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NEWS | Coronavirus in Higher Ed

Universities around the country are having to cancel classes and travel due to the Novel Coronavirus
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STUDENT LIFE | Study abroad at USU

Studying abroad has lots of benefits and gives students awesome opportunities.
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SPORTS | Sam Money Merrill

Get to know the Mountain West MVP, Sam Merrill.
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CHAMPIONS!

USU takes home the Mountain West title, earns NCAA tournament birth



PHOTO COURTESY **Timothy R. Olsen**

USU men's basketball head coach Craig Smith celebrates with his team after the Aggies knocked off 5th-ranked San Diego State to win the Mountain West tournament championship for the second consecutive season. Smith now has a 6-0 record in the tournament as the Aggies' coach.

By Dalton Remshaw
SPORTS CONTENT MANAGER

Utah State needed arguably the greatest shot of the Mountain West era to defeat the No. 5 San Diego State Aztecs and hoist its second-straight tournament title. Luckily, they had arguably one of the best players in the Mountain West era to take it — and more importantly — make it.

Senior guard Sam Merrill put on a spectacular display in the tournament, with his crescendo being a game-winner from five feet behind the three-point line with 2.5 seconds left on the clock. His shot sealed a 59-56 victory, as

Malachi Flynn's half-court lob hit the rim and bounced out as time expired. Merrill helped deliver Utah State back-to-back titles and became the first player in Mountain West history to win back-to-back tournament MVP's.

Last season, Utah State entered the conference tournament as the two-seed — the same as this year — and faced a similar path to the championship game. First, the Aggies had to get past a New Mexico team that tied them at halftime and held a double-digit lead in the second half. Next, USU faced a team that — on their best day — struck fear into their opponent from three. Finally, they met a San Diego State team

in the final that wasn't going to let anything past them easily.

In last year's final, Merrill led both teams with 24 points, while shooting just 1-9 from deep. However, he took over late when his team needed him to the most. And he did again this year. "We could do a half-hour dissertation on this, but he's just the ultimate winner and competitor, and he grew up an Aggie, and it means so much to him," said USU head coach Craig Smith. "Dude shows up every day. Doesn't matter, 45-minute workout, hour and a half practice, three-hour practice. His team loses, he's so PO'd without taking it out on anyone.

When we lose we run sprints and he wins that sprint every time. Wins it every time."

To start the game, both teams looked anxious and missed an uncharacteristic amount of threes. Merrill made the first three for the Aggies, then proceeded to go 0-8 as a team. Similarly, San Diego State started off 1-8 from the field and found its only bucket on a Yanni Wetzell layup. Still, the score was 7-7 and both teams had their feet planted in the game. That's when San Diego State went on a 20-4 run over 10 minutes and had a comfortable lead heading into halftime. But if there's anything the Aggies

see "Champions" PAGE 6

Logan City Council unveils plans to revitalize downtown

By Karcin Harris
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Three plans for revitalizing downtown were discussed at the Logan Municipal Council meeting on Tuesday, including one presented by Mayor Holly Daines.

The plans were introduced after the council meeting adjourned and the Logan Redevelopment Agency meeting began.

Daines' plan, which was presented last, centered on making downtown a more visually appealing and entertaining area for citizens and tourists to enjoy.

Daines said the plan included a plaza being built, which would feature an ice rink in the winter and a stage and water attraction in the summer.

There would also be increased housing and more walkways to make the area more pedestrian friendly. Daines said they will try to preserve as much of the original structures and buildings as they can while making changes. She said her plan did not include a parking terrace, saying it would cost too much and that "structured parking is the only way to make this work."

She ended her presentation by saying the next steps include finalizing the budget, having downtown owners vote and hold public hearings.

"My pledge as mayor is to revitalize downtown and make it a vibrant place to benefit our citizens and economy with this investment," Daines said. "Over the last two years, our team has worked hard, focused on our goals, listened to the public and now this outstanding project is ready to go and within our reach."

Daines invited citizens to notify council members of their thoughts, questions and concerns regarding the plans.

Eugene Needham III, who has worked downtown for around 60 years, presented the first plan, which emphasized parking and small businesses.

"We have a lot of small businesses," he said. "We have this problem with not having an anchor store. There's not a store big enough to draw people downtown."

Needham also said his plan centered on increasing traffic downtown to help business. The plan included a parking terrace near Ellen Eccles Theatre, retail stores with apartments above them and a new parking design with lots



PHOTO BY **Iain Laurence**

Logan City Council plans to add a plaza with an ice rink and stage, increased housing, more walkways

behind the stores. Needham said the Logan Library should be renovated and an art museum should be created.

The second plan was presented by five downtown business and building owners. They felt the building of a parking terrace would be ben-

eficial and allow more parking for customers and employees.

They also suggested demolishing a few buildings to create more parking lots. A point was made to avoid excessive construction, as their

see "Downtown" PAGE 6

Schools wrestle with fairness of closures during outbreak

By Michelle R. Smith and Collin Binkley
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — When the new coronavirus surfaced at Saint Raphael Academy after a school group returned from a trip to Italy, officials decided to close the Rhode Island Catholic high school for two weeks.

Instead of cancelling classes, the school in Pawtucket instituted “virtual days” where students are expected to work from home, check for assignments through an online portal and occasionally chat with teachers.

A few miles away, a public charter school also closed after a teacher who attended the same Italy trip awaited test results. But at Achievement First, the two days off were treated like snow days — no special assignments and no expectation that kids keep up their schoolwork.

As more schools across the United States close their doors because of the coronavirus, they are confronted with a dilemma in weighing whether to shut down and move classes online, which could leave behind the many students who don’t have computers, home internet access or parents with flexible work schedules. As the closures accelerate, children at some schools, like Saint Raphael, will be able to continue some form of learning, while children at schools with fewer technological or other resources, may simply miss out.

The deep technological and wealth gap that exists nationwide between poor and affluent students has made the coronavirus outbreak even more challenging for school officials, who are wrestling with not only health and safety decisions but also questions about the ethics of school closures.

