Comedy Central's Jon Stewart, host of "The Daily Show" — is alive and well, at least to the pundits and personalities at Fox News and a large part of their conservative audience. Bill O'Reilly, the big ol' Papa Bear of the network who hosts the ever-popular "The O'Reilly Factor," has recently taken issue with New York department store Macy's.

Yes, the same department store that brings the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade — a procession that ushers in the holiday season with

**Paul Christiansen**



**From the soap box**

a cavalcade of elves, carolers and a gigantic green sleigh led by reindeer and serves as a glistening, snow-covered wonderland where that jolly old soul Santa Claus seems to reside for several weeks — is being questioned for its decisions reflecting political correctness and widespread acceptance this season. On his Monday show, O'Reilly pointedly observed — in his own yuletide tradition of singling out targets he characterizes as dissolvers of the Christmas spirit — that Macy's has recently distributed advertisements for its "Santa

Land" that invites children to submit a "holiday wish list" to St. Nicholas himself.

"So here's my question to Macy's," O'Reilly sneered. "What holiday is Santa celebrating? The winter solstice? The birthday of a reindeer?"

O'Reilly is adamant that Christmas is being pushed out with phrases such as "happy holidays." The Christians, he feels, are having to tread lightly just to please those lesser populations of peoples who hold true to other beliefs.

The fact that O'Reilly somehow misconstrues Macy's holiday gesture as something alienating those who proudly practice Christmas is, simply put, absurd. Not only is the storefront strung in an amount of multicolored tinsel that could be misconstrued as the remainders of a 45-foot-tall fashionista mummy that unraveled shortly after Halloween, it's emblazoned with a sign consisting of enough lights to cause New York City's power to cut out ran-

domly. Surely it can be seen from space, and what does it spell out? "Believe" — a nod to children everywhere who hold Santa in their heart the whole year through.

Sarah Palin — a Fox contributor who I blame Tina Fey for immortalizing and, unfortunately, making indefinitely relevant — has been making the rounds on the talk show circuit to promote her latest book, "Good Tidings and Great Joy: Protecting the Heart of Christmas." She is marketing it as a godsend for those who feel Christian values are being forced out of the country. But at the same time, Palin has gone on record saying she loves and approves of the capitalistic approach and ubiquitous marketing of Christmas.

These two pundits — and many more across the conservative spectrum — have unsurprisingly narrowed their views of "traditional Christian values" to a fat man who shimmies down chimneys

one night a year, speak about "merry Christmas" vs. "happy holidays," a competitive drive to see who can show off the most ornaments and fake snow and the monetary capitalism of buy-and-sell economics. The true spirit of the season — peace on earth, good will toward all — has notably taken a back seat to this tinsel-speak, replaced by artificial hurt and efforts to stir up resentment.

Perhaps they, and many of us, have forgotten the man who the holiday is named after and his humbling kindness and guiding words that promoted acceptance and love of everyone, regardless of their backgrounds.

*— Paul is the features editor at The Utah Statesman and a senior majoring in print journalism with a minor in political science. His so-called liberal agenda gets him into hot water on occasion. Send comments to [pchristiansen86@gmail.com](mailto:pchristiansen86@gmail.com).*

## Letters to the editor: your voice

### Jarvis a brilliant satirist

To the editor:

I'd like to give a shoutout to Michael W. Jarvis, author of the hilarious bit of satire titled "Homosexuality is a sin," published Nov. 26. I especially enjoyed the term "homoelective;" it really drove home the absurdity of believing that being gay is a choice, something that is largely discredited among scientists.

The incoherent vitriol regarding "transgenders and transsexuals" from "Translytosityturvia" was a nice touch too: I took it seri-

ously at first glance, but it was just exaggerated enough to let the reader know that no actual person would believe it. The Founding Fathers namedrop was a good way to mock the idea that patriotism somehow entails being against gay rights. The appeal to God was fine, if nothing out of the ordinary, though I do think linking God to willful misinterpretations of the Constitution was a bit much. All in all, I give it an 8/10. Not bad — you had me going for a second. With a bit of practice, you'll be writing for The Onion in no time.

