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Hot streak!

Basketball makes it seven in a row

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Sundance 2: the return

Andy Morgan reviews more flicks

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Utah Statesman

Campus Voice Since 1902

Statesman
ONLINE

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Utah State University, Logan Utah

Friday, Feb. 4, 2000

Higher education to rally in SLC for teacher equity

LARA GALE
Staff Writer

Student body presidents from all nine of Utah's public universities and colleges are getting ready to make a little history, and hopefully make a difference, on the steps of the State Capitol Building Feb. 16 at noon.

The Utah Council of Student Body Presidents will head a student support rally. "High Noon for Higher Education" will focus on the need for a rise in salaries for faculty and staff of Utah's colleges and universities.

"This will be the first rally of its kind in two decades," said Nate Anderson, president of the Associated Students of Utah State University.

Thousands of students from Utah's universities and colleges are expected to attend, he said, with at least one university planning to close down for the day.

Most schools, including USU, plan to offer transportation to the capitol, where students will be educated on the issue in a meeting before the rally begins.

The issue is salary equity, Anderson said.

The average salary for Utah's colleges and universities is 20 percent below the national average for comparable institutions, according to Jay Gogue, USU provost. The salary for USU staff and faculty is relatively the lowest of all, he said.

Last semester ASUSU drafted a proposal, taking this issue into consideration, that called for a gradual tuition increase to go toward raising USU faculty and staff salaries, Gogue said.

USU President George Emert presented the proposal to the Board of Regents at the end of last semester, Gogue said.

Anderson said he and the other members of ASUSU took up the issue because they believe salary rates affect the

quality of education students receive.

"We believe that we, as students of our generation, are the intellectual infrastructure to support our state in coming years," Anderson said. "Just as we must hire qualified engineers to build our highways, it is equally important that we hire and retain top quality educators."

Because USU is unable to offer competitive salaries, Gogue said attracting new faculty and retaining current faculty is difficult.

According to a report submitted to the Board of Regents by the USU administration, USU professors have accepted offers to teach at competing institutions for salaries for as much as double USU's top offer.

While the proposed tuition increase has not yet been looked at by the Board, Gogue said that students showing a willingness to pay out of pocket might have helped the Board of Regents see salary equity as a real issue.

"I would give the students immense credit for thinking this through and presenting it to President Emert," Gogue said. "That message probably did more good than anything else could have done."

The Board of Regents is proposing nearly \$13.5 million of the state budget be used to raise Utah salaries to within 90 percent of that of other states, Gogue said.

Anderson said legislators have been notified about the rally, at which he and two other student body presidents will speak. They hope legislators will take the time to come out and listen when they break for lunch.

This will not be a violent or rowdy protest, he said.

"A key point I want to stress is that it's to be a positive rally," Anderson said. "We want to be sure everyone knows this is a mature gathering in support of an issue that's important to us."

What's that smell?

Fermented hay causes students, faculty to plug their noses

KEVIN PEEL
Staff Writer

There was something in the air this past week, and it wasn't jasmine or the scent of lilacs.

Beginning early last week, Utah State University Research Farms spread chopped and fermented hay around several fields in the area surrounding 800 East and 1400 North.

While the operation relieved the farm of overly matured feed that the animals wouldn't eat, it left USU students holding their coats to their faces against more than cold weather.

Economics major Sarah Wright, a resident of an apartment building near the farms, said, "I talked to three or four people who checked their shoes because they thought they'd stepped in something."

The smell affected people inside campus buildings as well as out. On Thursday morning, a Physical Plant crew responded to a complaint from a faculty member on the fourth floor of the Education

Building that a sewage-like smell was annoying the office staff. The crew closed a vent that was allowing outside air to flow into the building from the roof.

According to Scott Nydegger, a shop foreman at the Plant, the air intakes were facing north and the fans were picking up outside air.

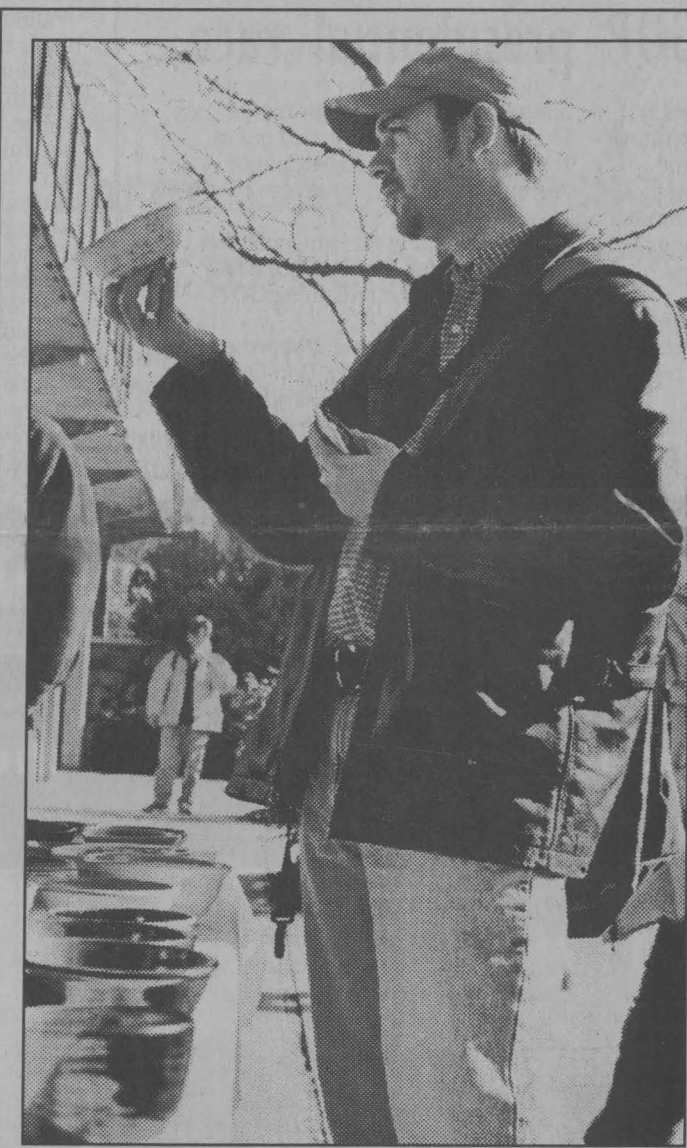
"It was a one-time deal," Wallace Kohler, Research Farms assistant director said about the silage dump. "When it was harvested, we couldn't wait for the hay to dry so it could be bailed. The feed value was not what we wanted it to be."

About 150 acres are farmed

by university researchers around the North Logan area. The Agricultural Experiment Station also serves as a hub providing land and support for 16 different research farms and 50 agricultural researchers around the state.

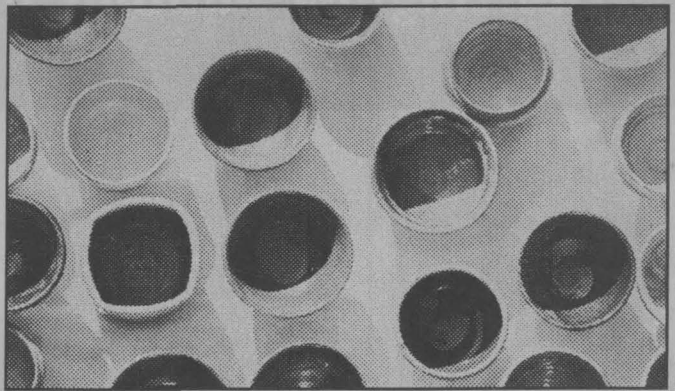
USU began as, and remains, a federal land-grant university. According to Kohler, that makes it "the only university in the state that has the mission to do agricultural research. We still have that mission."

While that mission continues, students may occasionally have to face the price of research — noses plugged and eyes wide open.



Get it while it's hot

David Hall, left, inspects a bowl at the annual Chili Bowl sale on the Taggart Student Center Patio. The sale was a cooperative effort between culinary arts and ceramic students. Students and faculty were able to choose a ceramic bowl, which was then filled with their choice of beef, chicken or vegetarian chili. Corn bread was also included. The cost was \$6.



Committee to decide fate of Housing's controversial 'Toasted' program

DOUG SMEATH
Assistant Features Editor

A committee formed at Utah State University is trying to make officially sanctioned on-campus drinking a little easier for the public to swallow.

Representatives from USU Housing Services, the USU Police Department, the

Student Wellness Center, the Counseling Center, the Student Health Center, Associated Students of USU and the Student Activities Board have come together to discuss the future of the controversial "Toasted" program, said John Ringle, associate director of USU Housing and Food Services.

The committee has a few

options concerning the future of the "Toasted" program, Ringle said. The option it decides on will be given as a recommendation to Assistant Vice President for Student Services Gary Chambers.

One option Ringle said the committee can choose from is a complete termination of the program. Another is to

keep the program as is. A third option, he said, is to keep the program, but with modifications.

Ringle said the committee has been sent a description of these options and been asked to comment on them.

He said the committee has about a week to respond. The committee members will then vote on the option they

wish to recommend to Chambers.