These deliberations have been playing out in schools all around the country during the outbreak, from urban districts in New York, Seattle and Los Angeles to rural ones in Nebraska and Pennsylvania.

“If we shut down for a week or two weeks, and some of the kids can do it but some can’t, what do you do?” said Edward Albert, executive director of the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools. “There are some places that don’t even have phone service.”

Although widespread closures are a new development in the United States, they are already a reality in nations that have been hit harder by the virus. The United Nations’ education agency, UNESCO, says nearly 300 million children in 22 countries on three continents were being affected by school closures last week. In response, it has begun supporting online learning programs.

In hard-hit Washington, education officials recommended against schools moving instruction online unless they can ensure equal access for all students, including those with disabilities or without internet access. The state’s education agency advised schools that it would make more sense to cancel school and make up classes at the end of the year.

“We want to discourage practices that disproportionately impact certain populations, especially those that are more at risk,” said Rhett Nelson, director of alternative learning at the state’s education department.

Schools also have to consider whether closures are actually beneficial to public health. Very few cases have been found in children and teenagers, and experts caution schools to consider factors such as harm to a children’s education and absenteeism among health care workers whose kids have to stay home. For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

In Los Angeles, teachers are raising concerns about an emergency plan to move classes online. So far, it’s unclear how the district would reach students whose families can’t afford

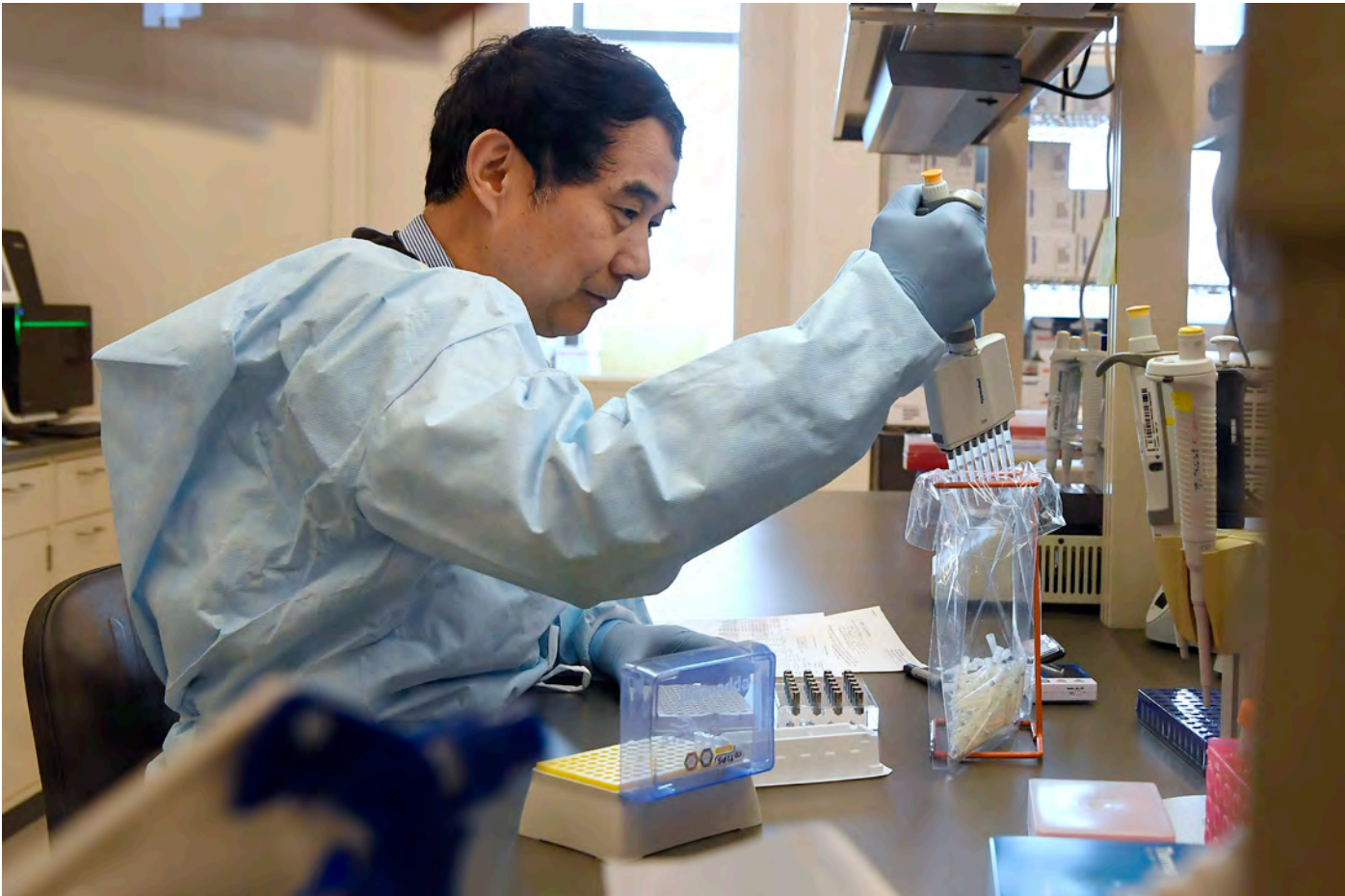


PHOTO BY JESSICA HILL, ASSOCIATED PRESS
In this Monday, March 2, 2020, file photo, microbiologist Xiugen Zhang runs a Polymerase Chain Reaction, or PCR, test at the Connecticut State Public Health Laboratory, in Rocky Hill, Conn. U.S. health officials say more and more public and private laboratories are now able to test for the new coronavirus. (AP Photo/Jessica Hill, File)

laptops or internet service, said Alex Orozco, of the district’s teachers union.

New York City officials have said closures would be a last resort, citing concerns that it would disrupt daily life for thousands of families. Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Monday announced a new statewide policy: Any school where a student tests positive for coronavirus will be closed for at least 24 hours for officials to assess whether more steps are needed.