— John Smitten

### Students need to grow up

To the editor:

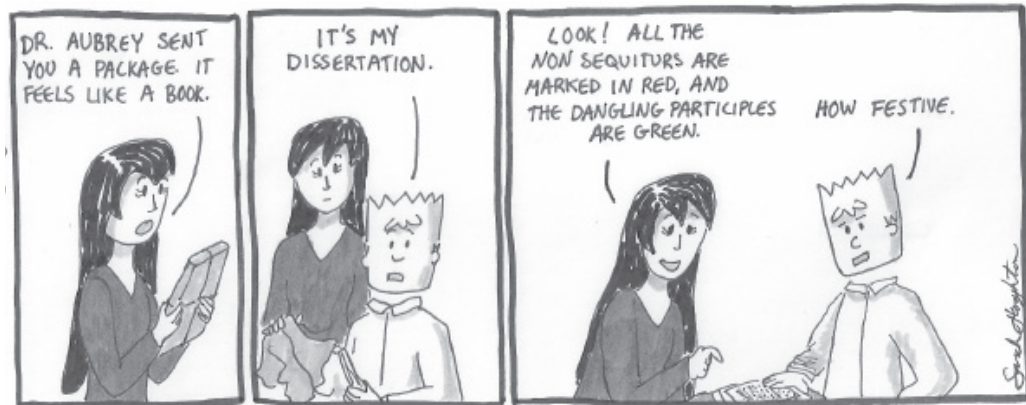
I am a 55-year-old staff member here at USU. I work in Old Main. I have seen a lot in my past years, but this one is getting worse and worse. Sometimes as I am walking the halls or going out the door, I have been shoved, almost tripped and fell down stairs, bumped against the wall and more. What happened to manners? Not one single person who has done this has apologized or seen if I was OK. Also, my "favorite" is when they just walk out the door and

let it slam in someone's face who may be behind them. What happened to glancing behind you and pausing for just a moment and holding it so they can then hold it for someone behind them, etc.? I hold the door for anyone; male, female, all people. And if I pause for even more than a moment to hold the door, could you possibly say a quick "thanks?" It truly saddens me that there is very little respect anymore, and here is my biggest pet peeve. Those children who carve all kinds of obscenities on the

elevator doors. The Facilities department has painted and painted those doors and they just keep thinking we love their art work. They also have stated that this is the worst they have ever seen. You act like junior high school, when the immature would giggle, snicker during the sex-ed classes. Well personally, this message is for you: Go home, save your parents money, because apparently you aren't ready for the "adult" school.