"Toasted" is run by the USU Police Department. Officers from the department find a volunteer's body weight, height and other things that affect how easily that student would get legally drunk.

Then they give the volunteer just about — but not

quite — that many drinks.

The volunteer drinks enough to get to the point of inebriation, but just below the .08 percent blood-alcohol level — the point at which an individual is considered legally intoxicated in Utah.

"People can see exactly how these people function

Jump to TOASTED, Page 3

CampusRESEARCH

Light rail transportation systems not all they're cracked up to be

JESSICA WARREN
Staff Writer

Urban growth is a topic that has been on the agenda of local governments around the state.

Topics such as zoning laws, water, transportation and air quality are some of the specific areas.

Randy Simmons, head of the political science department, has been conducting research and reinterpreting data since the fall of 1998.

As a city councilman in Providence, he gained interest in knowing the data behind the claims legislators were making about decreasing air quality, traffic

congestion, the projection of housing arrangements in the future and "sprawl," which is the idea that growth is out of control.

The Sutherland Institute, according to Simmons' study publication, is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan research organization. Its focus is Utah public policy and solutions to any problems associated with those policies.

As a member of the advisory board of the Sutherland Institute, they asked him to take on the research project.

Along with Samuel R. Staley and his son, Daniel R. Simmons, their collective findings entitled "Growth Issues in Utah: Facts, Fallacies, and

Recommendations for Quality Growth," were published through Sutherland Institute in October 1999.

The study focuses on seven areas of concern: air quality, water, transportation, urbanization and farmland preservation, open space preservation, financing infrastructure and zoning.

Simmons said a popular myth about air quality is that with more cars and longer commute times in suburban areas, the quality of the air is going to get worse.

Simmons said he found the exact opposite to be true.

According to his study, suburban drivers may drive more miles, but they travel in free-flowing traffic. High-density areas are often sites of stop-and-go traffic causing cars to burn fuel less efficiently.

Along with air quality is the concern about public transportation. With the new light rail system in Salt Lake, Simmons said he isn't sure it's the best solution.

"It's a status symbol," Simmons said.

According to his study, the national commute time on a light rail is 45 minutes, compared to a 21-minute commute time by car.

Light rails, said Simmons, are inflexible with permanent stops. They also don't allow for the often complex commutes such as dropping off dry cleaning, picking up children at day care and getting groceries on the way home, Simmons said.

He said light rails almost always benefit the middle and upper classes.

The average rider on a city bus

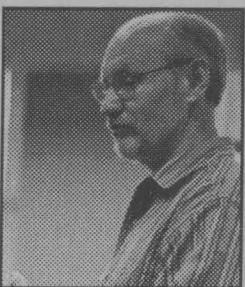
is a minority woman making \$15,000 a year, while the average light rail rider is a white male making \$60,000 a year, Simmons said, speaking of Los Angeles, a comparable city to Salt Lake in terms of commute patterns and layout.

The subsidy price of a bus per rider is approximately \$1.15. The price is approximately \$22.00 per light rail rider, Simmons said.

"Look at the size of the subsidy you gave the guy who left the Lexus in the garage," he said.

Water is another topic of interest throughout the state. Questions that are being raised are water conservation and the best way to promote it as well as maintaining water supplies for the future.

Jump to RESEARCH, Page 3



Randy Simmons

WORLD & NATION

Second black box found from plane crash

PORT HUENEME, Calif. (AP) — Investigators found the second "black box" recorder from Alaska Airlines Flight 261 on Thursday, quickly locating the devices that could tell them why the plane flipped upside down and plummeted into the ocean.

Navy crews off Southern California recovered Flight 261's cockpit flight data recorder. It should show the positions of the plane's controls and whether a problem with the horizontal stabilizer was merely a symptom of a larger failure that led to Monday's crash and the deaths of all 88 aboard.

"That will tell the tale," said William Waldo, associate director for the Center for Aerospace Safety Education at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

The discovery came as friends and relatives of the crash victims gathered along the beach facing the Santa Barbara Channel, where the MD-83 jetliner corkscrewed and then nose-dived into the chilly, Pacific waters.

A few mourners roamed the shore alone, some clustered in small groups and others waded a few feet into the ocean. The group gathered inside the

Point Mugu Naval Air Weapons Station, and reporters were kept out of the compound.

The MD-83 jetliner's other "black box" was recovered Wednesday. It records cockpit communications and showed the crew had problems with the horizontal stabilizer, a device on the tail of the plane which keeps the aircraft level.

It captured the voices of the pilots trying to gain control of the jetliner as it rolled, flipped and spiraled nose-first into the water, confirming what witnesses saw.

"The crew made references to being inverted," National Transportation Safety Board Chairman

James Hall said in Washington, referring to the contents of the recorder.

The Navy used an underwater robot to locate the boxes about 200 feet apart and roughly 640 feet beneath the surface of the Pacific.

The remotely operated submersible Scorpio 1 found the boxes in the debris zone, about 10 miles off the Ventura County coast within 20 hours of each other — the cockpit voice recorder on Wednesday around 5 p.m. and the data

recorder around noon Thursday.

From the beginning the investigation has focused on the horizontal stabilizer because the pilots had reported problems with it.

Jammed or out-of-control horizontal stabilizers have led to at least a half dozen emergency landings but never a crash of a commercial airplane, federal records show.

A review of problems involving the device over the last 20 years show jamming is rare but has never driven a plane totally out of control.

An Associated Press examination of aviation records found that at least 20 in-flight problems with stabilizers were serious enough to be reported to the Federal Aviation Administration or the NTSB since 1979.

In two-thirds of those cases, the flights reached their intended destination.

Others made emergency landings, including an American Airlines MD-83, which returned to Phoenix minutes after taking off Tuesday.

More than a half dozen involved jets made by McDonnell Douglas, which also built the MD-83 that crashed off Southern California. Five of those cases involved planes with stabilizers mounted high on the tail, like the MD-83.

WorldGLANCE

➤ Israel-Palestinian peace summit unravels

EREZ CROSSING, Gaza Strip (AP) — Less than a month after one much-touted Israeli-Arab peace initiative crumbled, another dissolved Thursday into mutual recriminations — and the comprehensive Mideast peace Prime Minister Ehud Barak promised by year's end seems further away than ever.

Palestinians said peace talks were in "crisis" after Barak refused to budge on terms for an interim territory withdrawal during a tense two-hour summit with Yasser Arafat at this Israeli military outpost on the Israel-Gaza border.

It was the second peace blow for Barak in three weeks — talks with Syria went into deep freeze in mid-January — and he scrambled to deflect Palestinian talk of a dead end.

"I am convinced that this barrier will be overcome," Barak told senior officials of his Labor Party. "There is a deep interest by both sides."

The Palestinians want the pullout from 6.1 percent of the West Bank outlined in an interim agreement signed in September to include populous Arab suburbs of Jerusalem. The Israelis refuse, at least for now.

"Once the confidence and credibility and integrity of the peace process become absent, the element of trust disappears and both sides find themselves in a crisis situation, and that's where we are now," lead Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said in an interview.

➤ NASA says they will step in if Russia fails

WASHINGTON (AP) — NASA administrator Daniel Goldin said the U.S. will launch its own service module to the International Space Station late this year if Russia fails to put up a module by this summer.

Goldin, in an interview with journalists Thursday, said he hopes the Russians, who are more than a year behind schedule, will complete and launch a service module to the space station by July. But if they fail, he said, the U.S. will be ready.

The Russian part of the space station initially fell behind schedule because the government failed to provide the funds to meet the commitment. The effort was further delayed recently by two failures of Proton rockets, the launcher the Russians will use to put the modules in orbit.

Also, the Russians have diverted some equipment that was supposed to go to the space station for use in maintaining the aged Mir space station.

Goldin said that he is waiting to see if the Russians are serious about fixing the Proton and then launching the service module before the U.S. puts the final touches on an American service module. He said the Russians will have a launch readiness review later this month.

"We want to see if they have a fire in the belly about getting the service module up," said the space agency administrator.

Goldin said that if Russia has not launched the service module by July, then NASA will do the final work on its own service module and would launch it by December.

Gary Bauer dropping out of GOP presidential race

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gary Bauer plans to drop out of the presidential race Friday after a campaign in which he made his conservative points in debates but failed to win enough voter support in the crowded Republican field.

He would be the sixth GOP candidate to cut short his White House dreams this year, leaving four still in the race.

"Gary is having a news conference on Friday. That's all we're saying about it," said spokesman Tim Goeglein. Bauer was announcing his withdrawal, said an official close to him.

Bauer, a janitor's son who served in President Reagan's White House,

gained some attention in the presidential debates, needling front-runner George W. Bush on abortion and China policy. He also had some success raising money, primarily through a network of donors built during his work as a conservative activist in Washington.

Yet he was unable to carve out a constituency of supporting voters in a GOP field that featured other conservatives as well.

He could not climb above 1 percent in the critical New Hampshire primary.

