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Air pollution top priority for legislators

► **By Maile Burnett**
staff writer

More than 4,000 people rallied for government intervention against air pollution on Jan. 25 in the largest air quality demonstration in the state, The Salt Lake Tribune reported.

Jordy Guth, a member of the USU Sustainability Council, was encouraged to see the rally and the awareness people have about air quality.

"Everybody who sees that there's a problem and starts to become informed about the problem really does need to step up and have a voice about it," Guth said.

Guth is impressed with the way the governor is responding and stepping up. She believes the government is listening to what voters are saying.

"Now there's a lot of legislation that's happening, because people are making it known that they care and expect the government to respond and change," Guth said.

Two days after the rally, the general session of the Utah Legislature opened with more than 15 bills concerning air quality, and according to Rep. Edward Redd, R-Logan, it's likely more bills will be proposed as the session goes on.

Redd works as a physician for the Bear River Health Department and was elected in 2012 to the Utah House of Representatives. Last spring, he and other representatives helped create the Clean Air Caucus, which aims to educate legislators about the problem. The caucus met monthly to hear from experts about the weather and chemistry behind air quality and the health effects it has.

According to Redd, most of the problems come from PM 2.5, which is particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers. The bad air in Utah not only increases risk of respiratory problems like asthma and pneumonia, but it

► See **AIR**, Page 3



India Earl photo

CACHE VALLEY SUFFERS FROM some of the worst air in the nation. On Jan. 25 more than 4,000 concerned Utah residents gathered at the capitol to show legislators the important of air pollution. More than 15 bills are being considered this session for a change in regulation toward carbon emissions.

Student work showcased in SLC



Photo Courtesy Brent Uberty

UNDERGRADUATE USU STUDENTS traveled to the Capitol in Salt Lake City on Saturday to present their research along with University of Utah students. The initiative was made in effort to distinguish the research-based students and universities from the other schools in Utah. The event is an offshoot of a larger research event in Washington, D.C. called Posters on the Hill.

USU, U of U undergrad students present varieties of research at the Capitol

► **By Ashlyn Runyan**
staff writer

More than 30 undergraduate students gathered in the rotunda of the Utah Capitol on Saturday with students from University of Utah to present their research projects to the state legislature and the public.

Scott Bates, associate vice president of Research and Graduate Studies at USU, said the event, known as Research on Capitol Hill, is a shoot-off of the larger event held each April in Washington D.C., called Posters on the Hill.

"About 10 years ago, my predecessor and the University of Utah decided that we should replicate that program here in Utah," he said.

Bates said the purpose of the event is 80 percent to showcase the students and 20 percent to showcase the university.

"It was seen as an opportunity to get both of the research universities in the state to show how they are

distinguished from the non-research universities in the state," Bates said. "They aren't doing this kind of thing at SUU."

Utah Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox was present at the event and gave remarks.

"Utah is leading the nation in nearly every metric," Cox said. "But we are still going to need people smarter than me to solve our problems."

The student presenters represented every college at USU with the exception of the Caine College of the Arts.

Jared Glenn, a senior double majoring in sociology and political science, presented his research on whether or not a professor's gender affects learning by male students.

"It's been known for a while that female students prefer and perform better with female teachers," he said. "I wanted to find out if the same went for male students."

Mark Soffe, a senior in biochemistry, has been investigating an alternative method of purifying specific proteins.

"My project is one of the more technical ones," he said. "But, if my method works, it will take a lot of time out of chemistry research."

Other projects included an investigation of the correlation between money spent on kids organized sports and the likelihood of children continuing in the sport by Michael King, a determination of how habitat stress affects garter snakes by Austin Spence and a look into how beaver dams affect the health of streams by Trinity Stout.

Bates said preparation for the event began when more than 50 students submitted abstracts back in November.

"I made selections based on trying to get a diverse array of disciplines," he said. "We take 25 projects every year."

The majority of the students have been working on their projects for at least a year.

Soffe said he used the summer break to really make headway.

"Over the summer was actually pretty intense trying to get the DNA clones right," he said. "I would spend

8 to 10 hour days in the lab, five to six days a week."

The student researchers have gained a great deal by working on their projects.

"It's one thing to sit in lecture and read PowerPoint slides about other people discovering things in your field," Soffe said. "It's another thing to get that hands-on experience."

Glenn said his project helped him decide what kind of a career he wants to pursue.

"I have wanted to be a professor at USU for a long time," he said. "Once I found out what professors do besides just teaching, which is gain knowledge, I realized this is definitely what I want to do."

Even with all of the work the students have already put in, the majority of them said they were not yet finished with their research.

Soffe said his final goal is to get published.

► See **RESEARCH**, Page 3

Cache Valley unemployments percentages drop

► **By Cassidy Woolsey**
staff writer

Utah's unemployment rate dropped again to 4.1 percent in December, compared to the national average of 6.7 percent. Local residents have seen similar results by adding more businesses and jobs to the valley within the last year.

Cache Valley is now at 3.4 percent unemployment, which is considered to be full employment, said Sandy Emile, president of the Cache Chamber of Commerce.

"In other words, almost everyone in our community has a job," Emile said. "It's an indicator that our community is healthy."

Aspen Gorry, assistant professor of economics and finance at USU, said young workers around the nation are having a hard time finding a job. The recent graduates in Cache Valley are looking to find a job based on their skills and qualifications in their field of study, he said.

"The trick with unemployment rates is a little bit hard because it's survey data," Gorry said. "It's the question of can people really not find a job, or is it not the job they are looking for exactly?"

The customer service and food industry jobs aren't always the jobs college graduates are searching for, Gorry said.

"However, the job prospects for students in Cache Valley are better than students across the country," he said.

Alix Van Noy, a senior at USU, has been working at Gia's Italian Restaurant for the past two years while attending USU. He didn't find it hard to find a job in Cache Valley, he said.

"Lots of people say it's hard," Van Noy said. "I might have been lucky, but I knew what I was doing."

Van Noy had experience from previous jobs in the food industry before his college education.

The experience and skills helped him get the job, he said.

"We hope that students will focus on gaining an actual professional working experience while they are going to school," Emile said.

Students should apply for internships and get involved outside of their education as much as possible, she said.

"So when they graduate they will not only have a degree, but they will have that experience which will make them very valuable in the employment community," Emile said. "Hopefully we will have a position for everyone that needs one, so everyone can enjoy the benefits of being in Cache Valley."

In brief

Campus & Community

Actor found dead from drug overdose

Widely admired actor Philip Seymour Hoffman was found dead Sunday in his New York Greenwich Village apartment. He was 46. The cause of death was a drug overdose. He was found with a needle in his arm and an envelope of heroin.

Hoffman won a Golden Globe for best actor for his role in “Capote” in 2005. He appeared in more than 50 films during his career including “Mission: Impossible III,” “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire” and “Moneyball.”

Toddler found dead, woman arrested

Police arrested a woman in Tooele on suspicion of homicide. She allegedly gave her 2-year-old son an overdose of methadone.

She called 911 Friday evening, but emergency responders were unable to save the boy. The boy’s 8-year-old brother and 5-year-old sister had also ingested methadone but survived. Both said their mother fixed a drink for the toddler and all three tasted it.

The mother said she realized after they tasted the drink that it was her liquid methadone and not Gatorade. She said she tried to get the boy to throw up and then they both took a nap.