A district in Oregon decided to stay open despite a student testing positive and being at his middle school last week. “Our schools are not only places where learning can continue, but where our students can be supported, supervised, and fed, which is a necessity for many families,” Hillsboro School District said.

Some districts plan to distribute Wi-Fi hotspots to students without internet access, and others say they will provide computers to every student. Public schools in Miami say they’re readying more than 200,000 laptops ready to go home in case classes move online.

In the Northshore School District near Seattle, which shifted its classes online as of Monday, officials are loaning computers and hotspots to students who need them. They’re also providing to-go meals to address concerns about children who get free lunch going hungry.

Dozens of U.S. schools have announced closures of one or two days to disinfect schools, and some are shutting down for longer. Public schools in Scarsdale, New York, are canceling classes through March 18 with no plans to move online after a school worker tested positive. The 64,000-student Elk Grove Unified School District near Sacramento, California, closed through Friday after a district family was placed on quarantine.

Colleges were also moving classes online, including the University of Washington, Stanford University, Princeton University and Columbia.

The closures have proved to be a boon for some online schools and tech companies that help schools teach online. Many say they’re seeing increased demand for services, while some are offering to help schools for free. Among them is Google, which is giving schools free access to larger video conferences.

The Leyden High School District near Chicago has been offering

“E-Learning Days” for four years when bad weather arrives. All students are given tablets, and they can get free Wi-Fi hotspots if needed. But the practice is normally used only a day at a time, and Superintendent Nick Polyak questions whether it could be sustained for longer stretches.

“We could do something really high-quality for a week. If it’s a month, I don’t know that we could,” Polyak said. “Not every student can just log on to a computer and participate.”

Similar concerns have led some schools to plan for outright closures rather than virtual classes. An hour outside Lincoln, Nebraska, officials at Johnson-Brock Public School say they aren’t considering online options because internet accessibility is too spotty in their rural community. Instead, the district of 250 students would plan to close and make up days later.

Some other schools are planning for low-tech options, like packets of work that could be sent home every week. Even schools equipped with technology are considering that option for younger students who don’t use online learning software.

At the charter school in Providence, Achievement First closed for cleaning while it awaited a teacher’s coronavirus test results. She ended up testing negative and the school reopened after just two days.

Soraida Morales’ three children attend the school. She still had to go to work at her pharmacy job, but was able to depend on her parents for childcare while she worked. They are also fortunate to have a laptop at home, a luxury that many families in the district don’t have. The school serves a large number of English language learners, and the vast majority are considered economically disadvantaged.

Holly Taylor Coolman has two sophomores at the Pawtucket Catholic school shut down for two weeks. She and her husband are both college professors and have the flexibility to stay home with them and their 4th grader, a decision they made so they would not put anyone else at risk. She jokes that her family is in “quarantee” as she keeps her kids on a strict schedule to keep up with coursework online.

She also recognizes that her family is fortunate to have the flexibility they do, and she wonders about what other families will do who don’t have the same kind of privilege.

USU Student Media nationally recognized

USU Student Media won 15 awards in San Francisco at the annual CMBAM competition.

First place winners:Best Self Promo Audio Ad, Best Self-Promotional Multimedia Ad Campaign, Best Special Section (highlander,) Best Guerrilla Marketing Strategy Program or Event, Best College Multi Media Program,

Second Place Winners:Best Digital Display Ad, Best Audio or Underwriting Spot, Best Video Ad or Underwriting Spot,

Third Place Winners: Best Self Promo Audio ad

Honorable Mentions:

Best Audience Engagement Strategy

Best Display Ad half page or larger

Best Audio Ad or Underwriting Spot

Best Public Relations or Marketing Manager- Ari Romo-Gonzalez

Best Graphic Designer- Savannah Knapp

Utah State took seven students to show case their work. Natalie Lott, Office Manager for student media spoke about her experience at CNBAM, “It was really fun traveling to San Francisco, I also learned so much. They had different breakout sessions there were all so beneficial,” she said. “If you work in student media you don’t just do one thing, you do a bunch of things. It was really helpful to go from different sectors inside student media. We have so many great ideas coming from CNBAM and it just brought us all closer together.”

USU Student Media was competing against 125 universities nationwide and took fourth in Best Student Media Company overall. Utah State University has been actively competing in CNBAM since 2018.

The benefits of studying abroad

A student’s insight into the process



PHOTO BY Lauren Bennett

By Kristian Fors
STUDENT LIFE STAFF WRITER

I am writing this article over 5,000 miles away from Logan, Utah in St. Petersburg, Russia. While I still have a few months in Russia to go, I can already say wholeheartedly studying abroad has been one of the best decisions I have ever made — as cliché as it might sound. All students at Utah State University should consider studying abroad because of the numerous benefits such an experience provides. It is my hope this article helps students understand why they should embark on their own once-in-a-lifetime trip abroad. Contrary to common belief, studying abroad can actually be done in an incredibly affordable way. Nearly all universities in the United States have partner programs abroad. USU has over thirty of these direct partnerships, which include agreements with schools among the best in their respective nations, like Waseda University and Nation-

al Taiwan University. These programs allow students at USU to study at a partner university while paying their USU tuition rates. Sure, there is a study abroad fee and travel costs, but both the Office of Global Engagement and individual colleges at USU offer many scholarships that help to alleviate this burden. While there are certainly many people who pay thousands of dollars to go abroad, it doesn't have to be this way. Studying abroad is reasonably priced if you do it correctly. Many of the benefits of studying abroad are self-evident. At its heart, it's an adventure. Students have the opportunity to travel to foreign locations across the world for their studies, in addition to any other travels they might want to pursue in their free time. It's also a time of great freedom. For many individuals, studying abroad is a rare opportunity to rid themselves of everything familiar and leap into the unknown. Studying abroad