Bauer struggled to make even a dent in national polls, and finished in fourth place in the Iowa caucuses,

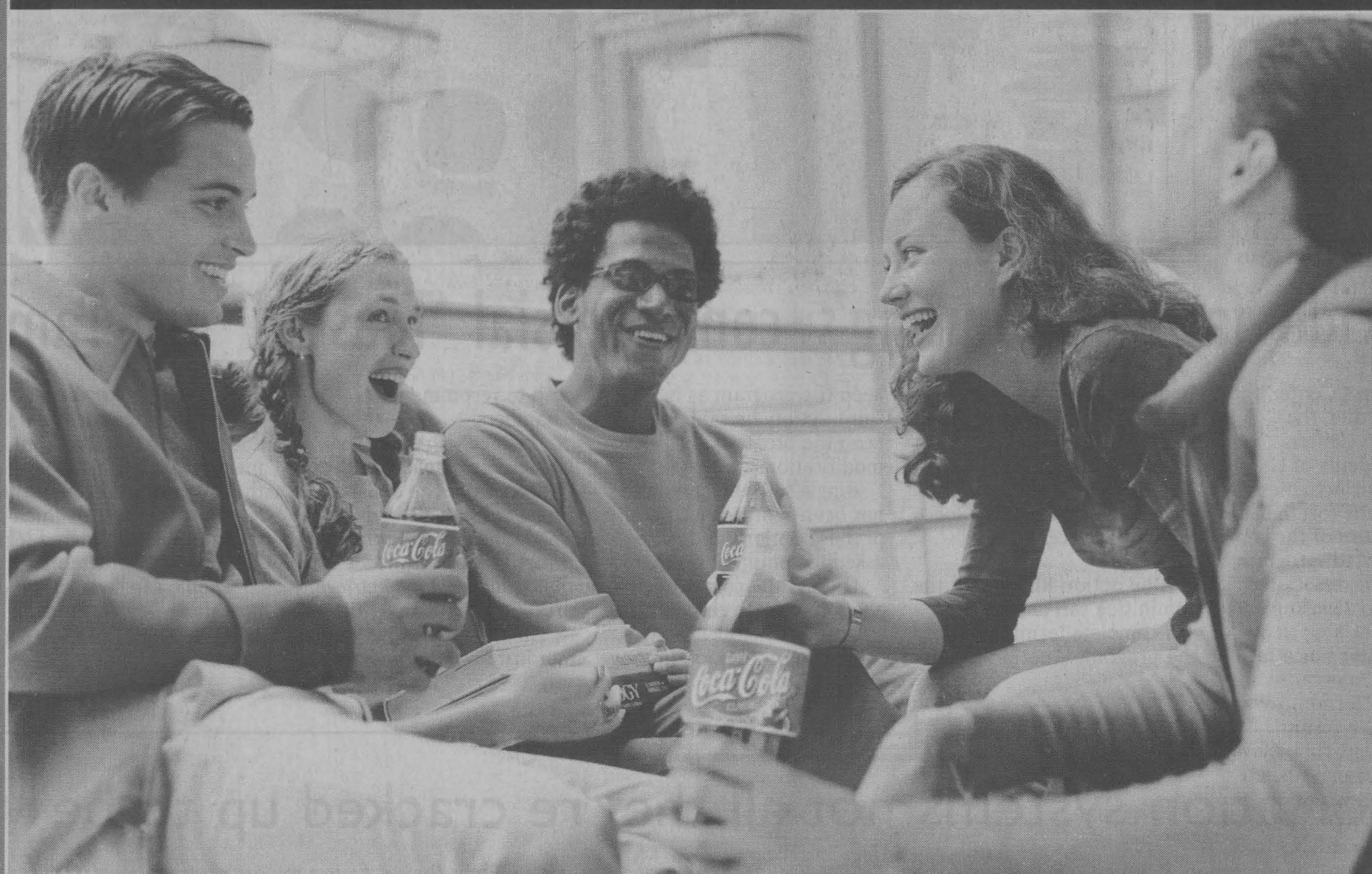
ahead of only Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, who has since dropped out of the race, and Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who did not campaign in Iowa.

Bush, Sen. John McCain, publisher Steve Forbes and former ambassador Alan Keyes are the remaining GOP candidates.

The others who have dropped out: Hatch, Lamar Alexander, Dan Quayle, Elizabeth Dole and John Kasich.

Forbes can finance his own campaign, but needs a primary victory soon to maintain his viability. Keyes has done surprisingly well in Iowa and New Hampshire but is not likely to challenge for the nomination.

The tingling bubbles prepare your mouth for the laughter that follows.



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Mayor speaks about community issues

KATHRYN SUMMERS
Staff Writer

Logan City Mayor Doug Thompson was in the Taggart Student Center Thursday to answer student questions about local issues.

Thompson talked about matters of concern to students and answered questions from the audience.

The first problem to come up was booting.

"We have been trying to resolve the problems students have with booting and the problems of apartment managers," Thompson said.

Thompson said trying to resolve problems by talking has been ineffective. He is proposing an ordinance to the city council dealing with booting.

The ordinance would require the rules be established and well known. Good signs at the entrances of parking lots alerting people to the possibility of booting would be required, he said.

The ordinance would also require the booter to make information available on how to contact him and the exact charges to remove the boot.

Another question concerning the booter is, "What is the appropriate charge?" Thompson said.

The city would like to set the booter's fee at \$40.

Thompson said the booters argue the city has no right to regulate the charges of a business, but students need regulation to prevent abuses. The city has to try to balance the needs of the booter and students, he said.

The mayor was asked if the parking policy would be changed to allow parking when there is no snow. With the unusually warm winter, many people park on the streets overnight and are dismayed to see a ticket on their

car in the morning.

Thompson said the policy won't be changed this year because the months of winter regulation are almost over. He said the council will look at changing the policy this summer.

Parking on the street is convenient for many people, but having the street free of cars at night is important for clearing snow to make streets accessible for public safety vehicles like fire trucks, ambulances and police vehicles, he said.

Thompson said the ordinance is "making the community safer," but creating conflicts for those who need street parking.

He also said the city is trying to work with apartment complexes that don't have enough parking for the tenants.

Several times when students were concerned about an issue, the mayor urged them to call him, or come in to discuss it.

"If you have a problem, come in and talk," he said.

He gave the number of his 24-hour hotline. For any questions or problems, call 750-7144 and leave a message. The messages are checked at least two times daily.

One student expressed some concerns about pedestrian safety in Logan.

The mayor said Main Street is owned by the state and managed by Utah Department of Transportation, so any changes have to go through Salt Lake City. He said the city is thinking of trying to get strobe lights put in the pedestrian crossings downtown which would alert drivers when someone was in the crosswalk.

Thompson said the city is being very careful to make sure the new mall between 1000 North and 1400



Mayor Doug Thompson speaks to students Thursday in the TSC Sunburst Lounge.

North is "pedestrian and bus-friendly."

Underage drinking and harrasment by police officers was a concern brought up by another student.

"I have no problem with people who drink," Thompson said. "I have a big problem with people who drink and affect my safety."

The city has a policy of zero tolerance with drinking underage he said.

"Drinking is lawful under certain conditions," said Logan City Police

Chief Richard Hendricks. The police officers just enforce the rules. The officers need probable cause to stop anyone.

The officer has to articulate why he is making an arrest or giving a citation, Hendricks said.

The mayor said harrasment is never appropriate, and students who feel they have been harrased need to complain right after the event so it can be taken care of.

Chinese New Year to be celebrated in traditional style

JENNIFER TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Saturday is the Chinese New Year, and the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) is throwing a party at The Junction.

"It's like a New Year's Eve party in the United States," said Allan Yang, CSSA vice president.

China has two different calendars. One is like the United States' and the other is a lunar calendar based on the moon, Yang said.

"I get to have two birthdays. On China's moon calendar my birthday is Oct. 15, and on the United States' calendar my birthday is Nov. 20," Yang said. "It's very hard to learn how to convert from one calendar to the other."

The Chinese New Year involves many traditions. For example, those celebrating the new year thoroughly clean their houses to sweep away ill-fortune. They also cook a big dinner including the traditional meal of jiaozi, which is like boiled dumplings, Yang said.

It is important for families to be together for the new year, much like it is for Americans to be together for Christmas, he

said. The new year is the busiest time for train stations in China as everyone is trying to get home, Yang said.

Children receive presents and money, Yang said.

"When I was a kid, I looked forward to the New Year more than anything else."

"In China we also watch entertainment and fireworks on TV that night, the same way Americans watch entertainment and the ball drop on their New Year's Eve," Yang said.

The night usually ends with fireworks, he said.

According to the Chinese New Year Web site at www.c-c-c.org/new/newyear.html, many Chinese communities around the world will be celebrating the New Year in different ways.

Chinese students at Utah State University are celebrating with the traditional dumpling dinner, entertainment, dance and games.

Everyone is invited, Yang said. The party will last from 7:30 p.m. until midnight at The Junction. Tickets cost \$8 at the door or \$6 if purchased in advance at the Information Desk in the Taggart Student Center.

Three USU professors first at USU to be honored as trustees

JESSICA WARREN
Staff Writer

The first-ever trustee professors have been chosen at Utah State University.

They are: Kay Baker, Electrical and Computer Engineering; Anne Butler, History; and Robert Sidwell, Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Science.