► Compiled from staff and media reports

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Education Week kicks off Monday



Taylor Murray photo

THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES hosted “Are you Smarter than a 5th Grader?” on Monday. Events occur each day of the week and range from Collins Touhy speaking for Common Hour to a dance ending the week on Friday evening.

CEHS WEEK EVENTS

Tuesday

TED Talk by Briana Bowen in the TSC Auditorium from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesday

Collins Touhy, sister of adopted NFL football player Michael Oher and a character from the movie “The Blind Side,” will be speaking for the Common Hour series in the TSC Ballroom from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Thursday

The college will make valentine hearts for senior citizens at the LDS Institute building for a service activity on Thursday. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is open to everyone.

Friday

The week will end with a dance in the HPER building on Friday, which will include food, tournaments and prizes. The dance will take place from 8:30-11:30 p.m.

The Deep End • Tyson Cole

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Consider investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. Go to www.tiaa-cref.org for product and fund prospectuses that contain this and other information. Read carefully before investing.

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The Police Blotter

Friday, Jan. 24

- USU Police assisted a student with investigating suspicious text messages.
- USU Police are investigating a Facebook account possibly linked to illegal activity.

Saturday, Jan. 25

- USU Police responded to 700 N. 800 East because of a verbal dispute. Both individuals were intoxicated. In the process of learning the ages of the two people, it was discovered one individual had a warrant out for their arrest. The person was arrested and transported to the Cache County Jail.
- USU Police assisted Logan Police in responding to a large house party. LPD obtained a warrant to search the resident and several citations were given for minor in possession of alcohol. There were approximately 40 to 50 people at the house.

- USU Police and Logan EMS responded to the Health and Physical Education Recreation building because a male individual had a possible shoulder dislocation. He fell on a mat while practicing martial arts. The person was transported to Logan Regional Hospital.

Sunday, Jan. 26

- USU Police were dispatched to Richards Hall because of an intoxicated male individual. The complainant, a resident assistant, was contacted upon arrival and said the person had already left, but said he was going to Blue Square. Officers searched the area and failed to locate the individual.
- USU Police assisted Cache County officers in a traffic stop on 1400 N. Aspen Drive. Two juvenile individuals were cited for possession of marijuana.

Monday, Jan. 27

- USU Police responded to 1100 E. 1100 North on a possible domestic dispute. Officers advised the couple to find better ways to resolve problems.

- USU Police received a report of damaged property in a restroom at the Center for Persons with Disabilities. Upon arrival officers found feces along the floor in a stall and contacted Facilities for clean-up.

Tuesday, Jan. 28

- USU Police responded to a traffic accident. An individual claimed their car was hit by a softball while driving through the West Stadium Villa Parking Lot.

- USU Police responded to Merrill-Cazier Library on a medical emergency. A student fainted and possibly having a seizure. Upon arrival the individual was conscious and apparently passed out because of donating plasma earlier that day. Police

transported the person home to rest.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

- USU Police responded to an office in Old Main on a report of pornography on a computer. The photos of adult males were removed by the IT department and the hard drive was cleaned.

- USU Police responded to Aggie Village because a juvenile sent a text message to a friend saying she “wanted to die.” Logan EMS also responded and found the individual was having emotional problems. Parents transported the juvenile to Logan Regional Hospital.

Thursday, Jan. 30

- USU Police received a call from a citizen questioning traffic flow and pedestrian crossings on 700 North.

► Compiled by Danielle Manley

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Research

From Page 1

“I’m working on it now as part of the chem research class,” he said. “If I don’t get it done this semester, I’ll just work on it this summer.”

Glenn said he would like to use his research to make a difference in the world.

“What the heck is the point of doing it if you aren’t going to improve anything?” he said. “If there is a difference in how the genders learn, let’s teach females how to teach males and males how to teach females.”

Both Cox and USU President Stan Albrecht gave special thanks to the students involved. “This is the kind of research that changes lives,” Albrecht said.

“Thank you for what you are doing for our state,” Cox said.

– ashlyn.tucker@aggiemail.usu.edu

Air

From Page 1

can also trigger cardiovascular problems like heart attacks and clots, he said.

“There are some days when it really is pretty unhealthy,” Redd said. “However, year round the air is pretty reasonable.”

According to Josh Greer, who works for Bear River Health in the Environmental Health Science Division, there are two federal standards placed by the Environmental Protection Agency. Utah meets the yearly standard, but it’s during winter when Utah fails to meet the 24-hour standard due to inversion.

“We will continue to work on additional strategies that can be implemented on a state level to improve air quality in Utah,” Redd said.

On a local level, the Cache County Council recently approved a vehicle emissions program and delegated Bear River Health

to implement it, according to Greer. The program requires vehicles to be emissions tested and officially began in January.

The same program has been implemented in Utah and Davis Counties, and Salt Lake City has been using the program for about 30 years. The Utah Division of Air Quality identified it as something that would help Cache County air, according to Greer.

The website aircheckcache.com has information on what vehicles will be tested each year, the standards for the testing, and which shops will provide the testing. Law caps the price at \$15 to \$20 depending on the kind of inspection required, Greer said.

At USU, the Sustainability Council helps administration make policy changes in air quality. About a year and a half ago, USU became an idle-free campus. For the first time this past September, the council did an idle-free campaign, and according to Guth, the campaign will probably become an annual

event.

The council also has helped set up grant programs for students who want to make a difference, both through the Blue Goes Green fund and a new program called Northern Utah Clear the Air, Guth said.

The first round of the Northern Utah Clear the Air grant happened this fall, one of which is Art for Air, a student idea by Madison Bales. A part of the project is in the library, a color by number picture of lungs. Her idea was, “If everybody does a little bit, it contributes to the whole.” Each color corresponds to a fact or suggestion of how someone can help, Guth said.

Redd said measures like avoiding idling, carpooling and not burning wood can help the problem.

“We can each do our part to reduce what we contribute to the inversion,” Redd said.

– mburnett@aggiemail.usu.edu
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How ‘bout them Grammys?

Scott E Hall

Album Critic



I’ll take a short break from chewing out people’s music. I think it’s only fair I set aside time to chew out the 56th Annual Grammy Awards.

It’s not like it’s my job is to talk about how bad popular music is. I actually approve of a lot of this year’s Grammy-winning artists. Daft Punk’s “Random Access Memories” was one of my favorite albums of 2013. My favorite album of last year, “Modern Vampires of the City” by Vampire Weekend, won the award for best alternative music album. I shouldn’t have too much to bicker about but I do.

A Grammy Award is an music-related accolade presented by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. According to a 2011 interview with The Hollywood Reporter, Nine Inch Nails’ Trent Reznor said it’s “like a popularity contest that the insiders club has decided.” This came from a man who’s won two Grammys himself. At this year’s Grammy Awards ceremony, he performed alongside Queens of the Stone Age and other artists. About four minutes into the performance, their live music was interrupted by a commercial break. This is despicable and perplexing. Isn’t this supposed to be music’s big night, not television’s?

That commercial break was a defining moment in showing what the Grammy Awards are truly all about. It’s about getting TV view-

ers.

This year’s 20 live performances included a duet featuring Beyonce and Jay-Z, a Daft Punk/Stevie Wonder collaboration and 33 same-sex couple marriages. These are some big events. Behind all this grandeur, I’m curious as to why Macklemore and Ryan Lewis won best rap album and not Kendrick Lamar. After the show, Macklemore sent a text to Lamar saying, “You got robbed. I wanted you to win. You should have. It’s weird and sucks that I robbed you.”