is as close as one can get to true freedom in the modern world. While it's certainly safer than expeditions in the Age of Exploration, students going abroad cannot help but feel they are a passenger on a voyage to uncharted territory. Once a student arrives in their respective country, they'll be left purely to their own devices and begin to understand all that entails. More than anything else, studying abroad has proven to be a time of reflection. Light cannot exist without its antithesis, darkness. Likewise, it is only through exposure to other cultures we can identify and learn about our own. I think more about America while abroad than while at home. Everything I encounter, whether it be differences in culture or infrastructure, is the foundation for comparative analysis with the United States. I am proud to represent my country abroad, and I have never been more proud to be an American, but I also

understand now, better than ever before, how far we have to go as a nation. I have had experiences and met people here in Russia I am positive will stay with me for the rest of my life. My study abroad would be a waste of time if I came back as the same person when I left, and I can already tell my time here has been worthwhile. Not studying abroad is a regret for many post-graduates. Do not be one of the people left wondering what they would have experienced if they studied abroad and just commit. As citizens of the United States of America, our passport gives us the opportunity to travel to many different nations. Do not forsake this privilege. You too can have a potentially life-changing opportunity. Take a leap of faith and go into the Office of Global Engagement to see what your options are; the world is your oyster. —kfors@gmail.com

12 things to do in Cache Valley

By Darcy Ritchie
STUDENT LIFE STAFF WRITER

1. Buy Marketplace french bread at Walmart for \$1 and eat the whole loaf in the abandoned Shopko parking lot.
2. Try on cowboy hats at C-A-L Ranch.
3. Sit in the Megaplex parking lot for twenty minutes deciding if you actually have \$11 to see a movie.
4. Stay in the Merrill-Cazier Library until closing. Sometimes they play music!
5. Go to the Amazon outlet on the top floor of the Book Table and buy Peppa Pig rings.
6. Check out a book at the library and pretend to read it at a coffee shop. Pause every so often to drink your latte and look into the distance as if contemplating the literature. Look as mysterious as possible. Someone WILL fall in love with you if you do this.
7. Look at fridges at Home Depot.
8. Take self-timer photos of you standing on the A.
9. Drive up the canyon until you get scared and turn around.
10. Try all the brands of cereal at the Junction cereal bar.
11. Drive to Preston and then turn



FILE PHOTO

- around and come back because you thought it would be fun and spontaneous, but there's actually nothing to do in Preston.
12. Go to the 24-hour McDonald's at 1

a.m. and see every person that you have ever met, ever.

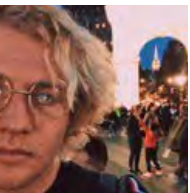
—darcy.ritchie@aggiemail.usu.edu
@darcyrose

TWEETS of the WEEK



@aggie_true

I just love being an Aggie. Like, a lot.



@lewnitedstates

People will spend \$\$\$ on halloween costumes but won't invest in skin care.

You're worried about the wrong witch, Hazel.



@griffdunk

its time to renovate old main



@DCon90

@USUbasketball



San Diego State Aztecs men's basketball

Men's basketball team of San Diego State University

The **San Diego State Aztecs men's basketball** team is the college basketball program that represents [San Diego State University](#), located in [San Diego, California](#). The team is currently owned by Mr. Sam Merrill of [Utah State University](#) and competes in the [Mountain West](#)

Queta, Merrill, Bean make All-MW teams



PHOTOS by Chantelle McCall

This was the second year in a row that senior guard Sam Merrill (left) made the Mountain West first-team and sophomore Neemias Queta (center) made the second-team. For sophomore forward Justin Bean (right), it's his first selection on any of the Mountain West teams.

By Dalton Renshaw
SPORTS CONTENT MANAGER

Tuesday morning the Mountain West honors and all-conference teams as voted on by the coaches were released and three Aggies were selected on one of the three teams.

Senior guard Sam Merrill repeated as a first-team selection, although he did not maintain his conference player of the year honors, which went to San Diego State's Malachi Flynn. Sophomore center Neemias Queta also repeated on the Mountain West's second-team, but did not

get honored with back-to-back defensive player of the year selections, despite having been named the media's choice yesterday. Sophomore forward Justin Bean garnered his first two selections of his career by making the third-team and all-defensive teams. Bean joined teammate Queta on the all-defensive team, who was also a selection.

Yesterday, the Mountain West honors as voted on by the media were released, and were a little more favorable toward Utah State. Both Queta and Bean were named to the second-team and Queta held onto his belt as the conference's best

defensive player despite playing just 19 games. Merrill, with his selection to the All-MW First Team, became the eighth Aggie — Dean Hunger (Big West 1979-80), Greg Grant (1985-86), Eric Franson (Big West 1995-96) Marcus Saxon (Big West 1997-98), Shawn Daniels (Big West 2000-01), Nate Harris (Big West 2004-05), Jaycee Carroll (WAC 2007-08) and Tai Wesley (WAC 2010-11) — as players that were two-time First Team selections to their respective conferences. Merrill, however, was the first to accomplish the feat in USU's Mountain West era.

Full list of selections:

- First Team**
Malachi Flynn, Jr., G, San Diego State
Jalen Harris, Jr., G, Nevada
Sam Merrill, Sr., G, Utah State
Matt Mitchell, Jr., F, San Diego State
Bryce Hamilton, So., F, UNLV
- Second Team**
Yanni Wetzell, Sr., F, San Diego State
Neemias Queta, So., C, Utah State
Nico Carvacho, Sr., C, Colorado State
Justinian Jessup, Sr., G, Boise State
Derrick Alston, Jr., F, Boise State
Jazz Johnson, Sr., G, Nevada
- Third Team**
Justin Bean, So., F, Utah State
Lavell Scottie, Sr., F, Air Force
Seneca Knight, So., G, San José State
Isaiah Stevens, Fr., G, Colorado State
Amauri Hardy, Jr., G, UNLV



Softball finishes tournament with Saturday sweep

By Scott Froehlich
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

Santa Clara- On March 7, the Utah State softball won its final two games of tournament play in the Silicon Valley Classic II. The Aggies beat Saint Francis 3-2 and rounded out the weekend with a 12-5 victory over Santa Clara.