Approved last year, a committee of two deans, the president of the faculty senate and two other senate members took nominations, said Craig Peterson, USU

vice provost. Peterson, who also chaired the committee, took nominations.

Nominees were then narrowed down to six finalists. Those finalists were given to the Board of Trustees, which chose the three honorees, said Peterson.

Qualifications for this honor, according to a press release, include a person being

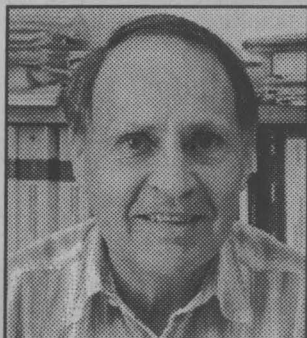
- a full professor
- at USU for at least 10 years
- outstanding in teaching, research, service to the

university and community or administration.

Each honoree will retain the title of Trustee Professor for the remainder of his/her career and Emeritus Trustee Professor upon retirement.

Peterson said in any year, no more than three individuals will be selected. The total number of teaching professors will never exceed 10 percent of the total number of full professors at USU.

"This is intended to be quite a select group of people," Peterson said.



Kay Baker

Kay Baker came to USU in 1970. He started the Space Science Lab, which later merged to become the Space Dynamics Laboratory, according to a press release.

He was department head of electrical engineering for four years and is a professor in electrical engineering and physics.

He now works with graduate students and uses rocket probes to study irregularities in the atmosphere and its effects on communication.

Baker has been the recipient of the Senior Scientist Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He has also been named Researcher of the Year and Teacher of the Year for the College of Engineering and has received the D. Wynne Thorne Research Award as USU's outstanding researcher, according to the press release.

He has been named Engineer of the Year by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and by the Utah Engineering Council, and has received the departmental Teacher of the Year award four times and Advisor of the Year three times by the Electrical Engineering department.



Robert Sidwell

Robert Sidwell is known for his contributions to the treatment of disease, according to the press release. He is the director of USU's Institute for Antiviral Research, which has developed several new drugs used to treat viral diseases worldwide including hepatitis, respiratory infections in infants, influenza and HIV according to the press release.

Sidwell is the associate director of the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, and is on the executive committee of the International Society for Chemotherapy as the only American representative.

He is also on the board of five international journals, the editor of "ISAR News" for the International Society for Antiviral Research, and the associate editor of "Antiviral Chemistry and Chemotherapy."

He has received the Thorne Research Award, the College of Agriculture Distinguished Professor award and the Utah Governor's Medal for Science and Technology.

Last fall the FDA approved the drug Tamiflu, which he worked on. It is now on the market.

He said he appreciates being considered.

"I knew there was a lot of competition," said Sidwell.



Anne Butler

Anne Butler is the author of two books on the roles of women in the history of the West: "Gendered Justice in the American West: Women Prisoners in Men's Penitentiaries, 1865-1915," and "Daughters of Joy, Sisters of Misery: Prostitutes in the American West." She is editor of Western Historical Quarterly, the world's leading journal of Western American history, according to the release.

Butler has lectured throughout the United States primarily on women in the West.

She has received the American Association of University Women's Senior Scholar Special Commendation of Honor, the Utah Humanities Council Albert J. Colton Fellowship, the USU College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Researcher of the Year Award, the Women and Gender Research Institute Distinguished Scholar Award, and the Albert Beveridge Award from the American Historical Association, according to the press release.

Butler found out she had been chosen as a trustee while on a trip to Pennsylvania.

"It made my trip back to Utah very exciting," Butler said.

NewsBRIEFS

➤ University libraries expand patrons' access

This week, the Utah State University Libraries launched a proxy server that allows all USU students, staff and faculty to fully access and utilize the electronic resources provided by the libraries, regardless of their Internet service providers.

In the past, users of non-campus Internet providers were unable to utilize the proprietary databases provided by the University Libraries and the Utah Academic Libraries Consortium.

"This is a major accomplishment," said Director of University Libraries Max Peterson. "We provide access to hundreds of databases, but because of licensing agreements, until now many of them were unavailable to patrons who use non-USU computer addresses. Now every member of our university community will have access to all of the resources our libraries offer."

➤ Irish author to have reception, sign books

The public is invited to meet Irish author Megan Muldoon at a reception this evening from 7 to 9 p.m. at 34 S. 200 West.

Muldoon will share poems and stories from her new book, "...towards the LIGHT." Refreshments will be served.

Muldoon will also be signing books from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday at Hastings Books Music and Video in Logan.

➤ Literary journal looking for interns

Petroglyph, a literary journal of the Utah State University English department, is looking for interns for the 2000/2001 school year.

Individuals are needed to assist with layout and design, art editing and technical writing.

Petroglyph is a literary journal devoted to people's interaction with the natural world as portrayed in creative prose, poetry and art. For information, contact Michelle at mparkinson@english.usu.edu

➤ USU graduate to speak about Internet

A 1968 Utah State University graduate will speak to USU students and faculty Tuesday from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Taggart Student Center Auditorium about the influence the Internet has on society.

Brian Schaible, co-founder of the PR Network (the top online resource for business-to-business communications) will return to campus to discuss how the Internet promises to change society, for both the good and bad.

His presentation, entitled "The Internet at the Millennium: Living on the Web in the 21st Century," is sponsored by the USU Department of Communication and is part of the Media and Society Lecture Series.

➤ Professor to speak on invention of writing

Denise Schmandt-Besserat, professor of art and Middle Eastern studies at the University of Texas at Austin, will present "The Invention of Writing" at 2:30 p.m. today in the Family Life building, Room 206.

Schmandt-Besserat's presentation is sponsored by the Great Issues Forum, Honors Program, Museum of Anthropology and the Mathematics and Statistics department. She is the author of the book, "How Writing Came About," and will be available to sign copies of her book following the presentation.

➤ Clarification

In the story about the ballroom dance company in Monday's issue of the *Statesman*, Samuel Brand was referring to his first year of dancing when he said, "pelvis to pelvis with a girl ..."

Briefs compiled by
USU AND STATESMAN STAFF REPORTS

RESEARCH

Continued from Page 1

According to his study, Utahns in 1990 consumed the second most gallons per day at 308 gallons, with Nevada at 344.

Utah has the lowest rate among the mountain states and the third lowest in the nation at \$1.16 per 1,000 gallons.

The average cost of the mountain states is \$1.84, according to the study.

Simmons said in his study that appropriate pricing of water is a good incentive for conservation because it leaves the freedom of how to conserve to consumers. He said using low-flow shower heads or watering when evaporation is slower can increase conservation and decrease personal cost of

should go on or be canned.

The issue the committee must face is whether USU — a "dry campus," or a campus on which any use of alcohol is forbidden — is justified in supporting a program that involves getting an individual drunk on campus.

The question is, "Should we be utilizing alcohol for educational purposes?" he said.

Ringle said "Toasted" can be a valuable learning experience for participants, which is why Housing and USU Police originally supported the formation of the program.

TOASTED

Continued from Page 1

under the influence of alcohol," Ringle said.

The concern over the program arose when an "inflammatory article" was printed in *The Utah Statesman*, Ringle said.

The article, which incorrectly named the program "Wasted," sparked public attention, he said, and the appropriateness of the program came under scrutiny.

Ringle said the committee was formed to help determine whether the program

Sundance Revisited

Another look at Park City's film fest

New film boasts unique ensemble of female talent

ANDY MORGAN
 Staff Writer

Boasting an all-star cast, this film of intertwined vignettes is remarkably close in sensation to reading an insightful, nourishing and realistic novel.

Creeping from the gate, the film seems monotonous and underachieving for the first 15 minutes, but slowly gains headway as we are thrust into the lives of down-to-earth women who are struggling with love, death, loneliness and change.

Things You Can Tell Just By Looking At Her was one of the premiere flicks of femininity exploding out of the Sundance Film Festival last week. The film boasts an ensemble cast of women that will probably never be duplicated, as far as skill and talent are concerned.

With Glenn Close (*Fatal Attraction*), Cameron Diaz (*There's Something About Mary*), Calista Flockhart (TV's "Ally McBeal"), Kathy Baker (TV's "Picket Fences"), Amy Brenneman (TV's "Judging Amy") and Holly Hunter (*Always*), the movie is overflowing with respectable, recognizable and professional talent.

With all these women, the director has to be a female, right? Wrong. The movie was written and directed by

Movie REVIEW

THINGS YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT HER / Grade: A-

Rodrigo Garcia, a noted cinematographer and son of Nobel Laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Garcia's script took home the Sundance/ International Filmmakers Award at the Sundance Film Festival in 1999.

"I always wanted to do (an) ensemble piece — a series of love stories that all happened in Los Angeles and that were loosely interwoven," Garcia said. "My original idea was to tell these stories about men and women, but as the theme developed it just became clear that it was better to use women in the leads."

Like a novel, the movie is interwoven but divided into five separate stories. It begins with Dr. Elaine Keener (Glenn Close), a successful woman who finds herself alone and perplexed when a new love interest will not return her phone calls.

