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Several cars burglarized in campus area

By Karcin Harris
NEWS COPY EDITOR

Sunday morning, several cars were broken into in Logan and on Utah State University campus, according to an email sent out by campus police.

The thieves targeted unlocked cars but also broke car windows to get into locked cars. Utah State University Police said thieves targeted unlocked cars, but smashed windows

The Utah State University

Police Department are still investigating and have asked the public for information and for help identifying a car involved in the robberies.

USU police also sent out an email to students and faculty with a list of precautions to take to prevent future burglaries, including checking parked cars periodically, parking in well-lit areas and not leaving valuable items in cars.

— karcinrose@gmail.com



A surveillance camera shows the vehicle USU Police believe is responsible for a series of burglaries.

PHOTO COURTESY OF USU Police Department

When her wrist cost her a dream

USU student forced to give up dream of music after wrist condition

By Brynne Adamson
NEWS COPY EDITOR

Bethany Ewell watched as her friends tuned their instruments on the stage of the Newel and Jean Daines Concert Hall. They were preparing to play Mahler’s Third Symphony, an exploration of nature and humankind, of the comfort of grace, of the burning of pain.

Austrian guest conductor Christoph Campestrini made his way onto the stage. The Utah State University Symphony Orchestra readied their instruments. With a tap of his baton, Campestrini directed the ensemble of musicians to begin the first piece of the night.a

At first, Ewell held herself together. It wasn’t until the clarinets started to play that she felt tears falling down her cheeks. Frustration and sadness bubbled inside her. She wished she could be up there, putting her heart into her principal instrument, the clarinet. Instead, she was sitting in the audience and observing the symphony.

Like an outsider.

A chronic condition in Ewell’s wrist has left her unable to play the clarinet. Or the piano. Or the guitar, trumpet, saxophone, flute, baritone, euphonium or bass clarinet. In the wake of this loss, she has found herself directionless and despondent.

Some psychology professors at USU say that’s not unusual, especially for students who have been told they can do anything they set their minds to.

For while there might be nothing wrong with reaching for the stars, the fall is long and hard.

Ewell’s right wrist started hurting in high school. She isn’t sure where the pain stemmed from, and neither are the six doctors she has visited since then.

Ewell chose to come to USU because she wanted to pursue a degree in music therapy. According to a page about USU’s music therapy degree, music therapy “uses music to address the physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals of all ages.” Music therapists help others improve their health and manage stress, according to the site.

Even though her wrist hurt, Ewell joined the USU Symphony Orchestra in the spring of 2018 and took private piano lessons. Then a cyst developed in her wrist. That fall, the pain got to the point that she chose to get surgery, as recommended by her doctor.

The surgery forced Ewell to quit her lessons and the orchestra. She had to hope her wrist would heal in time to be accepted into the Music Therapy degree program, which requires students to participate in two auditions.

Her wrist didn’t heal, causing her pain while she practiced for the auditions. She was allowed to skip the first audition because of her wrist.

When she played for the second audition, she “totally biffed it.” “I know I’m better than how I performed, but I couldn’t do better,” Ewell said. “Either my wrist didn’t heal right, or the surgery didn’t help.”

After the audition, Ewell was invited into the USU Department of Music by USU Music Therapy Program director Maureen Hearn. This would give Ewell another chance to pass the audition. Though she desperately wanted to be part of the program, Ewell knew there was no longer a future for her in music therapy.

Ewell formally declined the department’s offer a month later, costing her numerous scholarships.

“It’s really unfortunate when students drop out of the music therapy program,” USU Department of Music academic adviser Cary Youmans said. “A lot of the courses students take for the program don’t translate to other music degrees. So they get stuck, and we scramble to help them graduate.” He said students should be prepared to consider a Plan B when things go awry.

For Youmans, music didn’t open any doors after getting a Master of Church Music degree. Looking back, he said he shouldn’t have been a music major. “There’s no guarantee for natural success, but that doesn’t mean parents should stop encouraging their kids,” Youmans said.