I guess it’s not fair to judge how the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences critiques music, but you all know I’m going to do it anyway.

Getting recognition from the Grammy Academy these days is a basic recipe of how popular you are now, how much critical acclaim your music has had in the past and how old-school you sound. Daft Punk nailed all three ingredients on “Random Access Memories.” It was the perfect cheesy throwback album and it came from a group that reached their creative peak

over 10 years ago. It’s a great album by all means, although I must admit it’s total Grammy candy.

Kendrick Lamar’s “Good Kid, M.A.A.D. City” was a nominee in the same category. It’s a platinum-selling record that was released back in 2012. It was hailed by many professional music analysts as the best album of that year, and I myself think it’s one of the greatest albums in music recording history. Kendrick’s work should have received Grammy nods a year ago, but the folks in charge decided to wait it out before giving Lamar seven nominations and not having him win any of them.

➤See GRAMMYS, Page 5

Scott E Hall

“Getting recognition from the Grammy Academy these days is a basic recipe of how popular you are now, how much critical acclaim your music has had in the past and how old-school you sound.”

Humans of USU: David Clayton



Mikayla Kapp photo

SOPHOMORE DAVID CLAYTON enjoys skating around USU in his free time. Clayton is considering a major in graphic design.

Baseball player hopes for good fortune during games

The Utah Statesman interviewed David Clayton, an undeclared sophomore from Parker, Colo.

Utah Statesman: What are you studying?

David Clayton: I’m undeclared, but I think I’m going into graphic design and advertising.

US: What makes you want to go into that?

DC: I enjoy designing things on the computer and trying to make things stand out, and I think it would be cool to have a career where I make logos for companies or, like, it would be sweet to design clothes or shoes for Nike or other companies like that. Also, I feel that by doing advertising along with it, it would make my career more successful.

US: What sports do you play?

DC: I play baseball for the school, and in my free time I like playing basketball, football, golf and skateboarding.

US: Is that why you came to USU? To play baseball?

DC: No, I was actually going to play

at a different college, but then I decided to take my freshman year off from baseball and come here, then I decided to try out for the team this year.

US: Do you like it so far?

DC: Yeah, I’m definitely liking it. I like how it gets me away from actual life. When I’m playing baseball, it’s the only thing I focus on. It’s super fun and it takes a lot of skill and hard work, and I also like being part of a team.

US: Who do you look up to?

DC: I look up to God the most in my life.

US: What’s the best advice you’ve been given?

DC: Aim high. Have goals, dreams and never give up.

US: What’s the most embarrassing moment you can remember?

DC: When I was like 10 I got locked

in the KFC bathroom, and the fire department had to come to get me out.

US: How long were you in there, and how did they find out you were locked in there?

DC: I was trying to get out for like 15 minutes. I was just banging on the door with my first and someone heard, and apparently the manager tried to get me out with his key but it didn’t work, so he had to call the fire department.

US: Do you have a phobia of public restrooms now?

DC: Nah, I don’t. But I think I did for a little while, and it was pretty traumatic since I was so little. I was super scared that I wasn’t going to be able to get out.

US: Favorite animal and why?

DC: It’s a frog because my nick-

name in high school was “corn frog.” That’s when I started liking frogs.

US: Why did you get that nickname?

DC: That is a great question, I have no idea. My friend just started calling me it one day and it stuck.

US: What’s your favorite thing to do here in Logan?

DC: Just skateboarding around campus or making late-night McDonald runs.

US: What’s something unique about you?

DC: I wear a sleeve when I play baseball and if I have a bad game where I do bad, the next game I wear a different sleeve. I also keep fortunes in my hats for superstitious reasons.

US: What kind of fortunes?

DC: Just ones that mean something to me that are from fortune cookies. One says, “Investigate the new opportunity that will soon become an option.”



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‘Labor Day’ surprisingly pleasant



What did you do over Labor Day weekend? Did you change someone’s life forever?

Young teen Henry (Gattlin Griffith) lives with his mother, Adele (Kate Winslet). She suffers from depression, and leaves the house only about once a month. Henry does his best to take care of Adele, but he recognizes there are things he can’t do to help.

One day soon before school starts, Adele and Henry go shopping for clothes. A wounded man, who introduces himself as Frank (Josh Brolin), softly and forcefully asks for assistance and a ride to their house. Reluctantly, Adele takes him home. Frank explains he just escaped prison, but he isn’t all he appears to be.

Going into “Labor Day,” I thought I knew exactly what was going to happen based on what I saw in the trailer. Fortunately, I was wrong. I was pleasantly surprised. I liked it.

I thought the film was going to be a romantic drama, almost bordering the chick flick genre, but it wasn’t. I was worried because I like Winslet and Brolin, and I couldn’t see Brolin in a chick flick. They both delivered fantastic performances and were well-supported by Griffith and the other actors.

There are a number of memorable anecdotes throughout the movie that add to the simplicity of the film and depth of the characters. “Labor Day” is based on a book of the same name by Joyce Maynard, and those philosophies may have been pulled directly from its pages.

The movie effectively kept the audience curious and questioning with brief flashbacks and images. There wasn’t as much show-and-tell as there were fill-in-the-blanks until everything was finally revealed near the end. Having a mentally challenging aspect makes a movie and the story more intriguing, captivating the audience and causing them to think about how this or that happened and how it ties to the present.

I felt anxiety for Frank as various situations arose that could potentially compromise his situation. I felt the burden Henry had to bear to take care of his mother. I felt the heartache of a world turned upside down.

For everything that happened, for all that was in it, it was a simple, intimate human story. There were only a small handful of locations, and that added to the closeness. I could easily see this story replicated in a stage play.

The greatest charm “Labor Day” has to offer is its ability to be emotional and dramatic without becoming overly dramatic, which seems to be the expectation in drama movies today.

“Labor Day” may not be quite good enough for an Oscar or Golden Globe, but it’s good enough for a viewing.

– Spencer Palmer is a graduate student working toward an MBA with a recent bachelor’s in mechanical engineering. Email him at spencer.palmer@aggiemail.usu.edu or visit his website, themovieknight.wordpress.com.



Grammys

From Page 4

Perhaps the album was released too late in the year to get nominations for the 2013 awards. Personally, I don’t think the Grammy Academy would have showed as much love for Lamar if his album hadn’t sold so much in the past year. Lamar’s nominations were more so inspired by his album sales than by his genius.

The way the Grammys work have been questionable since Christopher Cross beat out Pink Floyd’s “The Wall” for album of the year in 1981. Since then, some great artists and terrible artists alike have won these awards. Arcade Fire is a great band that won the 2011 album of the year for “The Suburbs.” This was a great album, but their 2004



release “Funeral” has been hailed by many publications as one of the greatest albums of its decade. It’s the youngest album to appear on Rolling Stone’s 200 Greatest Albums of All Time. “The Suburbs” only won Album of the Year because the Grammy Academy was making up for not appreciating “Funeral” enough. Eclectic, tasteful music rarely wins Grammys.

The year before Arcade Fire won this award, it was won by Taylor Swift.

In The Hollywood Reporter interview mentioned earlier, Reznor also said the Grammy Awards feel “rigged and cheap.” Considering his Grammy performance this year was cut off by a commercial break, it’s hard for me to disagree. Dude, forget the Grammys.