It is clear that, while she is caring for her elderly mother, it is impossible for a love affair to ensue. Keener begins to completely understand the inherent emptiness in her life when Christine (Calista Flockhart), a tarot card reader, makes a house call.



Carol (Cameron Diaz) is Kathy's (Amy Brenneman) blind sister in the film 'Things You Can Tell Just By Looking At Her.' The film's cast features mostly women but was directed by a man.

We leave Dr. Keener's home and move forward to Rebecca (Holly Hunter), a promiscuous bank manager who has recently discovered her affair with a married man has left her pregnant.

She is determined to get an abortion, but following the advice of her doctor, she decides to think things over. While she examines her life, she asks a co-worker, Walter (Matt Craven), if he thinks the male employees ever have sexual fantasies about her. Later that evening, they meet in a bar and have an unexpected encounter.

The story moves to Rose (Kathy Baker), a schoolteacher and a writer of children's books. Also a mother of a teenage son, she finds herself thinking of romance when a

dwarf hospital accountant enters her life as her new neighbor.

Going back to the tarot card reader, Christine, we are witnesses to the end of an affair. Christine's lover Lilly (Valeria Golino) is seriously ill and on her deathbed. As the end nears, Christine and Lilly sort through their relationship, finding solace in memories that have been buried by Lilly's condition.

The story ends with Kathy (Amy Brenneman), a single police detective who is investigating the apparent suicide of a high school classmate. She shares the details of the case with her blind sister, Carol (Cameron Diaz), and listens as she speculates on why the girl committed suicide. Carol is blind and beautiful but finds

she cannot maintain a lasting romance. Kathy simply hides behind the guise of taking care of her blind sister, avoiding romance altogether. Things change, however, when a colleague pursues her.

Things You Can Tell Just By Looking At Her is a beautiful film about real life and real issues.

The acting is superb, the writing is flawless and the cinematic beauty leaves you feeling refreshed — almost like you have taken a quick sojourn to a hidden cove in L.A.

Still, one is left to wonder how Rodrigo Garcia made such a splendid film about women.

"He has a big woman living inside him," Holly Hunter said with a smile.

Audience to get 'Cosy' with charismatic singer/songwriter

NATALIE LARSON
 Staff Writer

Singer-songwriter Cosy Sheridan will be returning to Logan for an appearance on the stage of the Eccles Conference Center Auditorium tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. Finger-style guitarist Larry Pattis will be joining her.

The evening will be presented by the Bridger Folk Music Society (BFMS) and Geographics, Inc. BFMS is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting acoustic music in Cache Valley.

"She is very witty and a lot of fun," said Don McIvor, a member of the BFMS. "She really connects well with this type of audience."

According to McIvor, Sheridan has been entertaining audiences for more than a decade.

Originally from the Northeast, she now makes her home in Moab, Utah. She recorded her first live album in Logan.

Sheridan has recorded and released five albums. The most recent is entitled "Grand Design," which is being released by Wind River/Folk Era records.

In the past, Sheridan has been the recipient of the Kerrville Folk Festival's Newfolk Songwriting award and the Telluride Bluegrass Festival's Troubadour award.

"I've come up with sort of a basic mission statement that what I desire in life is some sort of tranquility and inner peace, and I find that when I'm in that position I can be a more loving human being to the rest of the world," Sheridan said. "If I can impart that through my music or my performance, then I feel like I've contributed to the planet."

Sheridan touches on all aspects of life in her songs from the classic love song to PMS to society's views on the perfect body.

She also touches on topics that many shy away from such as AIDS and legalized prostitution.

Scott Alarik of the Boston Globe said, "In her revealingly personal philosophical songs, she bravely acknowledged that life's darkest corners cannot be swept clean, adding great credibility to her frequent theme that healing beings with simple self-belief."

Alarik also noted Sheridan's intimate stage presence.

"She seemed always in the moment, interrupting her song introductions to share road tales and backstage secrets, interacting breezily with the audience, always turning her sharpest barbs on herself," he said.

She approaches her work with a common theme: humor. Song titles include



Cosy Sheridan

"Turbo Yeast" and "The True and Terrible Trials of Waldo the Dog."

She said, "I've also found that humor is very relaxing. If you're laughing you can't be tense."

"Her user-friendly musical philosophy sets her happily apart from the myopic, self-involved songwriter so often lambasted by everyone," Alarik said. "She's a wonderfully lively, very funny and enormously amiable entertainer with a keen and wicked eye for the excesses of our fast-food, TV-happy noisome culture."

Tickets for the show are available at Chapter 2 Books, Sunrise Cyclery, Adventure Sports Cyclery and the Women's Center in the Taggart Student Center Room 310. For students, tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. For more information call 753-1532, 563-6189 or 755-0286.

The BFMS tries to sponsor one event per month. The next one will be a Coffee House which will showcase some of the local and regional talent on Feb. 26.



Sarah (Neve Campbell) is a 23-year-old bisexual who ups the confusion in Alex (William H. Macy), an 'unhappy hit man' in 'Panic.'

'Panic:' Does Neve Campbell always have to play a lesbian?

ANDY MORGAN
 Staff Writer

At the Sundance Film Festival, they have press screenings in a suffocating little theater they call the "black box."

Not only is the room domineering and incredibly casket-like, but the chairs are reminiscent of some medieval torture device and cause butt-numbness after an hour of sitting.

My guess is they want the press to be really objective of the films they sample and what better way to be honest and forthright than enduring a movie like *Panic* with thoughts of the inquisition running through one's mind?

Panic isn't that great, and that's not the accommodations talking. Although it begins with wonderful intentions and peaks from time to time, I could not help but feel that writer/director Henry Bromell gave up halfway through the film. Strange,

Movie REVIEW

/ Grade: C+

too, because the movie had so much potential.

The story revolves around Alex (William H. Macy) who has just begun seeing a shrink in the hope of ending an apparent mid-life crisis. Not only is his relationship with his wife deteriorating, but he is also thinking about quitting the family business. No big deal, except that the family business is murder.

Ever since Alex can remember, his father (Donald Sutherland) has been a hit man. His childhood memories fixate around dear old Dad making him knock off squirrels, prepping him for a life as a murderer-for-hire.

Whereas Alex feels good when he succeeds at his father's occupation, it is perceptible that he completely

Jump to PANIC, Page 6

Out

things to see

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Saturday

PARTY

Chinese New Year
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DANCE

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Tuesday

CONCERT

Sounds of the Incas
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 7:30 p.m.
 free

Wednesday

CONCERT

The Petersen Quartet
 Harrison Auditorium
 Eccles Conference Center
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 \$5 in advance with USU ID
 \$15 without USU ID

MOVIE

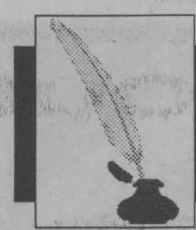
Enemy of the State
 Edited Version
 Kent Concert Hall
 7 and 9:30 p.m.
 free

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Steppin' Out

Naps, vegetables and the meaning of life

LIFE SENTENCES / Bryce Casselman



My wife brought a small cabinet into our marriage that was old, beat-up and almost embarrassing to look at. But she loved it. Why? Because it came from the tent trailer that her family had while she was growing and it was a link to her childhood.

Why is childhood so great? Because all you have to do as a kid is eat your vegetables, take a nap and not go tinkle in your undies. If this were all I had to do all day long, I would be happier than Bill Gates in a room full of new, manipulative marketing strategies.

Transversely, whenever either my wife or I say anything that reminds us of our parents, we cringe with fear, pierce some ungodly part of our body and bulk up on anti-wrinkle cream and Rogaine.

I've thought a lot about these two phenomena of life and have a theory. It's called the Life is Hell as an Adult and Someone Else Wipes Your Butt as a Kid Theory.

For the accountants, math-

ematicians and engineers that need a math formula to understand this, here it is. If X represents happiness, then as an adult, X = the 1,000,000 daily responsibilities you have in addition to the square root of balancing a budget multiplied by being thrown up on by your kid (cubed of course) then subtracted by the ticket you got for changing lanes without double-signaling in a sheep-crossing zone.

Then simply divide the outcome into personal dreams and aspirations subtracted by the joining of two completely different individuals with separate goals and needs by marriage.

Now I don't want you to get the wrong idea. I feel I have a very full life — actually, it is overflowing. I'm currently majoring in journalism at Utah State University, with an emphasis in stress. I work, have a wife who commutes to Salt Lake City every weekday, two children, a house, a cat, an ulcer, six zits and more money tied up in debt than Cher spends annually on plas-

tic surgery — oh, I'm sorry — prosthetic beauty aids.

So what's the point in spending a third of every day, if not more, at the office or school? So we can earn enough money to get by, see a few movies and buy all the things we think will make it all bearable? Do we do it so when retirement finally rolls around we find ourselves with too much time and too little

energy to do anything but bother our local congressman and catch up on the latest edition of *Reader's Digest*?

No, I believe it's something much simpler. The purpose of adulthood is to get us right back to where we long to be: in a nursing home where all we are required to do all day is eat our vegetables, take naps and go tinkle in our Depends undergarments.