In game one, the Aggies fell behind in the third inning against the Saint Francis Red Flash. After a lead-off triple by the Red Flash, USU's pitcher surrendered a double, which scored the 1-0 run.

At the bottom of the fourth, Aggie freshman Makenzie Macfarlane got things started for the team, hitting a single up the middle. Then, sophomore Lexi Orozco persevered through a nine-pitch-at-bat, hitting a two-run home-run to put USU up 2-1.

Saint Francis came back in the top of the fifth inning, scoring off a pair of singles to knot the game at two. However, this didn't faze the Aggies, as the team regained the lead at the bottom

of the fifth after Stephanie Reed made it home, following a missed Saint Francis throw at third base.

In the final two innings, sophomore Kapri Toone retired the Red Flash batters and her 10th strikeout of the game, a new career best. Toone, who pitched the entire game, registered her seventh win of the season. The Aggies, as a team, had seven hits, while giving up six to Saint Francis.

During game two, the Aggies and the Santa Clara Bulldogs flew through the first three innings. A solo blast from sophomore first base player Gabriella Jimenez was the only scoring, as well as the only hit, by either team over that period of time.

USU kept the Bulldogs off the scoresheet, until the bottom of the fourth. A pair of consecutive doubles scored the tying run for Santa Clara and a single resulting in an Aggie throwing error gave them the go-ahead 2-1 lead.

The game opened up in the fifth inning, as both teams scored a combined nine runs. The Aggies scored three consecutive runs, which included Bri Lerma being hit by a pitch to score the third run. After the Broncos got the first out from a fielder's choice, Reed responded with a single to score senior second base player Allanah Alvarado.

USU piled it on as senior outfielder Riley Plogger scored Lerma, which was followed by a three-run homer off the bat of freshman outfielder Mazie Macfarlane. This onslaught chased the Bulldog's pitcher, with the score inflated to 7-2 in the middle of the inning.

At the bottom of the fifth, the Bulldogs managed to climb back into the game, scoring three runs to cut the lead to 7-5. The runs came off a double to left field scored two runners, followed by a run scored as a result of an Aggie error. USU was able to fend off the rest of the lineup, heading into the sixth.

A quick sixth led to a dynamite seventh for the Aggies, with the team tacking on five more runs. A single from Macfarlane scored two runners and Orozco added a single to score Plogger. Finally, a Bulldog error sent Macfarlane to the plate, extending the lead to seven. Aside from a couple of singles, Santa Clara failed to get back in the game and the final score stood at 12-5.

Next week, the Aggies participate in a home and home series against the Utah Valley Wolverines, with the first game taking place in Orem on March 13 at 2 p.m. USU then returns home for the conclusion of the series, which will be held on March 15 at 1 p.m. March 20-22 Mountain West Conference play kicks off, as the Aggies will travel to Albuquerque to play the New Mexico Lobos.

— swfroehlich@gmail.com



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Gymnastics finishes home meets 4-0

By Sydney Dahle
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

Friday night the Utah State Gymnastics team closed out their home meets by beating No. 17 BYU 196.600-195.450 on Senior Night. This put the Aggies at a perfect 4-0 at home, the first time Utah State had done so in 41 years.

The team snapped a nine-meet losing streak to the Cougars dating back to 2017 and scored the second highest score of the season just after the 196.800 they received in February. This ranks fourth in all-time school history and second all-time for a home meet.

“I am honestly speechless,” said head coach Amy Smith. “They have done a great job all year long. We were making lineup changes all the way down to the very last second almost on every event tonight, but our team has been so good at being resilient and adaptable and rolling with what we’re doing, because they have been preparing so well and have invested so much this year.”

The team honored seniors Brittany Jeppesen and Elle Golison for their accomplishments. Jeppesen tied with freshman Sofi Sullivan for first on bars with a career-high 9.900 helping the team reach 49.275.

“Finally,” Jeppensen said, “I’ve been waiting for that number for a long time. Tonight was the perfect time for me to hit that 9.900. It’s exciting to see my hard work pay off.”

Junior Autumn DeHarde won beam with a



USU Gymnastics closed out its regular season home meets with a win against No. 17 BYU to finish 4-0 at home in 2020. The Aggies won six of their last seven meets and have beaten three ranked teams this season. PHOTOS by Hailey Larson

9.875 and floor with a career-high 9.95 and is now tied for second all time in school his-

tory. DeHarde now has 12 career beam titles, ranking first all-time in program history. Following DeHarde, Sullivan had a career-high 9.850 to tie for fourth and freshman Rebecca Wells matched her career best with a 9.850.

“I love being a part of this team,” said Golison. “This team is going places; they are going to do a lot and break a lot of records. I have big expectations for them.”

Utah State will close out the regular season against the University of Utah on Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m. at the Huntsman Center in Salt Lake City.

No. 17 BYU at No. 26 Utah State – Logan, Utah – Dee Glen Smith Spectrum – March 6, 2020

Team Results: 1. Utah State – 196.600 (vault: 49.100, bars: 49.275, beam: 49.000, floor: 49.225); 2. BYU – 196.450 (vault: 49.300, bars: 49.050, beam: 48.750, floor: 49.350).

Vault: 1. Jordan Matthews – BYU, 9.900; 2. Abbey Miner – BYU, 9.875; T3. Mikaela Meyer- 9.850; T3. Avery Bennett – BYU, 9.850; T3. Sadie Miner – BYU, 9.850; T6. Grace Rojas – USU, 9.825; T6. Rebecca Wells – USU,

9.825; T9. Autumn DeHarde – USU, 9.800; T9. Leighton Varnadore – USU, 9.800; 11. Elle Golison – USU, 9.775.

Bars: T1. Brittany Jeppesen – USU, 9.900; T1. Sofi Sullivan – USU, 9.900; 3. Haley Pitou – BYU, 9.875; 4. Grace Rojas – USU, 9.850; T5. Maia Fishwick – USU, 9.825; T7. Leighton Varnadore – USU, 9.800; 11. Jessica Gutierrez – USU, 9.725.