– Scott Hall is a newcomer to the world of journalism. He is studying public relations and stage management at USU. His spare time is dedicated to music. For more, email scotthehall3@gmail.com.

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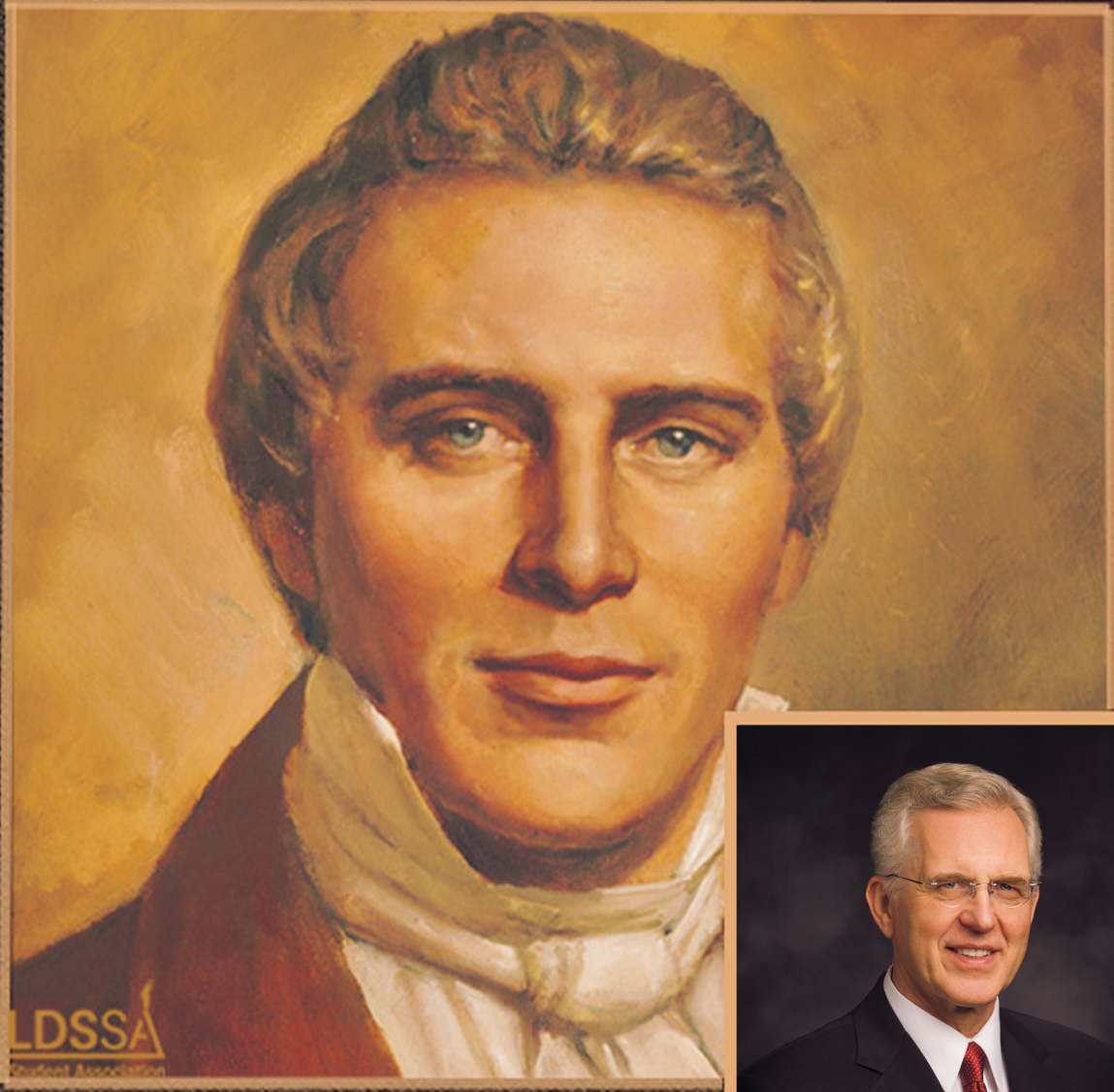
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Ringling in the 2014 Winter Olympics



► **By Jeff Dahdah**
assistant sports editor

Competition for the 2014 Winter Olympics begins on Thursday with women's skiing super combined trials and men's snowboarding slopestyle qualifications. The opening ceremonies, however, take place on Friday. The Olympics will be aired on NBC and its affiliate channels and will last through Feb. 23.

New Events:

There will be 12 events in these games that have not been seen in previous winter Olympics.

The first is ski halfpipe for men's and women's competition. This is an event that already takes place on a snowboard, but X Games fans will be excited to see this event coming to the Olympic stage.

Another X Games favorite that is going to see the Olympic snow is the slopestyle event. There will be a men's and women's competition for skiing and snowboarding. The event features a rail portion and a jump portion so fans can see a plethora of new athletes throwing their bodies in dangerously high situations while doing aerial stunts.

Snowboarding parallel slalom will take place in Sochi for the first time. This is an event in which two athletes race on side-by-side courses and first one down wins. This event has been in the Olympics for skiing before, but never for snowboarding.

Ski jumping has been a long-standing classic in the Olympics. However, women will compete in it for the first time ever next week.

The last three are team or relay versions of current Olympic sports. Biathlon mixed relay is a new spin on the biathlon. It is extremely popular in Europe and it is, in short, a four-person co-ed biathlon relay. The figure skating team event is basically exactly what it sounds like; countries will have different skaters to perform in different categories for a team score. Luge team relay will also be in the Olympics for the first time. It will feature a doubles team, a male athlete and a woman athlete in a team relay.

U.S. athletes to watch

Shani Davis already has two gold medals under his belt; he won the 1000-meter speed-skating events in the last two Olympics. In a week, he will go for his third-straight medal in the event.

Skiing's bad boy Bode Miller is back for his fourth Olympic games. He is 36 years old and has lost 20 pounds. Miller broke out in Salt Lake in 2002 and then was criticized in Torino in 2006 for partying late into the night then competing the next day. Miller, however, is focused and aims to claim gold in what is likely to be his final Olympics.

Snowboarding's superstar Shaun White skipped the X Games last month to prepare for the Olympics. White will be competing in two events this year for the first time, as slopestyle has never

been in the Olympics. He will also compete in his signature event, superpipe.

Hannah Kearney is the defending women's mogul champion in the Olympics. She is still considered one of the world's best mogul skiers this time around, and she will attempt to become the first woman to win consecutive gold medals in freestyle skiing.

Hannah Teter is the original women's halfpipe gold medal winner. She won it in 2006 in the inaugural Olympic halfpipe competition. She will look to reclaim the gold in this year's games after she took silver in Vancouver in the 2010 games.

Mikaela Shiffrin is only 18, yet with Lindsey Vonn sitting out of these Olympics, she is the headline women's ski racer. Shiffrin has already won three world cup slalom races this season and looks to be counted on for the Americans to continue to win.

Top Stories going into the Olympics

Lolo Jones, the popular American hurdler who just missed the podium in 2008 and 2012 after hitting a hurdle in both races, has given herself one more chance at an Olympic medal. She has made the U.S. bobsled team as a brakeman. This will likely be her last chance to earn an Olympic medal, something many people thought she would never achieve after the London games.