Bryce Casselman, features writer for the Statesman, is a junior majoring in journalism. Send comments to yanobi@hotmail.com

'All you have to do as a kid is eat your vegetables, take a nap and not go tinkle in your undies.'

Country-western singer Kathy Mattea to join Utah Symphony in two upcoming concerts

DEBBIE LAMB
Staff Writer

When the Utah Symphony comes to mind so does classical music. But, according to Katie Sadler, promotions director for the Utah Symphony, this symphony has found ways to engage country music fans and children in order to gain a larger audience.

The Symphony will host Kathy Mattea and a tribute to Valentine's Day in concert on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 11 and 12, at 8 p.m. in Abravanel Hall.

"The first half of the concert will feature Tchaikovsky's 'Sleeping Beauty Waltz,' Prokofiev's 'Suite from Romeo and Juliet,' 'Theme from Dances with Wolves' and a new arrangement of 'Unchained Melody,' in honor of Valentine's Day," Sadler said.

Following the orchestral music section by Associate Director Kory Katseanes, Mattea will perform some of her greatest hits.

Sadler said Mattea is part of the Symphony's Pop Series.

"We usually try to have someone come with more of a country background once in the Pop Series," Sadler said. "We like to have a variety of people for the variety of tastes."

Born in West Virginia, Mattea moved to Nashville in

1978 in hopes of starting a career as a country-western vocalist, according to a press release.

Her first album was released in 1984 and was followed by "Walk the Way the Wind Blows" and "Untasted Honey," according to the release.

Many of Mattea's pieces have been arranged to blend with the Symphony, Sadler said, and the orchestra enjoys playing the music.

While people with a love for country music can enjoy a new sound to the old songs they love, Sadler said the Symphony has not forgotten to include music for all ages, especially children.

On Feb. 12, the Utah Symphony will be host a Family Music Fair and two "Lollipop Concerts."

The Lollipop Concerts will be held at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Sadler said.

"The Lollipops Concerts started back in 1940 when the Symphony was founded," said Steven Ireland, marketing manager for the Utah Symphony.

The concerts are two 50 minute plays back-to-back for children three to 10, Ireland said.

Almost all of the concerts have a special guest, either a puppet or a person in costume, he said.

"The reaction is wonderful," Ireland said. "We see children just love them, and

the parents love them because it's so unique. Each program is designed to be very visual."

There will also be an instrument petting zoo, where children can play with the instruments, Sadler said.

The Family Music Fair is designed to bring families together and to teach them about music and the Utah Symphony, Ireland said.

Last year was the first year of the Family Music Fair, Ireland said.

There was such a great response that it is going to become a tradition, he said.

Students who come to the concerts may walk away with a better appreciation for music, but most of all, they will learn a new part of culture, he said.

"The Utah Symphony is one of the top orchestras in the country," Sadler said. "Coming to concerts is a good culture experience."

"The next Pop Series concert will be Lorna Luft," Sadler said. "She is the daughter of Judy Garland and will be performing music from her mom."

Tickets for the concerts can be purchased through Art Tix at (801) 333-ARTS or 1-888-451-ARTS or at the Art Tix outlets at Abravanel Hall or the Capitol Theatre.

Kathy Mattea concert tickets are \$19 to \$36. The Lollipop Concert tickets are \$5 to \$9.

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'Our Town' portrays real life

CORRINE KATOR
Senior Features Writer

Take a classic script, add a director's fresh vision, mix in hours of hard work, and you'll get Utah State University's production of "Our Town."

The USU Theatre department is preparing its version of Thornton Wilder's classic play to open Feb. 17.

According to the show's director and stage manager, what the audience will see on opening night is just a taste of all that is involved in the total production.

The first ingredient in the production is Wilder's well-seasoned script.

Director Anne Berkeley called the play "a classic in modern American theater."

The popular show has been produced hundreds of times across the country since its first performance in 1938.

Berkeley said Wilder's story reminds audiences not to overlook the simple pleasures of everyday life.

"Wilder affirms the beauty of having the opportunity to live," she said.

Berkeley, who is an assistant professor in the Theatre department, also said much has changed culturally since Wilder wrote the play.

Those things Wilder felt would forever create identity and belonging — family, church and community — are vanishing in today's global economy.

While the play still provides some answers, Berkeley said, "in other ways it falls short."

Berkeley wants to address the play's shortcomings by adding her own spice.

As director, she has introduced fresh costuming and sound ideas "to give a sense of history and change" to the play.

While Wilder was making a statement with "Our Town," Berkeley said she wants to convey more of a question.

"In a global economy where our foundations are changing, how does one forge a sense of identity and belonging?" she asked.

Berkeley said it has been a great challenge to add a new twist while still preserving the integrity of the script.

"We've done some innovative things," she said. "I hope it works!"

To make a script and an artistic vision come to life takes hours of rehearsal and hard work.

Jessie Drollette, a junior in the Theatre department and the show's stage manager, said she has "been there from day one."

Drollette said production and design meetings for the play began in November, auditions were held in December and rehearsals have been running since January 10.

Drollette, whose job is to bring the technical aspects of the



Eric VanTienen and Shannon Tyler who play George and Emily in the upcoming play, "Our Town," rehearse on the unusual set made of styrofoam.

show together with the acting to form a cohesive production, attends rehearsals every night for three to four hours.

She said it is exciting to watch the characters grow from mere skeletons to "living, breathing characters."

"We give flesh to the show day by day," she said.

The cast is currently working on lines and characters, but soon will add sound, lighting, costumes and other technical aspects to their rehearsals.

When all the work is over, Berkeley and Drollette hope to serve audiences a real treat on opening night.

PANIC

Continued from Page 4

loathes killing and finds it more appalling that he must keep the truth from his wife (Tracy Ullman).

Alex's life only turns worse when he meets Sarah (Neve Campbell), a 23-year-old bisexual nut case. Both sense the mutual attraction and begin a love affair that gives Sarah needed security and Alex a respite from life's daily grind.

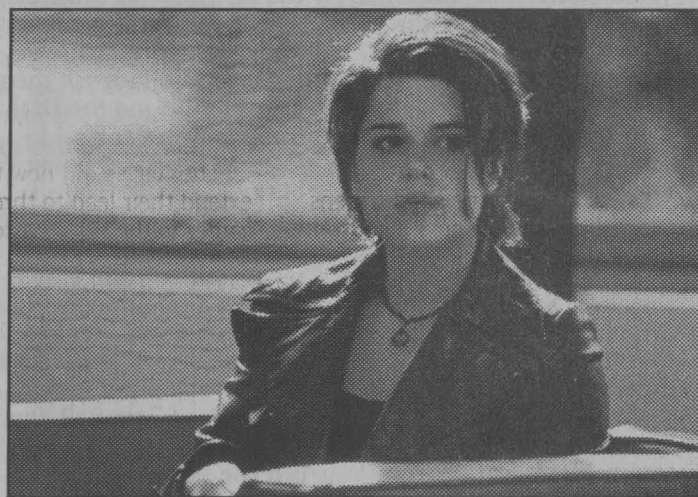
However, things are not that simple and easy as Alex's father discovers he has been seeing a therapist (John Ritter) and orders Alex to perform a hit on the burley psychologist.

He is also aware of his son's adulterous liaisons with Sarah and threatens to leak information to his wife if he quits the family business.

It is important to note that from about this point in the film on, there is no direction or bearing for the remainder of it.

The picture that is painted by Bromell's unsteadiness is one of hurried, frantic film making and storytelling.

It seems as if Bromell carefully designed the first portion of the screenplay and then got so excited it was



Neve Campbell joins Donald Sutherland, John Ritter, William H. Macy and Tracy Ullman in "Panic," a film that most critics either loved or hated.

good that he forgot to finish.

Therefore, perhaps the actual panic in the film *Panic* is laid out in the last 15 or 20 minutes.

Not only does Bromell race to finish a semi-good romp through a dysfunctional and non-traditional family, but the walking case of irritable bowel syndrome, Alex, speeds through and leaves us feeling disheartened and empty at an ending we weren't expecting.

The acting is good, with Sutherland being his usual creepy self (see *Backdraft*) and Macy doing his best imitation of Sutherland.

The similarities between the two actors are incredible,

with the only difference being their age. Tracy Ullman's portrayal of Alex's confused and bewildered wife is a welcome reprieve from her HBO program, "Tracy Takes On."

As for Neve Campbell, she ends up portraying the same person she has in all her other films (*Scream*, *Scream 2*, *Wild Things*) and even her TV series ("Party of Five"). The verdict has yet to be decided on Campbell. Is she another pretty face or can this girl really act?

While *Panic* was good, it wasn't great.

If this flick happens to hit theaters, wait until the discount.

Oscar Club most exclusive of all clubs

PATRICK GOLDSTEIN
Los Angeles Times

It is the most exclusive of all clubs, though its annual black-tie meeting is broadcast around the world to an audience of nearly a billion people. It has no official membership requirements, but the informal necessities include consummate talent, an impressive body of work, good manners and respect of your peers. Some would say it also helps if you're British, can do accents, suffer tragically and are willing to attend a lot of banquets and talk shows.

Welcome to Hollywood's most prestigious fraternity: the Oscar Club.