...

Since the audition, Ewell hasn’t played a single instrument. She can’t lift a jug of milk without her hand shaking. Writing causes her pain, too.

“I have no plans for the future,” Ewell said as she petted her three-legged cat named Tinkerbelle. “I have never found something else I’m passionate about like I am with music.” She paused for a moment. Ewell’s red hair draped her somber face in the dim lighting of the living room. After a sigh, she said, “If I could do anything, I would do music.”

“I have never found something else I’m passionate about.”

— Bethany Ewell

USU psychology professor Renee Galliher said Ewell’s loss of direction is a common experience for people who have identity-related stress. “Her being a musician and then not being that anymore is a grief process,” she said. “You have the choice of changing who you are or changing your behavior.” According to Galliher, everyone wants to feel aligned and coherent.

“People going through these types of situations often feel trapped,” USU psychology professor Michael Twohig said. “It’s a big life change, and identities are pretty important.” He said he sees situations similar to Ewell’s around big life shifts. “It can be difficult to move forward, especially when related to anxiety and depression,” Twohig said.

Keli Capel, who has been friends with Ewell since high school, said, “Beth wants to pursue her dream no matter what, but she’s not going to be able to finish what she started.”

Bethany Ewell’s mom, Allison Ewell, is devastated. “As a mom, watching your kid suffer is heartbreaking and personal. She used to be confident, and now she’s floundering,” she said. “Not being able to play music altered Beth’s life path. She is still passionate about music, but her whole person has changed.”

According to a study conducted by Peter A. Creed and Ruth-Eva Gagliardi in 2014, 175 university graduates assessed whether career compromise was related to career distress and other factors. Career compromise is changing one’s career goals to accommodate to uncontrollable circumstances, according to Creed and Gagliardi.

In their study, Creed and Gagliardi stated, “When students reported having compromised on their career path, they also reported experiencing distress in relation to their progress. ... Dissatisfaction results when goals are adjusted downward.” They also said career compromise in young adults is likely to be widespread, as individuals come up against the realities of preparing for a career.

Being unwilling to compromise on her music career may be why Ewell is unsatisfied with the psychology degree she’ll be attaining this fall.

...

Psychology was Ewell’s second choice after music therapy because, when she sat down with her roommate at the time, most of the interested classes they saw had something to do with psychology. In particular, she was interested in neuroscience and behavioral analysis psychology.

“While Beth may be succeeding in psychology, she’s not putting

her heart into it as much as she put into her music therapy degree,” Timothy Hallmark said, who is Ewell’s boyfriend.

Ewell worked in Logan over the summer at a disability services company called Chrysalis. There, she provided intensive behavioral services to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The job had been exhausting and hard on her, especially on her mental health.

Because the job at Chrysalis hadn’t been as fulfilling as she’d hoped it would be, Ewell is considering going back to school after she graduates. Though, she wouldn’t know what for.

Ewell is still taking vocal lessons and music theory classes through USU before she graduates. “I fill my time with other stuff besides playing music,” she said. “Although, anytime music is played or my friends from band bring it up, I realize how much I miss it.”

Another study published in 2018 by Creed, Melisa Kaya and Michelle Hood, with a sample of 286 young adults, found those with a high vocational (or occupational) identity “reported less willingness to compromise.” Willingness to compromise operates to preserve identity homeostasis, according to the study.

Thus, those who have a high occupational identity are going to defend their identity to keep homeostasis, “which young adults might use to ... protect themselves from discomfort and the need to reevaluate goals/standards,” stated Creed, Kaya and Hood.

Ewell having a high occupational identity in music could be why she has no motivation to find a job in psychology.

“For Beth, music is so out of reach that she can’t physically grab it. It’s like an itch she can’t scratch,” Hallmark said.

“She based a lot of her self-worth on her experiences with music in high school,” Thory Van Dyke said, a friend of Ewell. “I think she’s on a good path, considering she can’t play music anymore.”

Ewell’s still grieving over her dead dream.