— Denise Haller

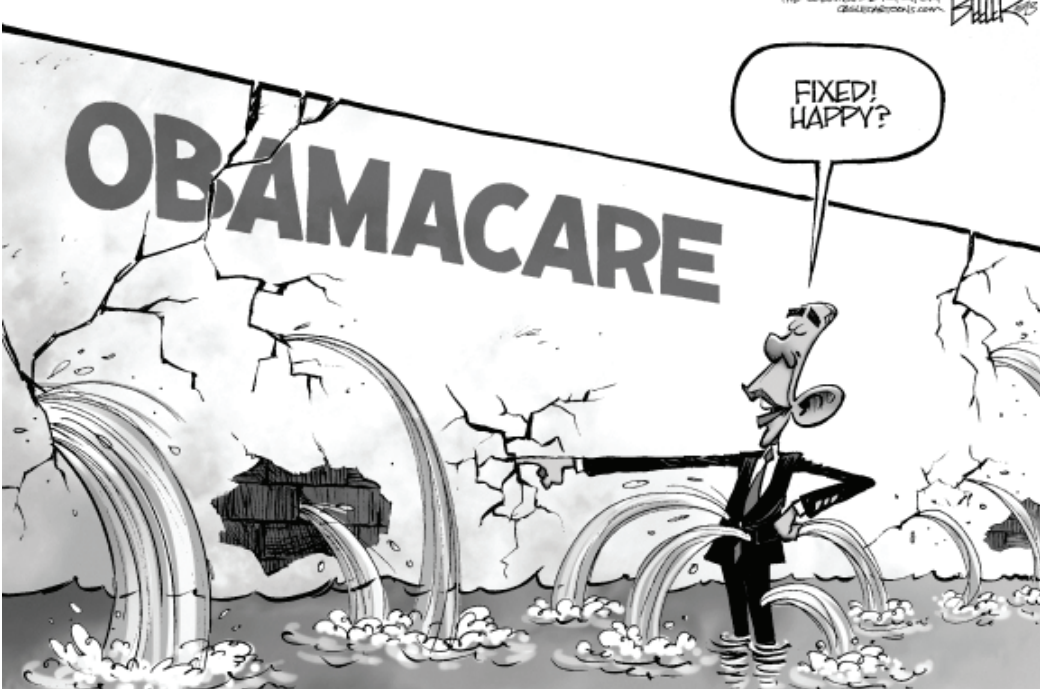
**All But Dead** • [sarah.a@aggiemail.usu.edu](mailto:sarah.a@aggiemail.usu.edu)



**The Deep End** • Tyson Cole



**Wonders and Blunders** • [melissamw89@gmail.com](mailto:melissamw89@gmail.com)



**Dec. 5 puzzle answer**

T	U	R	D	U	C	K	E	N		O	N	E	N	D
O	N	E	A	N	D	O	N	E		R	A	T	I	O
B	O	X	T	U	R	T	L	E		I	N	A	N	E
A	P	A		M	O	T	A		P	O	S	I	T	S
G	E	L	T		M	O	R	T	A	L		L	E	G
O	N	L	A	Y		G	E	R	E		I	N	O	
				C	U	R	S	E	A	T		U	N	D
B	O	O	K	L	E	T		R	A	I	N	G	O	D
A	S	H	Y		L	I	P	S	Y	N	C			
B	C	S		M	I	L	L			E	L	E	C	T
Y	A	H		O	C	T	A	V	E		E	E	L	S
G	R	E	E	T	S		Y	O	N	D		Y	A	K
A	N	I	L	E		E	D	I	T	E	D	O	U	T
T	O	L	E	T		H	O	L	E	C	A	R	D	S
E	D	A	M	S		S	H	A	R	K	W	E	E	K





19/5  
Thursday  
Clear



23/9  
Friday  
Overcast



25/6  
Saturday  
Snow



17/5  
Sunday  
Mostly cloudy



21/9  
Monday  
Partly cloudy

### 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-Identity Based Bullying, 2-3 p.m.
- Jeff Martin Magic Show, 7-8:30 p.m.

### Friday Dec. 6

- U.S. Senator Lee: Solving America's Opportunity Crisis, AGS 101 1-2 p.m.
- Museum & Music, Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art 4-5 p.m.
- USU Hockey vs. U of U, Eccles Ice Center 7 p.m.
- Starry Night: A Christmas Benefit Concert, Performance Hall 7-9:30 p.m.
- Theater Production-Still Life With Iris, Morgan Theatre 7:30-9:30 p.m.

### Saturday Dec. 7

- Holiday Open House at Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter, Swaner EcoCenter 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Men's Basketball vs. Pacific, Spectrum 5-8 p.m.
- Christmas from the Ellen Eccles Theatre, Ellen Eccles Theater 7:30 p.m.

More events online: [www.utahstatesman.com/calendar](http://www.utahstatesman.com/calendar)



Today is Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013. Today's issue of The Utah Statesman is published especially for Paden Anderson a sophomore majoring in business from Morgan, Utah.