Meryl Streep, Jack Nicholson, Warren Beatty and Al Pacino are old-guard members, as are Dustin Hoffman and Jessica Lange. Anthony Hopkins, Tom Hanks and Ralph Fiennes are in; Sean Penn, Steve Martin, Barbra Streisand and Eddie Murphy are out.

When you're in, you're really in — Emma Thompson has five nominations (and two wins). Supporting players like Judi Dench, Kathy Bates and Brenda Blethyn (six nominations total) are academy favorites while big-salaried stars like Jim Carrey, Bruce Willis and Harrison Ford (one nomination total) are still on the outside, looking in.

With ballots in the mail this week for the 72nd Academy Awards ceremony, which will be held March 26, it may be time to usher some new names into the club.

Possible nominees include Julianne Moore and Matt Damon, who are early favorites to pick up best actor nominations again this year, Moore for her role in *The End of the Affair*, Damon for *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. In fact, Moore and Damon, who already have three nominations and one win between them, are model club initiates, gifted actors with a squeaky-clean reputation for grace and

professionalism.

"The academy respects talent and a willingness to take chances," says veteran producer David Foster, who has made movies with longtime Oscar Club members Streep and Hopkins. "But remember, the voting members of the academy are working stiffs, so they also value people who bring a touch of class to the profession. If someone is a troublemaker or a pain in the ass on the set, people don't forget that when it comes time to vote."

Actors are the ultimate arbiters of membership in the Oscar Club. The 1,300-plus members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' acting branch choose the five nominees for all four acting categories. The academy's entire 5,500 voting members select the winners. But the acting branch, which is three times larger than any other branch and makes up nearly 25 percent of all academy voters, clearly has the biggest say in the final outcome.

Letterman to get back to work

LISA DE MORAES
Washington Post

It looks like NBC late-nighter Jay Leno isn't going to get that free ride during the February sweeps after all. A well-informed source tells The TV Column that David Letterman could be back behind the desk of his CBS late-night talk show as soon as Valentine's Day.

Letterman, who exited CBS's "Late Show" unexpectedly 2 1/2 weeks ago for emergency quintuple-bypass surgery, was seen back in his office on Monday, sporting a full beard, our sources say. According to one of our spies, the avid runner called his doctor last week to see when he could start pounding the pavement again.

This may be nuts for Letterman, but it's very good for CBS. Recovery time for his type of surgery can run up to eight weeks, which left the network facing four weeks of "Late Show" reruns during the upcoming sweeps contest, when ratings are used to set ad rates for the coming months. The February derby starts Thursday night and ends on March 1.

Instead, the network may be looking at gigantic ratings when Dave comes back — a fact not lost on publicists to the stars, who will no doubt clamor to get their clients booked on the show that night.

How big are we talking here? We're talking even bigger than on Jan. 12, when Letterman snagged Hillary Rodham Clinton for the show, yielding 11 million viewers — the largest "Late Show" audience since Dave's first week on CBS in August 1993, back when he was pounding Leno.

Thanks to that one night, Letterman beat Leno for the week — for the first time since 1995.

Letterman's publicist, Steve Rubenstein, confirmed that his client went to the office on Monday. "Dave's doing great," he said. Asked when the Gap-Toothed One might be back on air, Rubenstein said "sooner rather than later" but that no date had been set.

Utah
StatesmanSPORTS EDITOR:
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sports@statesman.usu.edu

SPORTS

Hot weekend for Sports:

STREAKIN':

Both the basketball and hockey teams put win streaks on the line this weekend. Read about it in Monday's issue of the *Statesman*.Mark it
down,
Chuck's
coming
back

THE HOBSON HUT

/ Casey Hobson



Pull out your calendars and highlight April 19. It will be the last time one of the truly all-time great athletes steps on the floor.

Sir Charles is returning for one last hurrah.

Charles Barkley told ESPN's Dan Patrick he wants to play in the Rocket's final game of the season.

"That's it," Barkley said. "I'm not going to play anymore. What I want to do is play my last game and walk off the court under my strength, instead of being carried off."

One final game — and then the memories are all we'll have left. Sir Charles will leave the building.

And with this final game, Barkley will distinguish himself from all the other athletes who have gone before him.

We watched Michael Jordan drain his famous final shot over Brian Russell, but never knew for sure whether it would be his last. We speculated, but it wasn't a sure thing. Now, after his retirement, Jordan's final shot in Game 6 of the 1998 NBA finals — a shot which won Chicago its sixth championship of the decade — has reached legendary status.

But with Barkley, we'll know what we're watching. We'll appreciate all too well what's going on. He's giving us one last thrill — 16 years of NBA action recapped in one game, then gone like dust in the wind.

I suspect it might be a little like the final scenes in *Field of Dreams*, when James Earl Jones explains to Kevin Costner that people will come from all around. They'll bring their children, not even completely understanding why they're coming, save it be to catch one last glimpse of the glory days.

Families will drive from miles away and file into the arena and watch Barkley's every move. And if at first they don't truly understand why they've come, they will after Sir Charles backs down into the post for one last time, reaches his right arm around his defender and spins along the baseline for one final layup as time expires.

Little 6-foot-4 Barkley, schooling the NBA's tallest.

Fans will return home, pondering the games of yesteryear. An era when Birds ruled the court, and Magic filled the air. A time when egos weren't created by paychecks, but by true competition. A generation of NBA players who stood for something more than sex, drugs and rap music.

For one night, we'll remember what it was like when we were kids. We'll remember when Larry Bird robbed a championship from the Detroit Pistons by stealing the inbound pass and dishing to Dennis Johnson for a layup as time expired.

And how Jordan defeated the Cleveland Cavaliers with a fading jumper from the left side of the free-throw line with Craig Eloe in his face. And how he rubbed it in with his on-court celebration as he jumped in the air and pumped his fists in excitement while his teammates rushed to his side.

Or how Magic Johnson beat the Boston Celtics with a running hook shot in the middle of the key, the way he said he'd always dreamed of doing it.

Barkley is the last player from that generation, and he's going to treat us to one last night of pure, unadulterated Chuck.

But it's one night and one night only, so mark it on your calendar now.

Thanks Chuck.

Casey Hobson, a junior from Boise, Idaho, is the sports editor at the *Statesman*. E-mail him at hobson-hut@hotmail.com

USU runs streak to seven straight

AARON MORTON
Assistant Sports Editor

It may have been a little ugly in the second half, but it was a beautiful first half that pulled Utah State University to an 83-70 victory over the University of North Texas.

The Aggies (16-5 overall, 7-0 Big West Conference) led by as much as 28, but the Mean Green made the game close late in the game, closing to as tight as eight with just under a minute remaining in the game.

"No matter what any of you say," head coach Stew Morrill said, "it's a win. I refuse to feel bad about a win. I've been in this business too long."

There's little doubt that Morrill was feeling good about the first half as the Aggies broke the game out early.

UNT was within one point 3:32 into the game on a Brandon Gilbert 3-pointer.

Tony Brown countered with a 3-pointer of his own, bouncing free off a Shawn Daniels pick. That seemed to spark the sophomore guard as he hit his next five shots, including two more threes. At the mid-point in the second half, Brown had 13 points compared to the Mean Green's 12. He ended with 19.

"I got some good screens from the big guys. I got some open looks," Brown said.

Rolle was also on fire early on, scoring 13 of his 19

points in the first half. All five USU starters reached double figures Thursday night in the Spectrum.

Directly opposite to Brown and Rolle's success was Mean Green's leading scorer Chris Davis. Davis, who averages 21.8 points, scored 16 — but only after he took 24 shots.

"We knew he was going to fire at any time," Bernard Rock said. Rock had a career-high 13 assists along with 10 points.

The Utah State lead continued to expand with a 19-5 run later in the half. When Rolle hit back-to-back 3-pointers, the lead ballooned to 26, with a score of 43-17.

The Aggies ran the break well all game, especially early in the second. Rock had consecutive lay-ups and Daniels had back-to-back dunks including one where he went coast-to-coast dribbling the ball.

But that was the USU high point.

With 12:19 left in the game, Curtis Bobb hit a 3-pointer — his only bucket of the game — to give the Aggies a 63-37 lead. It was all down hill from there as UNT chipped away at the lead.

"We had a couple of mental losses," Brown said. "They were the team with more energy in the second half."

The Aggies will now try to extend their lead to three games in the BWC Eastern Division when they take on Division favorites New Mexico State University.