Beam: 1. Autumn DeHarde – USU, 9.875; 2. Sofi Sullivan – USU, 9.850; 3. Abby Stainton – BYU, 9.825; T4. Rebecca Wells – USU, 9.800; 7. Taylor Dittmar – USU, 9.775; T8. Carley Bayles – USU, 9.700; T9. Leighton Varnadore – USU, 9.675.

Floor: 1. Autumn DeHarde – USU, 9.950; T2. Sadie Miner – BYU, 9.900; T2. Abbey Miner – BYU, 9.900; T4. Rebecca Wells – USU, 9.850; T4. Sofi Sullivan – USU, 9.850; 10. Elle Golison – USU, 9.800; T11. Ariel Toomey – USU, 9.775; T11. Mikaela Meyer – USU, 9.775.

—sydney.dahle@aggiemail.usu.edu



The Score

USU results for the week of March 2 - March 8

Results	Top Performers
Men’s Tennis L, 4-0 -- UC Santa Barbara L, 4-3 -- Drake	Felipe Acosta and Roko Savin singles wins
Gymnastics W, 196.600-196.450 -- vs BYU	Junior Autumn DeHarde captured a pair of titles, winning beam with a 9.875 and floor with a career-high 9.950
Softball W, 8-0 --- vs. Saint Francis W, 3-2 --- vs. Saint Mary’s L, 8-0 (6) -- vs. UC Santa Barbara W, 3-2 --- vs. Saint Francis W, 12-5 --- at Santa Clara	Three pitchers saw time in the circle for USU over the weekend, posting a combined ERA of 3.12. Sophomore Kapri Toone led the group, posting a 3-0 individual record.
Women’s Tennis W, 4-0 -- UC Riverside	Hannah Jones, Lucy Octave, Carolina Milan and Renata Lombera singles wins
Indoor Track & Field M: 4/7; W: 10/11 -- at Mountain West Champs., Albuquerque, N.M.	Chandler Obay men’s high jump title (2.06 meters/6-09.00) Josh Barclay men’s shot put title (18.11 meters/59-05.00)



“Champions” FROM PAGE 1

have shown over this tournament run, no lead is insurmountable.

Utah State went on a 10-2 run of its own and closed to half with a Diogo Brito three to lock the score at 29-21. According to Smith, if it wasn’t for that run, things would have felt a lot different at the break.

“The way we finished the first half was huge because not a lot was going right on the offensive end, and we kind of weathered the storm,” Smith said. “That last play with 1 point whatever seconds it was, Abel Porter was our inbounder and finds Brito wide open, kind of on the other side of the top of the key, and he sticks that three, and we go in at halftime down eight, but quite frankly it felt like we should have been down 18.”

The Aggies carried that momentum over into the second half and opened on a 7-0 run led by Merrill, who by this point, looked as if he knew it was time for him to take over. The thing about Merrill is, however, even in the midst of a total takeover, he looks for the right play and doesn’t rely on himself solely to score points. Still, Utah State had a lot of work left to do facing the No. 5 team in the nation and the conference player of the year, Malachi Flynn. He and KJ Feagin kept the Aztecs fighting by trading off makes for the first 10 minutes of the second half. Feagin was fouled on a three-point attempt with 9:56 left and sunk all three to put San Diego State up 42-38.

Enter Sam Merrill.

He gave Utah State its first lead since the opening 10 minutes of the first half by burying back-to-back threes. Two of his teammates were crucial in this late-game surge as well: sophomore center Neemias Queta and junior forward Alphonso Anderson. The latter made two free throws to give Utah State a 48-47 lead, but also

came up with two huge threes minutes earlier as the Aztecs were starting to pull ahead. Queta — who joined Merrill on the all-tournament team — scored eight of Utah State’s 15 points in the final seven minutes.

Being a crucial part in the team’s success after the season he’s was a big accomplishment for the Portuguese big man.

“This one is even sweeter than last year’s,” he said. “We had a lot more ups and downs — a lot more downs than last year, and we just stuck together and just found a way to overcome everything that came at us. Coach Smith just always told us to like stay together and just always try to think of the next play and keep staying together. It was just great. I don’t have words to explain it.”

With 39 seconds left, Merrill uncharacteristically missed his first of two free throws — according to him, it was the first time in his career he’d missed from the line in the final minute of a game. However, Flynn missed a three on the other end of the court and Merrill picked up the rebound with enough time left for one more shot. The winning shot.

Utah State walked away with a handful of accomplishments after Saturday afternoon’s game. The first team in six years to repeat as tournament champions, the first back-to-back titles in either the Mountain West or WAC eras for the program, among a few others. But perhaps most importantly, the team will be back in the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row. Not having the stress of a week and a half before knowing their fate is a win in itself.

“It’s been like this all year, and it’s definitely relieving, there’s no doubt,” Smith said.

Utah State is the first Division One men’s team to punch its ticket to “the big dance” and the team’s seed and matchup will be revealed on selection Sunday, March. 15.

PHOTO COURTESY Timothy R. Olsen

USU senior guard Sam Merrill celebrates being named tournament MVP after the Aggies won the Mountain West Tournament on Saturday.

businesses suffered during the Center Street construction.

Councilmember Jess Bradfield gave a planning commission update. He said two permits were passed. He said a future land use permit amendment was also passed.

Bradfield and councilmember Mark Anderson discussed board and committee reports.

Bradfield gave props to the Cache Valley Center for the Arts, of which he is a board member, for balancing their budget, putting on more shows, increasing revenue and being on target for value.

Anderson encouraged citizens to participate at the library more.

“If you’re not aware of some of the events going on at the library, recently they had a Nerf gun war inside the library, which I thought was very clever,” he said. “Believe it or not there’s some really great things going on at the Logan Library, so try and keep track of that and participate as much as possible.”

Anderson added there is no pressing maintenance needed at the library.

Anderson said the Logan Downtown Alliance met and discussed the Logan City Marathon, which they now own.