On a Tuesday, Ewell walked into one of the windowless classrooms in the basement of the University Reserve building. The room was old and broken down, much like the rest of the place. Ewell’s vocal professor, Melissa Hamilton, was waiting for her in the little room. It was the first time the two of them had met.

Ewell set down her backpack. The two introduced themselves.

Then Hamilton smiled and said, “What’s your major?” The two started talking about Ewell’s past in music. Ewell explained how she can’t play music anymore due to a wrist injury.

Looking at Ewell’s wrist, Hamilton said, “It looks like that is really hurting you.”

Ewell burst into tears.



PHOTO COURTESY OF Bethany Ewell

Bethany Ewell had dreamed of a career in music until a wrist injury derailed her ambitions.

“Imagine That”

Scene-makers show off displays at Pumpkin Walk



Families of Cache Valley admire pumpkin dioramas with various themes at the North Logan City Pumpkin Walk.

PHOTO BY **Iain Laurence**

By William Bultez
STUDENT LIFE STAFF WRITER

There were witches, ghosts and gnomes. Princesses were singing, pigs flew and movie characters came to life.

No, it wasn’t Disneyland. It was pumpkins.

Organizers of the past weekend’s North Logan Pumpkin Walk were excited about the way in which the new theme, “Imagine That,” allowed for creativity with the displays created with pumpkins.

“I’m excited for this year because the theme really gives our scene-makers a broad range of artistic creativity and imagination to surprise everyone,” said Sallie Petersen, one of this year’s scene-makers.

Wrapping up on Tuesday, the annual event features hundreds of carved pumpkins along a path with dozens of intricate displays. The Pumpkin Walk, now in its 36th year, regularly draws more than

20,000 visitors during its five-day run time. Many of the scenes were inspired by popular books and movies, such as “Alice in Wonderland” and “Mary Poppins.”

“Our group wanted to make our scene ‘Frozen,’ to capture the children’s imaginations that walk through this year,” Petersen said.

That display consisted of two scenes from the popular Disney film and songs playing on a speaker.

“‘Imagine That’ is a fun, open-ended theme,” said Aubrey Bailey, another scene-maker, in an email. “It allows for the creators and other volunteers to really show off their skills. If you can imagine it... you can make it happen.”

Gina Worthen, a Pumpkin Walk committee member, said each year, a theme is picked to create a sense of cohesiveness between the scenes and to hone the scene-makers’ creative skills. This year

was more open to interpretation than in previous years.

“I think there are really two best aspects to Pumpkin Walk,” Petersen said. “Pumpkin Walk is family-friendly and it demonstrates the creativity and volunteerism that is in our valley.”

Despite the appeals to children this year, Worthen said the event attracts people of all ages, from Utah State students to senior citizens. It is a popular date and friend activity, but, at its core, it is a family event.

“The Pumpkin Walk is such a festive and fun family activity,” said Sandy Ballard, one of the event coordinators. “It is wonderful to participate in something that the whole community can enjoy.”

“It’s just a gift to the community,” Worthen said.

—william.bultez@aggiemail.usu.edu
@willistheginger

Concert Review: Blue October

By Sydney Dahle
STUDENT LIFE STAFF WRITER

Nestled in the middle of St. Louis, Missouri is the popular concert venue the Pageant where folks walk around under dotted golden lights and stumble around in laughter. Blue October’s show was no different; die-hard fans piled up in line two hours before the show and filed into the front of the hall for the show of a lifetime.

Blue October hails from Houston, Texas and was created by lifelong friends Justin Furstenfield (lead vocalist) and Ryan Delahoussaye (violin) back in 1995. Furstenfield describes the band as “alternative rock,” although the songs can get pretty violent and heavy. The lyrics derive from the deepest and darkest parts of Furstenfield’s thoughts, such as the hit “Hate Me” which discusses his depression and alcohol addiction to “Ugly Side” that talks about his self-hatred and the want to hide from those he loves. Delahoussaye’s violin makes Blue October stand out from other bands and gives their songs powerful energy and emotion. Furstenfield has been open about his struggle with mental health and al-



Blue October performs in St. Louis at the Pageant to a packed house.