The Jamaican bobsled team will make their first appearance since 2002. A Jamaican four-man bobsled team made the Olympics in 1988, and the

1993 Disney movie "Cool Runnings" was based on its story. People are donating money to the two-man team of Winston Watts and Marvin Dixon to cover travel costs to Sochi.

Lindsey Vonn will skip these Olympics after she re-injured her surgically repaired knee in a fall in November. Vonn has been at least slightly injured for the last two Olympics, and the women's skier with the most world cup medals will completely miss the games in Sochi. However, she said she will not retire until at least the next Olympic games in 2018, when she will be 33.

Threats on the Olympic games

The cost of these Olympic games is the highest of any in history. Russia has spent \$51 billion on the games, \$10 million more than the 2008 Beijing games and, according to a Dutch newspaper, more than every other Winter Olympics cost in history combined.

This has caused unrest about the games in Russia, and a terrorist organization led by a man named Doku Umarov has made threats. In late December 2013, the organization bombed public transportation hubs in Volgograd. Russian president Vladimir Putin has spared no expense on security measures for the Sochi games, and the U.S. has offered aid for protection of the Olympics.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Aggies look to break five- game conference losing streak

► **By Curtis Lundstrom**
sports editor

After starting the season 7-0, the Utah State men's basketball team has since gone 5-9, including 2-7 in the Mountain West Conference.

The Aggies continue conference play with a pair of home games this week when they begin the second go-around of conference games by hosting Nevada and Boise State.

"We're just kind of a mess right now. We're struggling," said head coach Stew Morrill

following the loss Saturday in Wyoming. "We're having a hard time scoring. We're having a hard time defending. Our players are not very confident."

The road doesn't get any easier for the Aggies.

While USU leads the conference in three-point field goal percentage, the Aggies are ninth in scoring offense and eighth in scoring defense while compiling a minus-4.7 scoring margin during conference play.

Morrill switched up the starting lineup on Saturday against Wyoming, something

the Aggies hope will pay dividends against the Wolf Pack on Thursday. When the teams met in Reno on Jan. 11, USU started a stretch of seven games in which the team reached the 70-point plateau.

The Aggies have only reached the mark three times in conference play, once in a win over San Jose State and twice in losses to Air Force and Boise State.

It's a trend that bodes ill for USU when Nevada visits the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum on Wednesday.

"We've got to be able to play

defense even when our offense isn't going the way we want it to," said senior guard Spencer Butterfield after losing to Wyoming.

The Wolf Pack boasts the third-best scoring margin in the conference, outscoring opponents by an average of 5.2 points. Nevada has four players averaging in double figures, led by Deonte Burton at 21.0 points per game.

Nevada has allowed conference opponents an average of 64.4 points per game and held the Aggies to 54 in the first

meeting this season, which was the Wolf Pack's fourth of seven conference wins so far this season.

For the Aggies, switching the lineup is a focal point.

"We just have to get used to playing out new positions, but bottom line is that we've just got to play harder," Butterfield said.

Morrill echoed Butterfield's sentiment about the team's effort.

"I don't think we're not trying, I think we're just kind of a mess," Morrill said. "And I

hate to admit that, but it's true. We're not playing hard enough because we're struggling so much, and when shots aren't going down and the other team is scoring and you're missing shots it gets deflating out there, and it's no excuse, but it's what is happening."

The Aggies and Wolf Pack are scheduled to tip off at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum.

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Taking a look at the top-10 overlooked sports movies



Logan Jones

Trail blazing

Whenever a list of great sports movies is created, films like "Remember the Titans" and "Field of Dreams" inevitably rise to the top, while other films are passed over and left out of the discussion entirely. The following 10 movies are not the best of all time; rather, they are 10 forgotten sports films that deserve a little more credit than they typically receive.

10. "The Replacements"

Based on the 1987 pro football players' strike, the fictitious Washington Sentinels hire Coach Jimmy McGinty (Gene Hackman)

to assemble a group of misfit players and finish the remainder of the season. Hackman recruits washed-up quarterback Keanu Reeves as well as Orlando Jones, Jon Favreau and Roy from "The Office" in an attempt to piece together a winning team. The movie is both a better comedy and a better football film than its more popular counterpart, "The Longest Yard."

9. "Miracle"

Though well-received by critics and audiences alike, this biographical film following the formation of the U.S. men's hockey team and its road to the 1980 Winter Olympics is frequently left out of the "greatest films" conversation. The film is an intense portrayal of one of the most significant events in the history of American sports.

8. "Rocky Balboa"

This final installment in the "Rocky" franchise, released 30 years after the original, was a fitting end to a series that desperate-

ly needed to forget "Rocky V." Stallone neatly parallels his character from the first "Rocky" film, delivering the closest thing to an emotional performance he'll likely ever give.

7. "Cool Runnings"

An obvious product of the early 1990's, "Cool Runnings" is both hilarious and inspiring. On a list of most-quoted sports movies, this would rank just ahead of "Jerry Maguire" and just barely behind "The Sandlot."

6. "D2: The Mighty Ducks"

This movie might not ever appear on any other list of forgotten films, but nostalgia demands it be mentioned here. It's basically "The Goonies" of sports movies. The best scene in the movie shows Team USA playing an aggressive game of street hockey against some neighborhood kids while Tag Team's "Whoomp! (There It Is)" plays in the background.

5. "Moneyball"

Logan Jones

"The following 10 movies are not the best of all time; rather, they are 10 forgotten sports films that deserve a little more credit than they typically receive."

Brad Pitt's depiction of Oakland Athletic's manager Billy Beane earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor, and the film was nominated for Best Picture in 2011. The film follows Beane's struggle to assemble a competitive team despite severely limited funds due to the team's small market, ultimately resulting in a revolutionary method of scouting players and a historic winning streak by the poorest team in the majors. It's hard not to be romantic about baseball.

4. "Four Days In October"

Part of ESPN's "30 For 30" series, this film documents the four consecutive days in which the Boston Red Sox challenged baseball history against the New York Yankees in the 2004 ALCS. The entire film is available on YouTube and is a must-see for any baseball fan, regardless of team allegiance.

3. "Finding Forrester"

Admittedly gets some degree of credit when placed on a comprehensive list of classics, but rarely placed on the same level as "Rudy" or "Hoosiers" due to the nature of the film. "Finding Forrester" manages to somehow be a basketball movie that isn't about basketball, which makes sense only after seeing it.

2. "Warrior"

Saying this film is about UFC fighting falls laughably short of doing it justice. "Warrior" is emotionally draining. It's intense. It's both thrilling and heart-breaking. It is absolutely brutal in every meaning of

the word. "Warrior" is possibly the best fighting movie ever made.

1. "Hoop Dreams"

Printed across the top of "Hoop Dreams" movie poster is a quote from famed movie critic Roger Ebert, which reads "This is one of the best films ... I have ever seen." "Hoop Dreams" follows the lives of Arthur Agee and William Gates, two basketball players from Chicago trying to make it to the NBA. The film explores economic division, race and education while tracking the young men's budding basketball careers. "Hoop Dreams" may be one of the most underrated movies ever, regardless of genre.

- Logan Jones is a sophomore studying journalism and communication. When he isn't writing or watching or arguing sports, he's updating his blog at mindgrenades.blogspot.com. Feel free to contact him at logantjones@aggiemail.usu.edu or tweet at him @Logantj.