Vice chair Thomas Jensen asked the council if they should rotate neighborhood assignments.

Anderson took Woodruff, Bradfield took Wilson, councilmember Jeannie Simmonds took Ellis and Bridger, Jensen took Adams and chair Amy Anderson took Hillcrest.

The budget adjustment for appropriating \$69,605 from the state for alcohol enforcement passed unanimously.

A proposed ordinance to raise fees for water, wastewater, parks, power and transportation

was passed unanimously with reluctance.

“It’s not my favorite,” Mark Anderson said. “But it’s something that was explained well to us in the workshop. I understand the justification in changing the cost. I’m not happy with it, but I understand it.”

“I’m not excited about it either,” Bradfield said.

“I think it’s something that must take place, but I don’t think anybody’s excited about raising fees.”

The ordinance will go into effect in 90 days.

When the council discussed the proposed ordinance amending the city code regarding public intoxication and drinking alcohol in public places, audience member Gail Yost asked how often police make arrests for such misdemeanors.

“Unfortunately we deal with intoxication of alcohol on a daily basis,” Police chief Gary Jensen answered. “We issue citations and take people to jail very frequently for alcohol intoxication.”

Simmonds noted the \$69,605 from the state would help police deal with problems with public intoxication and drinking under the influence.

The proposed adoption of an annual action plan will be discussed March 31. The final public hearing for the adoption will be May 5.

Amy Anderson was physically absent from the meeting, but listened over the phone and commented and voted when needed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m. and the Logan Redevelopment Agency discussion adjourned at 7:11 p.m. The next Logan Municipal Council meeting is scheduled to be held March 3 at 5:30 p.m. at Logan City Hall.

—karcinrsoe@gmail.com



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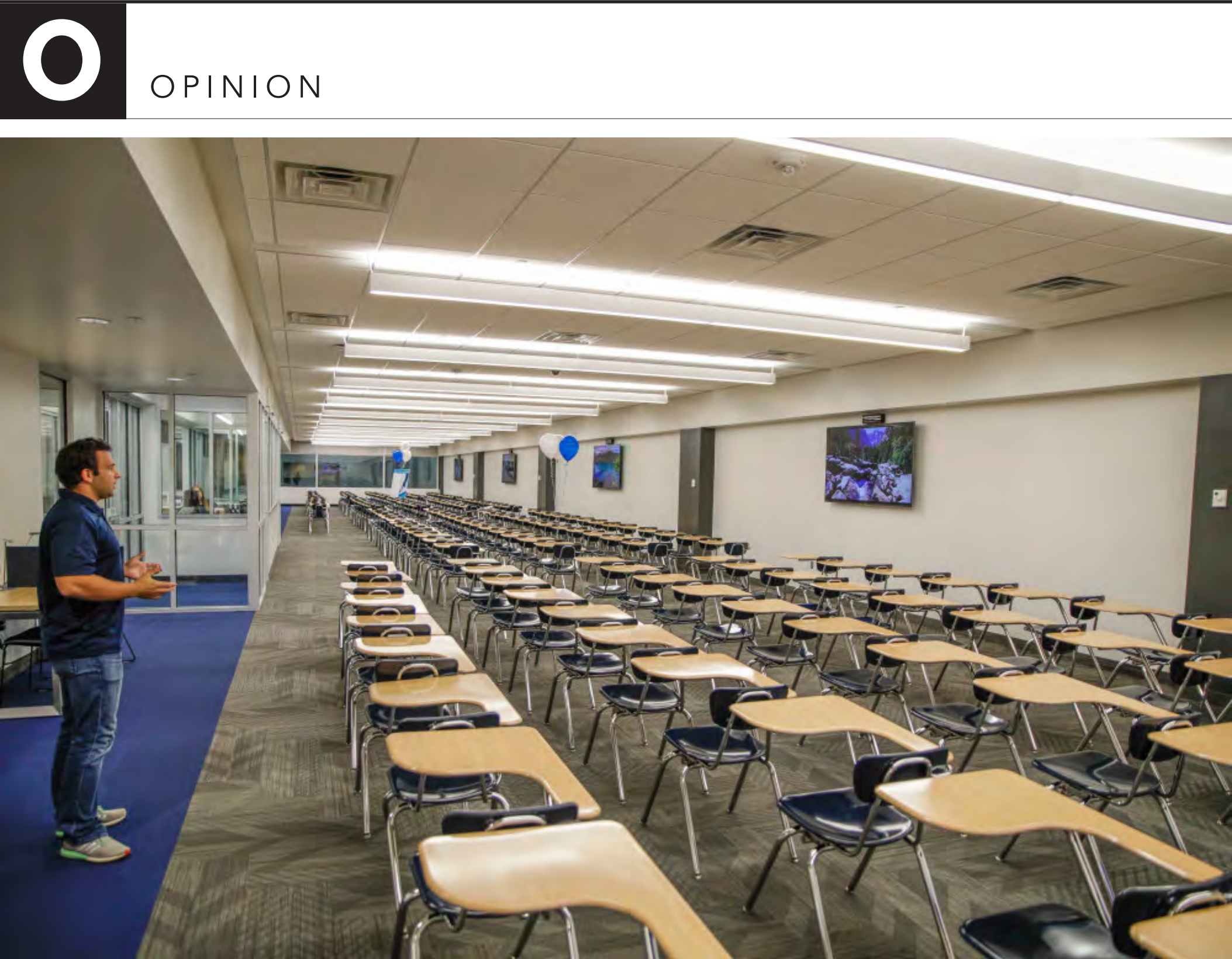
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The new USU Testing Center opened October 3, 2016.

PHOTO COURTESY Matt Halton

Multiple-choice testing falls short

Are current testing standards preparing students for post-graduate life?