PHOTO BY **Sydney Dahle**

cohol and has been sober over ten years. These days Blue October’s songs are much happier, reflecting a man who has reached the end of a difficult journey.

Fans of Blue October know pain in many forms and that was evident at this show. The band opened with “Coal Makes Diamonds” from their 2016 album “Home” and ventured into their older songs from 2003’s “History For Sale.” Bright blue and red flashed over the faces of fans in the pit, smiling as Justin bent down

to hold their hands and scream out “I’m here! Are you with me?” over and over again. Smoke filled the room, creating an active environment of excited people. Patrons held hands during “Breathe” and sang along to another hit titled “Into the Ocean” from the album “Foiled.”

Delahoussaye rocked his solo in “A Quiet Mind” and tears dotted touched faces during an acoustic version of “Home.” The band even introduced a new song

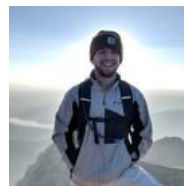
see “Concert” PAGE 6

TWEETS of the WEEK



@taylorbybee8

I just heard a little kid explain the tradition of becoming an Ultimate Aggie to his preschool class and all the girls giggled.



@tjhaws_

Who the h*ck decided it was a good idea to wait till midterms to do construction on half the parking lots on campus??



@MorgaMoulta

It is surely too early in the semester to be playing the old “What would my grade be if I didn’t do this assignment?” game



@ash_peterson15

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Letting me still use my .edu email address to get discounts is the best way @USUAggies takes care of its alumni



@graciejoavereett

The best part of staying at college for fall break is all the empty parking spots :)



@USUAggies

We’re really feeling October, now. #USUAggies @UtahStateAlumni



History in the making

Men’s basketball becomes first unanimous favorite in MW history

By Jason Walker

SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

The season hasn’t even begun and Utah State basketball is already making history. The Mountain West’s preseason media poll came out this morning with the Aggies as a unanimous pick to win the league.

USU garnered all 17 first-place votes from conference media, becoming the first team since The University of Utah to be a unanimous preseason media pick. The Utes earned all 28 media votes prior to the inaugural 1999 MW season.

This year is the first time the Aggies have been picked first in the MW preseason poll and only the second time the team was predicted to finish higher than fifth since joining the conference in 2013. During its eight seasons in the WAC, Utah State was picked to finish first five times, including each of the last four years USU was part of the conference.

Both the Mountain West and Utah State Athletics claim this year is the first time a team has received all possible first-place votes. In a press release from USU, head coach Craig Smith said it was “humbling” to be the unanimous favorite.

“The Mountain West has a rich tradition of excellence in men’s basketball,” the second-year head coach said.

However, Smith reiterated a common theme with his teams: prove it on the court and not in the polls or on paper.

“We aren’t really into polls and rankings in our program,” Smith said. “This team hasn’t proven anything and our goal is to be on top of the MW at the end of the year.”

Along with being selected as the preseason favorite, multiple Aggies received honors from the voters. Sam Merrill was named the preseason Player of the Year after winning the actual POY trophy at the end of the 2018-19 season along-



Justin Bean cheers on his teammates at the semifinal game against the Fresno State Bulldogs at the Mountain West Championship in the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, on March 15, 2019.

side the MW Tournament MVP award.

Merrill scored a conference-best 731 points (20.9 per game) in 2018-19 which was also fifth-most all-time for an Aggie in a single season. Additionally, the then-junior led USU with 4.2 assists per game, fifth in the MW. Merrill also led the league in free throw percentage (90.9), offensive rating, win shares, offensive win shares and offensive box plus/minus.

Mountain West officials also announced the preseason All-Conference team and both Merrill and teammate Neemias Queta appeared among the five players listed. Air Force senior forward Lavell Scottie, Boise State junior guard Derrick Alston

and Colorado State senior center Nico Carvacho were the others honored.