#### Across

1 Holiday port-manteau  
10 Turned up  
15 Hoops situation involving a bonus free throw  
16 Odds, essentially  
17 Tennessee's state reptile  
18 Pointless  
19 Mental health org.  
20 Longest-serving Dodger coach Manny  
21 Puts forth  
22 Bucks  
24 Like some sins  
26 Holiday serving  
27 Dental crown alternative  
29 People magazine Sexiest Man Alive of 1999  
30 Harmonia's daughter, in

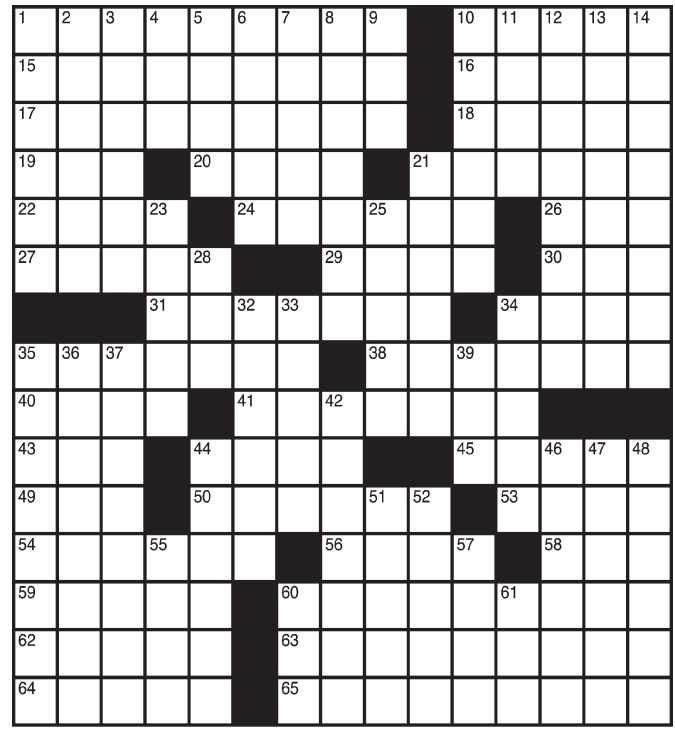
Greek myth  
31 Vituperate  
34 Menu option  
35 Program, perhaps  
38 Chaac, to Mayans  
40 Looking frightened  
41 Pretend, in a way  
43 NCAA year-end games system  
44 Word with sugar or spice  
45 Put in  
49 Slangy agreement  
50 Common hand span  
53 Catch in pots  
54 Receives  
56 Shakespearean "over there"  
58 Go on  
59 Doddering  
60 Cut  
62 Sign of emptiness

63 Stud revelations  
64 Toponymic dairy items  
65 Summer TV offering with a "Jaws of Steel Collection" DVD

#### Down

1 Lesser Antilles island  
2 Sealed  
3 Old drugstore chain  
4 "Can't Help Lovin' \_\_\_ Man"  
5 Word on a bill  
6 Storage medium  
7 Actor Yaphet \_\_\_ of "Midnight Run"  
8 Swell  
9 Formerly  
10 Yankee foe  
11 Some flatbreads  
12 Selling using servers

13 Kyoto-based entertainment company  
14 Acts altruistically  
21 Bash, affectedly  
23 Tasteless  
25 Rushes  
28 Co-star of Steve in "The Magnificent Seven"  
32 They may be dug up  
33 Circus elevator  
34 Godfather, sometimes  
35 Minor obstacle?  
36 Academy affirmation  
37 1985 #1 hit for Ready for the World  
39 Like Vivaldi's "Spring"  
42 "Imagination Taking Shape" sloganeer



44 Church compositions  
46 Kiddie lit character with a detachable tail  
47 Composer

Debussy  
48 Reproachful warning  
51 "There!"  
52 Join  
55 He or I, e.g.

57 Sea level?  
60 Half-hearted responses  
61 Crow cousin

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