USU fan committee formed

By USU Media Relations

Attention Aggie fans, you have the opportunity to apply to join an "Aggie Fan Experience Committee" which will provide valuable input to the athletic department at Utah State on various fan oriented topics.

The committee will be comprised of 15-20 diverse Aggie fans, including new and veteran season ticket holders, Big Blue donors, USU students, single game ticket purchasers, and more. The hope is

to gain a broad perspective of various Aggie fans in order to better the overall fan experience.

An application process is underway now and all applications must be submitted by February 28. USU Athletics will take the following time to review applicants and the committee members will be selected and notified by March 12.

Committee members are expected to bring notes and suggestions to be presented at each meeting that will feature an open discussion intended to better the

fan experience at Utah State athletic events. Some topics of discussion can include tailgating, halftime, parking, concessions, traffic, in-stadium technology, and any other positive or negative game experience-related topics.

All Aggie fans are encouraged to apply, however you must be 18 or older to join the committee. For any questions please contact derick.stoulil@usu.edu or (435)797-1360 or Kelsea Garthoff, at kelsea.garthoff@usu.edu or (435)797-5799.



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Smoking ban not actually about smoking

► **By Charlie Huenemann**
guest columnist

There are two kinds of arguments being advanced for making the USU campus smoke-free. Neither of them is any good.

The first argument, advanced by Daryn Frischknecht, is based on the claim that students have the right to breathe clean air. Of course, the people of Logan are

acutely aware of the dangers of unclean air, since there are times when we have the worst air in the nation. So we can all agree that clean air is what we call “a very good thing.” But is there a right to clean air?

If there is, then we have a much bigger project to tend to. Car emissions are a far more egregious violation of this alleged right; the impact of second-hand smoke is basically zero by comparison. If polluting the air really does vi-

olate a human right, we should be pulling all stops to sharply reduce or eliminate car traffic, both on campus and off campus. But if we are reluctant to do this, then we don’t believe that breathing clean air is a right. We’re not really talking about a right. We’re talking about something else.

What else are we talking about? My guess is that Frischknecht and many others just don’t like the smell of cigarette smoke. They find it

annoying or disgusting, and they would rather not have it around. But if this is what’s going on, then our effort instead should be to see how we can reduce the friction between smokers and non-smokers, in order to keep the annoyance at a minimum. We could enforce the prohibition from smoking within 25 feet of building entrances, or we could establish smoking zones so that those who wish to smoke can do so without

bringing too much annoyance to others.

The second “argument” is the effort by USU to survey faculty, staff and students. I’m thinking of this survey as an “argument” if the aim is to establish what we ought to do by how most people feel. That might sound like a harmless principle — “Isn’t that what democracy is?”, people might ask — but in fact the

► See **SMOKING**, Page 9

Charlie Huenemann

“My guess is that Frischknecht and many others just don’t like the smell of cigarette smoke.”

Let’s hear who you’re voting for

Tavin Stucki



Hail to the Chief

As our own USU/SA election season is upon us and candidates have filed their intention to run for office, I’m excited to see the letters to the editor start coming in about why this particular candidate is best for the job for whatever reason, or why another particular candidate is not good for the job because of this set of reasons.

I’m so excited for it that I’m starting to set aside extra space in the opinion section just to accommodate the influx of letters: It’s the only place where you, the reader, are able to voice your views as if you were a regular weekly columnist.

But I’m also aware of the fact that not many of my readers have actually written a letter to the editor before. I’ll give you the run-down.

Letters to the editor are just that. You send them to me, I put them in the paper. Boom, done. But it’s also a good idea to have a point to what you’re writing — I’m not going to print your letter all about how your puppy is the #Cutest-ThingEver. It’s also a good idea to back up your statements with actual facts, figures or reasons.

Most of all, it’s a good idea to make yourself not look like a jack-ass, even if you’re vehemently opposing the election of a particular candidate.

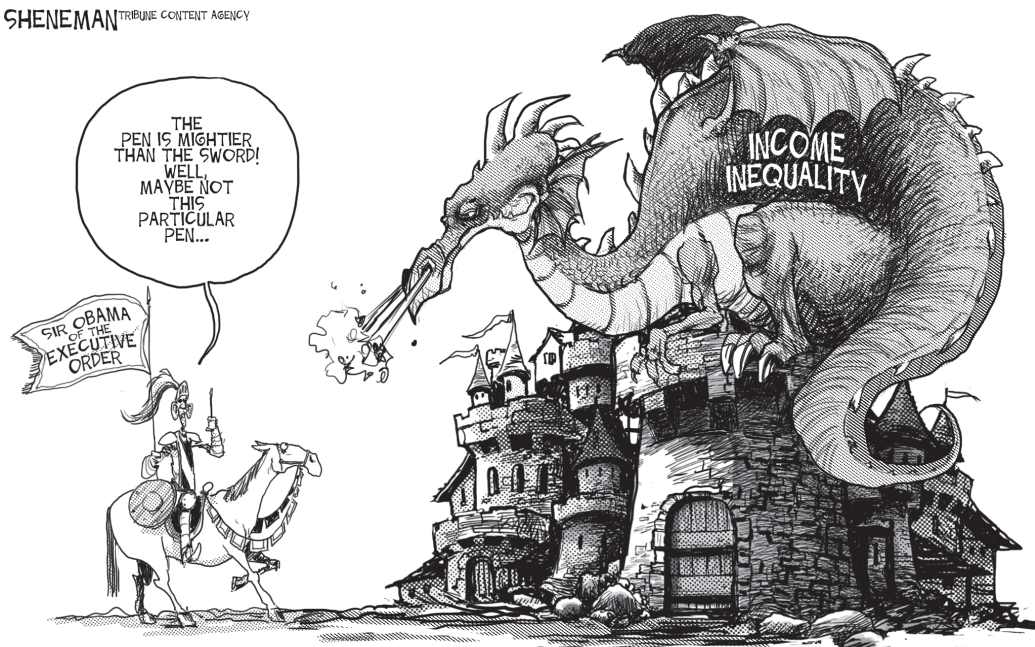
Let me give a quick example by writing my own letter to the editor with the suggested headline of “Athletics office needs more choice.”

To the editor:

(This candidate) is running unopposed, and unless there are some write-in candidates I don’t know

► See **CHIEF**, Page 9

SHENEMAN/THE CONTENT AGENCY



Forum letters: Your voice

Fight worth all the cash

To the editor:

Firstly and most importantly, I believe what Evelyn Beatrice Hall said, “I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.” For that, I thank Mr. Christiansen for his article concerning the same-sex marriage debate.

However, it should be pointed out that he was wrong in most of the fundamental points of his argument and was weakly arguing the rest of them. He argues the Utah government is wasting the taxpayers’ dollars in defending marriage between strictly a man and a woman and that they are “combat(ing) a decision based on an idea ... that homosexuality will corrupt children and violate the sanctity of traditional marriages, defined as those between a man and

a woman.” The children being raised by gay couples isn’t even the issue here. Sure, they could turn out normal; many have. What should be looked at is what the public wants, not necessarily why they want it. To throw out just briefly the argument for the ethics of the situation, the government is doing what the taxpayers want them to do. In 2004, Amendment 3 was passed resoundingly by the voters in the state. All but two counties — Summit and Grand — voted that this is the definition they wanted for the state for marriage. Perhaps the issue should be put to a vote again, but by the most recent vote, this is what the taxpayers want. To condemn the price tag of \$2 million is only saying the residents of Utah are stupid and don’t know how to spend their money right.