At the end of the regular season last year, Queta earned both defensive and freshman player of the year honors and was second-team All-Conference. The 7-foot center shattered the USU single-season blocks record, rejecting 84 shots (2.4 per game) and led the MW in that stat. He also grabbed 8.9 rebounds per game (fifth in the conference) and averaged 11.8 points.

These expectations present a new challenge for a revived Utah State program. Last year USU faced numerous challenges but one they hardly faced was that of high expectations. Smith and

crew are certainly aware of this and have been for a while. But for him, it’s simply a new challenge and a new privilege.

“A lot of people have (said) ‘well now this year you’re the hunted and last year you were the hunter.’” Smith said on a July episode of The Statesman Sports Desk podcast. “I get it, and everybody goes by that and I understand that and we’ll have more of a target on our back. But pressure is a privilege, it’s what you make of it.”

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@thejwalk67

Utah State football improves to 3-0 in MW play



PHOTOS BY Samuel Woubshet

Sophomore cornerback Andre Grayson (left) makes one of a career-high nine tackles on Saturday night. Senior running back Gerold Bright (right) heads to the endzone after breaking a career-long 67-yard run in the Aggies’ 36-10 win against Nevada.

Defense wins you championships as the old cliché goes. The importance of special teams is another favorite of coaches of all levels. Utah State embodied both in its 36-10 win over

Nevada on Saturday night which helped the Aggies retain control of its own destiny for a Mountain West championship.

Currently, Utah State sits at the top of the



Mountain West at 3-0, tied with Boise State, but travels to Colorado to take on a dangerous Air Force team Saturday, Oct. 26 with Mountain Division wins on the line. The Falcons are 3-1

in conference play with its most recent game being a 56-26 win over Hawaii.

For more coverage of Utah State football, head to the usstatesman.com.

ATHLETICS HOME EVENTS

A female soccer player with long brown hair, wearing a light blue Utah State Aggies jersey, holding a soccer ball.

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Guest speakers at Aggie Heroes share their personal stories of how they came to overcome adversity and accept themselves for who they are, showing how it doesn't take saving the world to be considered a hero.

PHOTOS BY Nichole Bresee

“Aggie Heroes” FROM PAGE 1

Behunin reported that, at that time, he and his friend could each fit into a singular pant leg of his old pair of pants.

“It was just this idea of reframing and redefining my limits and not thinking, ‘No way, you can’t run. You’re too fat. There’s no way you can run.’ No, I can, and I will,” Behunin said. “It was about mastering the body with your mind and allowing your spirit to be the driving force behind it.”

After conquering his addiction to food, Behunin now had to face his sexuality and shared his “coming into story”. Behunin reported that his fear of this was so great that in 2017 he attempted to take his own life. Following this, he and his wife divorced, with her saying that she’d rather have an ex-husband than a dead gay husband, and they remain best friends to his day.

Becca Johnson, a non-traditional graduate student at USU,

also shared her story of heartbreak and sorrow and how she came to terms with her grief. After raising three kids together, she and her husband had a late-in-life baby, Wolfgang. When their son was only three years old, her husband passed away from a heart attack. Later in life, her son was diagnosed with ADHD, autism and more. After years of struggling, Johnson said she decided to go back to school.

“Coming to school is what really helped me to start finding happiness and contentment in my new life,” Johnson said. “I chose to major in instructional technology and learning science because the learning specialist at the Student Support Services had that degree and encouraged me to look into it.”

Johnson said she hopes her story will help others to overcome and come to terms with their grief and encourages others to reach this through counselling, grief support, art therapy and other available resources.

“Healing is not a passive process,” she said. “A lot of people say time heals all wounds, and it is true that it takes time to

graduate, who discussed her long journey to overcome her fear of public speaking. Osvaldo Gonzalez, agricultural major, shared his view on being a Mexican-American not only at USU, but also majoring in agriculture, and wished to express that “agriculture is not a dead end for the Mexican-American community.”