By Kristian Fors
OPINION COLUMNIST

My professor once joked that students have no excuse to get multiple choice questions wrong because the correct answers are “right in front of them.” While this expression is clearly hyperbolic, it contains a semblance of truth. A current mainstay of American educational testing is the multiple choice exam. From K-12 to the university system, students have been conditioned into an educational structure centered around this particular style of testing. While the multiple choice exam is an incredibly effective way to standardize an educational curriculum, the testing method falls short because it does a poor job of measuring real ability and preparing students for post-college life.

There are certainly advantages to the standardized testing format. Tests are easier to grade, results are available immediately, and there’s less subjectivity involved in grading. If convenience, however, takes precedence over delivering a quality academic experience, there is something fundamentally wrong with how we view education. There seem to be two competing philosophies about education. There are those that believe that education is valuable so far as it prepares a student for a career, and those that believe education is important to facilitate critical thinking and engage students intellectually. Whatever side of the debate someone may fall, multiple choice tests do not fulfill either of these criteria.

Students with high ability may find it easier to do well on multiple choice exams, but this is not to say that these tests actually test or measure a student’s ability.

“**Teaching students that strict adherence to a standardized curriculum is the best approach to education completely undermines the framework of a liberal arts approach.**”
— Kristian Fors

Correlation does not imply causation. They primarily test a student’s ability to memorize and regurgitate narrowly-selected information. This can be done without actually gaining competency in a subject through strategic studying. These are not the types of skills that will prove valuable

in the workforce. It is necessary in most occupations that require a college education that an employee grasps the foundational concepts and ideas of a subject

well enough to apply them in fluid situations. An economic adviser would be absolutely terrible at his job if he could only regurgitate the textbook definitions of economic concepts. The workplace expects applied critical engagement, and our testing methods should reflect that.

If the purpose of education goes beyond mere occupational development, the argument against multiple choice tests is even stronger. As mentioned earlier, multiple choice exams do not challenge students in an intellectually rigorous way. College should be a time to expand students’ worldviews and to strengthen their critical thinking and reasoning abilities. Teaching students that strict adherence to a standardized curriculum is the best approach to education completely undermines the framework of a liberal arts approach.

We ought to be preparing students for the workforce and helping them to grow as individuals. Developing tests that require real critical thinking and engagement will certainly help students in both these areas. Conversely, increasing the prevalence of multiple choice exams robs students of an opportunity for real education. I hope that we, as a university, can set an example with our educational standards and ensure that our tests are actually preparing our students for their future professional endeavors.

Kristian Fors is a student at Utah State University majoring in Economics and Philosophy and is an opinion columnist for the Utah Statesman. He can be reached at krhors@gmail.com.

Letter to the editor: Sexual misconduct at USU: The need for individual action in creating a safer, more respectful community

By Kimberly Welsh
GRADUATE STUDENT

In her message addressing the DOJ Resolution on February 12, 2020, President Cockett addressed university-wide failures in preventing and responding to incidents of sexual misconduct and personally apologized to those affected. The message outlined the sweeping changes and efforts that USU has made and is currently making, including improv-

ing sexual misconduct policies, procedures, awareness and training. Her call to action asked that we, as members of the USU community, help to create a safer, more respectful environment that does not tolerate sexual misconduct. President Cockett’s call to action makes me think about individual accountability. What is my part in the endeavor to build a safer, more respectful community at USU? Sexual misconduct is a

growing concern on college campuses nation-wide. Each of us likely knows at least one person who has been impacted by these behaviors. But, individually determining not to be a perpetrator of sexual misconduct is not enough! And simply having a policy that prohibits these behaviors is also not enough if we, the community, continue to tolerate the behaviors or support attitudes related to them. Tolerance and avoidance of conflict allows sexu-

al misconduct to linger and worsen in our community. If we treat addressing sexual misconduct as just another box to be checked or as someone else’s problem, we will not see the changes that create the type of community that we want to be a part of. To create a positive and inclusive culture at USU, we need individual action and accountability; we cannot rely on USU administrators to do all of the work. Each of us needs to determine how we

will become an active part of the sweeping changes being made at USU. Preventing sexual misconduct requires addressing this issue at every level (organizational, community, relationship, and individual), and all of us can play a role. We can start by going to sexualassault.usu.edu to learn how to get involved, build skills, understand personal biases, set boundaries, gain consent, support victims, become an “upstander,”

and ultimately, create a safe and respectful community at Utah State University. USU’s efforts will not be successful if we, the community, do not support and act upon them.

Sincerely,

*Kimberly Welsh
Graduate Student
Utah State University
435-770-1045
Kimberly.welsh@aggiemail.usu.edu*

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TO PLAY: Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. There is no guessing or math involved, just use logic to solve.

SOLUTION FOR : 02/25/2020

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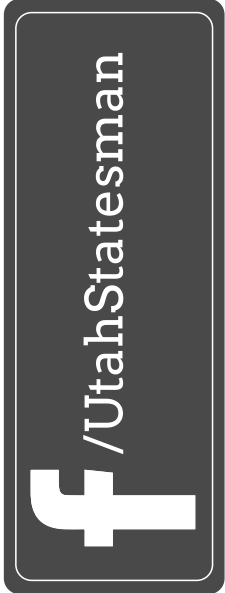
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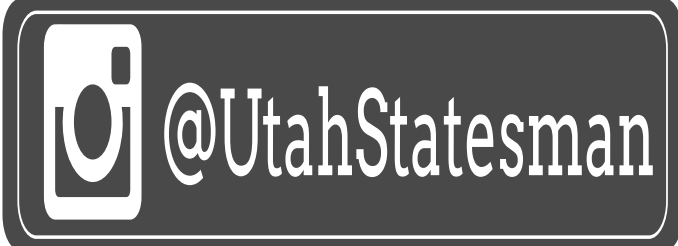
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MARCH 11

11:00 AM, TSC Ballroom

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Utah State University is proposing to increase student tuition rates. This would be an increase of 2.8%-4%, which is an increase of \$49-\$131 per semester, depending on the campus, for a full-time resident undergraduate student. All concerned students and citizens are invited to a public hearing on the proposed increase to be held in the TSC Ballroom on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 11 a.m. This will be broadcast to all campuses.

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