Which brings up another good point: money. I would be interested to see how much money LGBT groups and court cases have cost trying to over-

turn the voting public’s opinion since 2004. I would venture to guess it would exceed the \$2 million. Yes, much has changed since then, but it is no surprise to me that in that period of time, both groups spent a lot of money to defend what they believe, and neither side should be faulted for that.

The fact that Mr. Christiansen points out he was raised a Latter-day Saint serves to undermine his arguments against the church’s position. As any good voting community, we should vote as we believe. The fact that the church believes “God has commanded that ...

– Keith Jackman

Finish it online!

Read the letter in full at utahstatesman.com

America has a bipolar relationship with national history and mythology

Briana Bowen



The Ninjacrat

Americans are funny creatures when it comes to the study of history.

Children in the United States are brought up on tales of the honesty of Abraham Lincoln, the courage of Gen. George Washington, the wisdom of the Founding Fathers and the indomitable will of the Western pioneer. Much of our rich national culture is intertwined with colorful narratives from our collective past.

Yet despite our fondness for baseball-and-apple-pie narratives from days gone by, Americans are notoriously awful at history — the actual

study and analysis of events and actors in the past. Though there are individual exceptions, our national culture and interpretation of the past is largely built on a masterfully exclusive selective memory.

Perhaps the best summary is that Americans are totally ahistorical, and at the same time, utterly infatuated with national mythology.

Lest you think I’m attacking young George Washington, axe-in-hand beside the felled cherry tree, let me be clear that there are some virtues to national mythology. Heroic tales ex-

emplify the very best in a nation. Woven from the most virtuous threads of legend, national myths create cultural tapestries that not only celebrate exemplary moral courage but inspire men and women of the present to rise above base human nature and lead with wisdom and honor. C.S. Lewis reflected on the value of such tales: “Since it is so likely that children will meet cruel enemies, let them at least have heard of brave knights and heroic courage.”

► See **NINJACRAT**, Page 9

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.

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Tavin Stucki



Chief

From Page 2

about, will walk into the (this office) for next year.

I like (this candidate). He's a great guy to hang out with. I don't doubt he would make a great VP, I just wish we had more options to choose from.

Every day I see (this guy) studying at the big table outside the service center on the third floor of the TSC. The faces around him don't generally change — many of the other USU/SA officers who hang out there doing homework or taking a break to play table tennis.

I might still vote for (this candidate), but it would be nice to have the choice not

to. Isn't there another person we can at least choose from as a write-in candidate?

– Tavin Stucki

See? It's not that hard.

Your letters should reflect your own feelings. For example, I'm expecting many letters along the lines of "There's no diversity among candidates," "Don't vote Tavin Stucki for Athletics VP," "Write in Colby May for president" and "I just want a good Howl."

It's even OK for candidates to write letters promoting themselves for office. It's even better for their campaign teams to do it.

As a reminder, letter should be short-ish, and mine was fewer than 200

words; they should be in good taste — I opposed (this candidate) in this fictitious letter, but I gave reasons why and didn't just call him names; there shouldn't be more than one written by the same person in the same week — too much of a good thing can ruin a cause.

Letters can be submitted by hand to my office in TSC 311 or by email to statesman@aggiemail.usu.edu.

– 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.

Smoking

From Page 2

principle, if we simply follow it, can allow a majority to impose policies that conflict with a deeper mission of our institution. The deeper mission I'm thinking of is the mission of a public university to encourage both diversity and tolerance for differences among people.

Some history will show what I mean. Years ago — I'm told — there was a place in the student center called The Briar. It was a smoke-filled coffee shop, bustling with activity and interesting discussions. When Utah passed its first indoor clean air act in 1995, one of the most vocal advocates for keeping The Briar open was Val R. Christensen, the vice president of Student Services at the time. Christensen — who didn't smoke, by the way — believed that a university should welcome differences among people and should show special hospitality to people visiting campus whose customs are quite different from our own. He believed part of the university experience is exposure to differences and the active encouragement of tolerant attitudes. This, he thought, was an important service of the institution, and so should be preserved even in the face of majority votes.

There may be a long list of things most folks on campus would rather not put up with — smoking, coffee drinking, R-rated movies, T-shirts with edgy messages — but we should keep in mind that the university has the job of preparing students for a very diverse and interesting world that does not mirror Utah in many respects. The smoking issue is a relatively small one, I know, but it does connect with this broader mission, and that should be borne in mind.

– Charlie Huenemann is a philosophy professor and associate dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Send comments to charlie.huenemann@usu.edu.

Ninjacrat

From Page 2

But there is a critical difference between using national mythology — stories that Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves and the belief that America has never lost a war, for example — as a warm and comforting source of inspiration, and using it as an actual account of the way history has transpired. American culture is, on the whole, so ahistorical that we conveniently replace entire chapters of our history with our national mythology, or what we want to believe about history. In doing so, we cheat ourselves out of the wealth of experience and wisdom that can be gleaned from a sincere study of history — both the bits we like and those we don't.

One of the best features of representative democracy is that it allows a nation to learn from its mistakes and to avoid making the same mistake twice. That's an incredibly valuable feedback loop. The problem, however, is that it's very difficult to avoid repeating mistakes if you never learn about the last time the mistake was made.

In the words of Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana: "Those

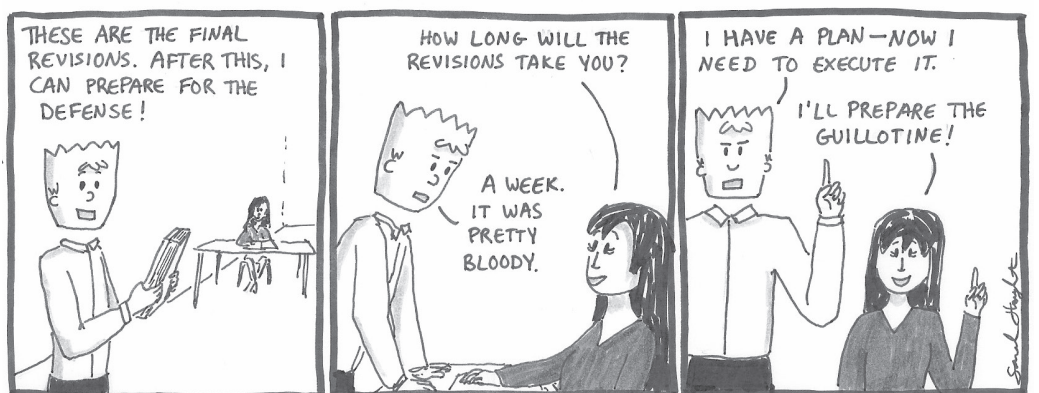
who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

While some of the problems and challenges of the 21st century are unique to our time, a great many have precedents — some almost identical — in history. The lessons we learned from the Prohibition Era in the 1920s could provide serious direction in our current war on drugs. The lessons we could have learned in Vietnam, and quite explicitly chose not to, are highly relevant to our current engagements in the Middle East. We are missing out on real opportunities to avert suffering and disaster by refusing to pluck the low-hanging fruit of painfully obvious lessons from history.

It isn't necessary that every American become a history professor. But it is our national and individual responsibility to insist we learn from both the mistakes and successes of the past, as they actually happened, rather than remain passively content with substituting our national mythology for the sincere study of history.