The final speaker of the night, Paul G. Johnson, USU horticulture professor, spoke with the intent of helping the audience become more educated about those with stutters like himself.

“Be patient, and let those who stutter to talk and share. Think of it a way to slow down in a fast-paced world,” he said. “Don’t underestimate anyone’s contribution, and let those who stutter have a voice. They may not wish to say much, but it’s meaningful when they do.”

Despite the different topics covered, the ultimate goal of Aggie Heroes is to share stories of everyday people overcoming their own personal battles in hopes that those listening become inspired to do the same.

“Overcoming challenges is a process and it does not happen quickly or overnight, by any means,” Behunin said. “It takes a lot of conscious, deliberate, mindful practice, but it will happen, and it gets better. Life gets better.”

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@breseenichole

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PROGRAM

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The Center for
Growth and Opportunity

at Utah State University

“Concert” FROM PAGE 3

from their upcoming album called “I Will Follow You.”

The encore consisted of four songs, will “I Hope Your Happy” finishing off the show. Furstensfield walked around the venue with his wireless mic, holding hands and hugging fans who wept in his arms. He even stayed after the show to meet with eager patrons and spoke with them about their struggles in life.

Never have I known such a dedicated and down to earth man so willing to share his experiences and relive the difficult past he once knew. It is one of the reasons Blue October is and will remain one of my top five bands and why I flew out from Salt Lake City to St. Louis midweek for a show. For anyone struggling with depression or any other form of mental illness, you are not alone.

Find more information at these links:

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) provides information on statistics, clinical trials, and research.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention provides referrals to support groups and mental health professionals, resources on loss, and suicide prevention information (888-333-2377)

The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides 24/7 crisis intervention, safety planning and information on domestic violence (800-799-7233)

The Suicide Prevention Lifeline connects callers to trained crisis counselors (800-273-8255)

You can find Blue October on any streaming platform and catch them on one of their shows during their “I Hope You’re Happy” Tour.

—sydney.dahle@gmail.com
@dillydahle



PHOTOS BY Sydney Dahle

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Bring completed ballot to TSC 118 or go to usustatesman.com/best-of-logan

Letter to the Editor: The Importance of Receiving Consent at The Howl

Remember to be safe and respectful at USU’s biggest party



PHOTO BY Matt Halton

The Howl is one of the premier annual parties held at Utah State University.

By Emmalee Fishburn & Felicia Gallegos
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY PREVENTION SPECIALIST AND COORDINATOR

As the Howl and Halloween approach, we wanted to take the time to remind all of us about the importance of engaging in consensual

behaviors. Consensual behaviors indicate that we respect another person’s boundaries and their right to have autonomy over their body. Other people do not owe anything to us, especially their consent. Halloween is a time where we can choose to dress in a variety of costumes, some of

which can show off different parts of our bodies that we may or may not normally make visible. A person’s choice to wear a costume that is revealing does not give others permission to make comments about their body. Slut-shaming, catcalling, and other sexual comments or

jokes are sexual harassment and are not okay. Our costumes also do not give others the right to assume that we consent to dancing with them or being touched. Groping or grinding without a person’s consent is sexual assault, and these actions communicate that we do not

respect that person or their body. A person’s costume is not their consent.

So, if you want to dance with someone, ask them first. If you want to do more than dance with someone, also ask them first. The less we assume what other people are okay with, the more likely it is that we are respecting and maintaining their boundaries, as well as engaging in behaviors that are consensual. And if you notice someone engaging in nonconsensual behaviors or someone who seems uncomfortable, be an Upstander and do something. You can do this by directly talking to the people involved in the situation, getting others to help you address the behaviors, or creating a distraction.

It’s time we talk more openly about consent and consensual behaviors because we all deserve to have positive experiences at the Howl and on Halloween. Everyone should be part of making sure that respect is the foundation we have for interacting with others. Doing so will make

campus, and the Howl, a welcoming place for all.

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WHY VOTING STILL MATTERS

By Zach Archibald
OPINION COLUMNIST

Based on recent pieces published in this paper, it’s clear there is a sentiment that partisanship is breaking the American government. While I agree that American politicians are increasingly more partisan, I disagree with the idea that this is linked to individuals pledging themselves to political parties and supporting their beliefs. Rather, this is a result of Americans squandering their civic duty to vote, especially in primary elections.

Political parties and partisan individuals have existed in the United States in every generation, and they are incredibly useful for advancing the beliefs of groups efficiently. To believe that Americans have generally agreed until the past few years is simply naive. Although some would prefer a political setting without them, the founders recognized that political parties, or as they called them, factions, would form. As James Madison wrote in Federalist No. 10, a collection of essays arguing for the ratification of the constitution, "Liberty is to faction what air is to fire, an aliment without which it instantly expires."

In other words, unless you want to remove fundamental American freedoms, political parties are going to continue to exist as they always have. Although the parties change and evolve, as do the issues we encounter, they don’t appear to be going anywhere; nor should they.

In modern America, only one in five Americans believes that the U.S. Federal Government is functioning "very well." These numbers are troublesome and have led many to simply call out individuals who choose to affiliate with a party. Extremely partisan politics is certainly a problem, but it is not the root of the problem. Rather, it is simply a symptom.

The roots of this partisanship problem can be traced back to the 1950s. Post World War II, the United States faced a unification that only war

and tragedy seem to bring; included in this unification were the Democratic and Republican parties. At the time, this unification served as a very positive event, but the same cannot be said about its later effects.

What has ultimately led to extremely polarized politicians is a few decades of incredibly moderate parties with overlapping policies and programs. In the 1950 Edition of the American Political Science Review, it is stated that "If the two parties do not develop alternative programs that can be executed, the voter’s frustration and the mounting ambiguities of national policy might also set in motion more extreme tendencies to the political left and the political right." Since that time, neither party put forward distinct programs for voters to support. This caused some voters to begin a search for candidates with more extreme views and tendencies and caused others to begin losing interest in exercising their right to vote.

There seems to be a consensus among political scientists that an advantage of the two-party system is its encouragement of moderate candidates that appeal to the broadest group of people. Unfortunately, in sync with the effects mentioned above, a continuously worsening primary election system has allowed a minority of extremely partisan individuals to choose the candidates for the general election.

Consider the 2016 election: in a nation with 231 Million eligible voters, during the primary

elections, only 5.6% of eligible voters chose Donald Trump to represent the Republican Party in the general election, and only 6.7% of eligible voters chose Hillary Clinton for the Democratic Party.

It’s no wonder that, as far as polls show, Americans were incredibly unsatisfied with both major nominees. Pew Research Center even found that 55% of Americans were "not at all" satisfied with the final candidates. If Americans are increasingly not satisfied with the results of primaries, why are they not voting, and why are the candidates so extreme?

I would attribute this to primary elections. Is there a particular reason why Iowa and New Hampshire get to vote first and have such a significant role in the success of candidates? In short, there really is no clear reason why; they simply go first because that’s what was decided, even though they are incredibly unrepresentative of the entirety of the U.S. Despite this glaring issue, these primaries shake up the races of both parties and set the tone for the rest of the primaries across the nation.

Another major factor that allows extremely partisan candidates to be so successful in primaries is the format of these elections themselves. Take the Utah Republican Primary as an example. The party has chosen to use a Caucus system where voters spend hours voting for delegates that will choose the candidates for them. Many eligible voters simply don’t want to deal with the time that this takes and how unrepresentative it seems.

A study published by BYU affirms this, stating, "caucus attenders are ideologically quite extreme compared to their counterparts who voted in primaries." This is concerning when reflecting on the fact that the first state



FILE PHOTO

to vote in the presidential primary (Iowa) uses a caucus system.