– Briana is a political science major in her last semester at USU. She is an avid road cyclist and a 2013 Truman Scholar. Proudest accomplishment: True Aggie. Reach Briana at b.bowen@aggiemail.usu.edu

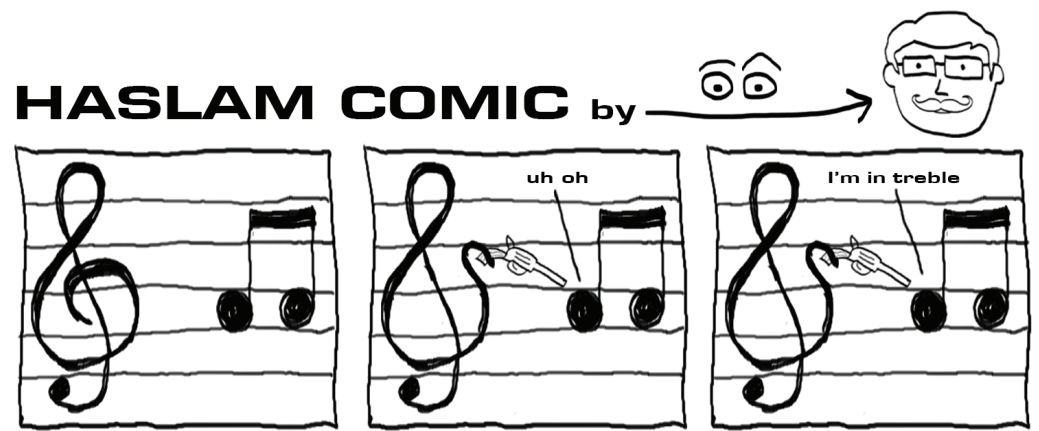
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NOMINATIONS

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Due
February 17th

ROBINS
AWARDS
TWENTY FOURTEEN

Help with Research

Participants Needed

For Research Study in the
Department of Psychology

- \$10 for approximately one hour
- All students are eligible to participate!
- Answer questions about:
Your opinions about different immediate and delayed outcomes and pictures

Contact us at
bluegoesgreen@gmail.com

 <p>23/8 Tuesday Mostly cloudy</p>	 <p>26/6 Wednesday Mostly cloudy</p>	 <p>27/10 Thursday Snow</p>	 <p>26/5 Friday Snow</p>	 <p>21/9 Saturday Clear</p>
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Tuesday Feb. 4

- Through March 7 Course Withdrawals Show as W on Transcript
- Through May 2 No Adding of Classes Permitted
- Healthy Relationships, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., TSC International Lounge
- Kristin's Story, 7 p.m., TSC Auditorium
- Candida, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Caine Lyric Theatre
- Swim Lesson Session 2 Registration Open, all day, HPER pool

Wednesday Feb. 5

- Common Hour: Collins Tuohy, 11:30-12:30 p.m., TSC Ballroom
- Time Management, 12-1 p.m., TSC 335
- Group Meditation, 1:30-2:25 p.m., TSC 335
- Groutage Exhibition Gallery Talk, 3-5 p.m., Twain Tippetts Exhibition Hall
- Love and Stuff, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Performance Hall
- Low Vision Support Group, 10-11:30 a.m., 106 E. 1120 North

Thursday Feb. 6

- Testing like a pro: test prep and test taking strategies, 10-11 a.m., TSC 315A
- Candida, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Caine Lyric Theatre
- A Passion for Place: Harrison Groutage Retrospective, all day, Twain Tippetts Exhibition Hall
- Nobody Goes Home Sad, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art
- Reliefs: The Art of Woodcuts, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art

Also online at UtahStatesman.com



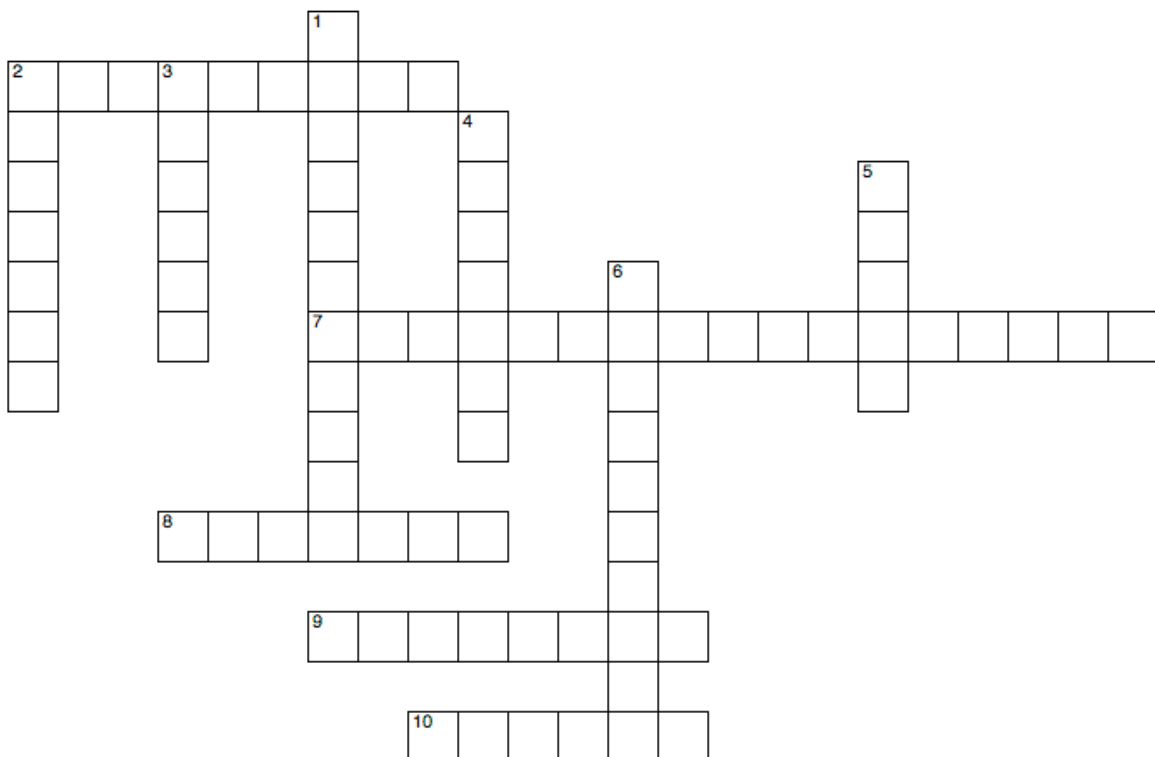
Today is Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014. Today's issue of The Utah Statesman is published especially for Ashley Barrett, a junior majoring in dietetics from Riverton, Utah.

ACROSS

- 2 guest columnist, last name
7 Bowen: "utterly infatuated with ____"
8 what Stucki sets extra space for
9 David Clayton's nickname
10 Blindside visitor, last name

DOWN

- 1 Plays Adele in 'Labor Day'
2 Golden Globe winner, died
3 Thursday basketball opponent
4 #2 overlooked film
5 2014 sports site
6 He texted Kendrick Lamar



Statesman Crossword Puzzle

Find answers in today's issue

4 Days Only
Feb. 5-6-7-8

WAREHOUSE SALE

Wednesday • 7:30 AM - 8 PM / Thursday • 7:30 AM - 8 PM / Friday • 7:30 AM - 8 PM / Saturday • 7:30 AM - 6 PM

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