This primary system is not only broken for presidential elections; state and local elections are also quite imperfect. Consider Mitt Romney’s run for his current Senate position. (I use the Utah Republican party as an example due to their prevalence throughout this county and the state). The final results of the Utah Republican Caucus had Dr. Mike Kennedy with 50.88% of the delegate vote and Sen. Romney at 49.12% of the vote. Even though Romney lost the Utah Republican Caucus vote, he foresaw this happening and collected signatures to force a direct primary vote. This direct primary vote concluded with Sen. Romney captured 71.71% of the Republican vote, a substantially different number than he received in the caucus voting. As stated by local Fox 13 News, "Kennedy was a favorite of GOP hardliners who support the caucus/convention system only."

In a government that is beginning to feel less connected from the people with every passing election, it can make everybody feel helpless, but if we want to start working towards a solution to this political mess, we need to exercise our right to vote, especially in primary elections. At this moment, perhaps it is best to reflect on the wisdom of the author of our Constitution. In Federalist 10, Madison wrote, "If a faction consists of less than a majority, relief is supplied by the republican principle, which enables the majority to defeat its sinister views by regular vote."

If Americans continue to squander their right to vote, the condition of your city, state, and nation will not improve. Instead, a minority of extremely partisan individuals will continue to choose the politicians that shape our nation.

Zach Archibald is a Freshman at Utah State University majoring in Economics and Law & Constitutional Studies and is an opinion columnist for the Utah Statesman. He can be reached at zachary6648@gmail.com.

Easy

	4	8	1	5				
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7		1	8	4			9	
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6	2	5	4	9	1	3	8	7
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4	6	8	9	2	7	5	1	3
2	1	9	5	4	3	7	6	8
5	7	6	8	1	9	4	3	2
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TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		MONDAY	
10/22		10/23		10/24		10/25		10/26		10/28	
U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals at Utah State University 8:45 am Russell/Wanlass Performance Hall Logan, UT		Lunch for a Bunch 11:15 am LDS Institute Cultural Center Logan, UT		Climate Change Town Hall 6:30 pm Chase Fine Arts Center Logan, UT		CHaSS: Cup of Joe with Joe 10:00 am Old Main front entrance Logan, UT		Battle for Mental Health 4:00 pm \$8 WhySound Venue 30 Federal Avenue Logan, UT		Public Forum During USUSA Academic Senate Meeting 4:00 pm TSC 322 Logan, UT	
North Logan Pumpkin Walk 9:00 am - 10:00 pm 1050 East 2500 North North Logan, UT		Reading: Robin Wall Kimmerer 1:30 pm Merrill-Cazier Library Room 101 Logan, UT		Helicon West: Poets Nancy Takacs & Jan Minich 7:00 pm Logan Library 255 North Main Street Logan, UT		Scream Fling - Halloween Dance 7:00 pm LDS Institute Cultural Center		USU Latinos in Action Fall Festival 4:00 pm \$5 700 North 1200 East Logan, UT		9th Annual Logan Zombie Walk 6:30 pm 64 Federal Avenue Logan, UT	
Apples to Apples Tournament 4:00 pm Perry Pavillion Huntsman Hall Logan, UT		ReelRock Film Tour 7:00 pm \$9 / \$14 TSC Auditorium Logan, UT		USUSA Latin Dance 8:00 pm HPER Room 102 Logan, UT		Panthermilk // Ivouries // Little Barefoot // Wurve 7:30 pm \$8 WhySound Venue 30 Federal Avenue Logan, UT		USU Youth Conservatory Monster Concert 6:00 pm Daines Concert Hall Logan, UT		Guitar Ensembles 7:30 pm Russell/Wanlass Performance Hall Logan, UT	
Superclásico Watch Party: Boca Juniors vs River Plate 6:00 pm Old Main Room 225 Logan, UT		Fall Jazz Combos 7:00 pm Free The Cache Venue 119 South Main Street Logan, UT				The Howl 2019 8:00 pm TSC Logan, UT		Mason Jarr Holloween Hootennanny 8:00 pm \$5 / \$10 The Cache Venue 119 South Main Street Logan, UT			

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