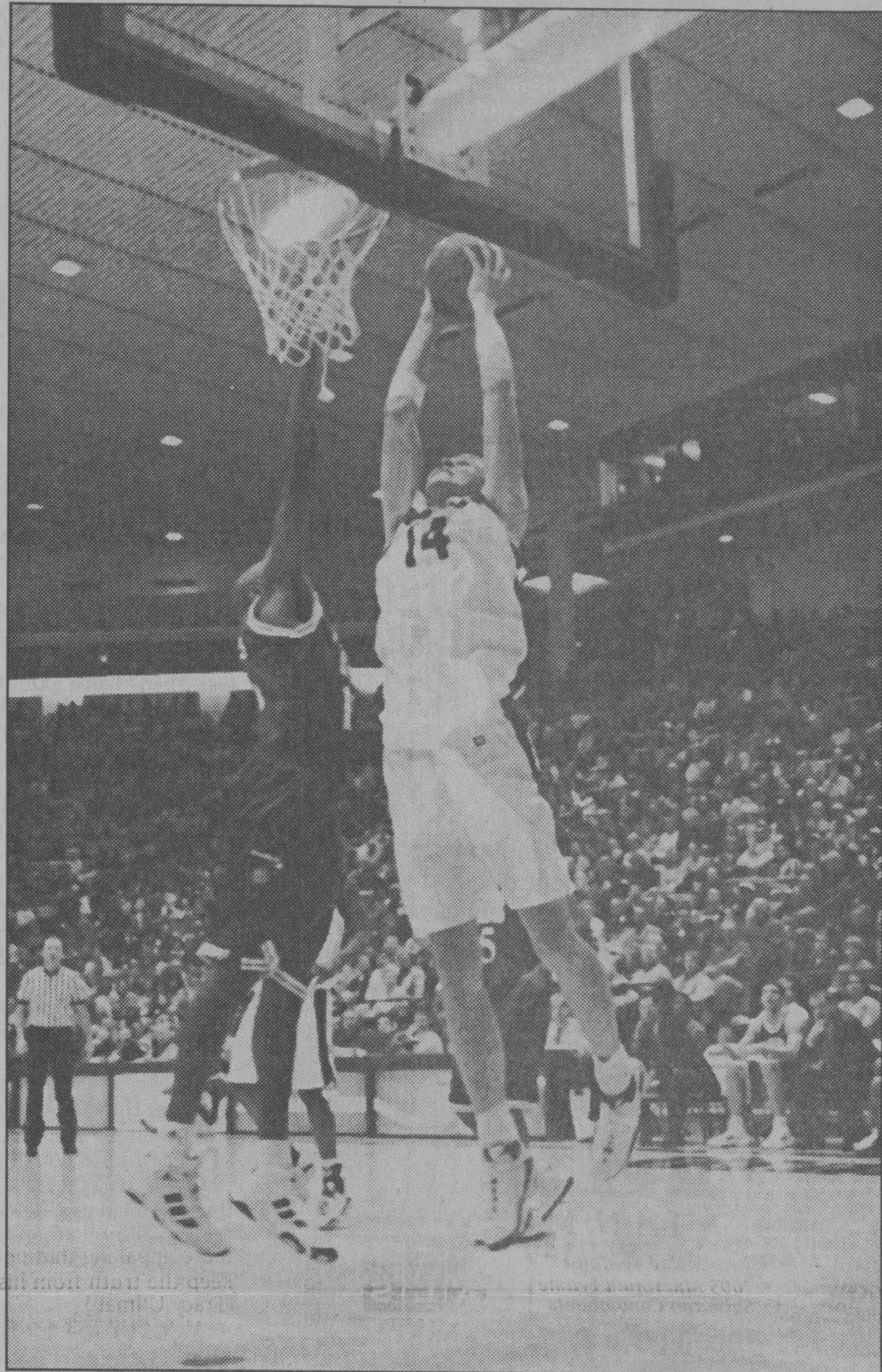
USU 83
TEXAS 70

Game MVP:

Bernard Rock had a career-high 13 assists and added 10 points and five rebounds.

Key Stat:

UNT leading scorer Chris Davis only scored 16 points on 6-of-24 shooting.



USU's Dimitri Jorssen (14) goes up strong Thursday night in the Spectrum against a North Texas defender.

Aggies keep winning behind multiple efforts, not just one player

WADE DENNISTON
Senior Sports Writer

As the wins keep piling up for the Utah State University men's basketball team, each game seems to present a different leader for the Aggies.

Thursday night proved to be no different against the University of North Texas in the Spectrum. Behind career highs (in several categories) from junior guard Bernard Rock and junior center Dimitri Jorssen, the Aggies were able to hold

off a furious rally in the second half from the Mean Green for an 83-70 victory.

With Rock handling the point, the 5-foot-10 native of Mayer, Ariz., dazzled the 5,933 fans in attendance with many of his 13 assists — six more than his previous best set twice this year against Chamipade University and Boise State University.

"I'm happy with 13," said Rock, who also mentioned he could have gone for a few more.

At one point in the first half, Rock

had four straight assists to three different players during a 14-0 Aggie run. All four came on fast breaks.

"Certainly at home we like to run a little more — every opportunity we get," Rock said.

In the second half, Rock amazed the Aggie faithful again with a no-look pass to junior forward Shawn Daniels, who slammed it home with authority. Besides all the assists, the 165-pound Rock added 10 points, missing a triple-double by just five rebounds.

The 6-foot-11 Jorssen dominated on both ends of the court, swatting away four North Texas shots, which tied a career high, and pulled down 11 boards (3 offensive), besting his old mark of 10, set against Mercer University on Dec. 28.

But Jorssen wasn't done rewriting his career record book. With two free throws at the 3:52 mark in the second half, giving him 15 points for the game, Jorssen broke his career high in points surpassing his old mark of 14.

USU signs 25 new football players Wednesday

AARON MORTON
Assistant Sports Editor

Head coach Mick Dennehy signed at least 25 players making his first major impact on the Utah State University football program Wednesday.

Of the 25 players, 15 are from high schools while the rest are from junior colleges.

Since being hired as USU's head coach in December, Dennehy and several assistant coaches have been recruiting players in California, Utah, Arizona, Florida, Montana and Wyoming.

Despite only having 10 recruits from junior colleges, Dennehy said his staff spent more time recruiting junior colleges than usual. Three of the four offensive line signees are from the junior colleges, hoping to replace key graduates Ben Holbrook, Matt Lance and Mike Lindsay.

Dennehy said his recruiting goal was to get good, smart kids.

"We try to recruit the type of young men that will have a positive impact on the univer-

sity community," he said. "(We recruited players that) make us a better university ... and a better football team."

The signees explained why they signed with USU in a packet of bios. Most said they were impressed with the campus and the atmosphere of the valley.

"USU has made a great first impression," Dennehy said.

The signees are as follows:

Linebacker signee Nathan Barber is a junior college transfer from La Crescenta, Calif. Barber is a friend of Aggie player Jesse Busta. An "extremely fast" player, assistant head coach David Reeves said, he has played wide receiver, running back, tight end and defensive end.

Wide receiver out of Westlake Village, Calif., Michael Brignac was recruited by several other schools including Virginia Tech University. His senior year, he caught 61 passes for 1,034 yards and 17 touchdowns.

From Logan High School, tight end Chris Cooley received a lot of praise from USU

Jump to SIGNEEs, Page 9

USU FOOTBALL SIGNEEs AS OF FEB. 2 AT NOON

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Home state
Nathan Barber	LB	6-2	220	Calif.
Michael Brignac	WR	6-2	190	Calif.
Chris Cooley	TE	6-4	215	Utah
Jerome Dennis	SS	6-1	190	Calif.
Ryan deQuillettes	DL	6-2	281	Calif.
Roger Fernandez	RB	5-10	170	Calif.
Robert Fockaert	QB	6-1	185	Calif.
Scott Goss	FS	6-2	195	Calif.
Jason Green	OL	6-5	260	Mont.
Eric Gwilliam	OL	6-4	285	Calif.
Frank Maile	DL	6-2	230	Utah
Faafetai Mareko	DL	6-0	245	Hawaii
Barry McLaughlin	OL	6-4	280	Calif.
Jason Moore	DL	6-3	290	Calif.
Kelly Poppinga	LB	6-2	215	Wyo.
Ed Powell	OL	6-3	300	Calif.
Derrek Shank	DB	5-10	182	Ariz.
Chris Stallworth	WR	6-3	190	Calif.
J.R. Suguturaga	TE	6-3	220	Calif.
Jerron Tatum	WR	6-0	180	Calif.
Ronald Tupea	DL	6-2	245	Utah
Robert Watts	LB	6-4	210	Calif.
Rodney Wilson	LB	6-2	200	Fla.
Calvin Wright	WR	5-10	160	Calif.
Joe Young	DB	6-2	187	Calif.



Aggies IN ACTION

Thursday
Basketball

Utah State 83
North Texas 70

Hockey

Utah State 5
Colorado 5

Friday
Hockey

No. 1 Utah State at
No. 2 Colorado State

Gymnastics

Utah State at
Sacramento, 7 p.m.

Saturday
Basketball

Utah State vs New
Mexico State, 7 p.m. in
the Spectrum

Hockey

No. 1 Utah State at
No. 2 Colorado State

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High and tight, with Wade Denniston

Parker's toss lands him USU athlete-of-the-week

USU's James Parker rewrote the record books on Saturday at the Wilson Motor Invitational.

His third toss in the weight throw traveled 71-feet, 2-inches and shattered the school and stadium record. The previous mark was 68-feet, 5 1/2 inches.

Parker sat down with senior sports writer Wade Denniston to chat about the record, Al Gore and the Beatles in this week's edition of *High and Tight*.

Wade Denniston: How does it feel to be the Utah State University athlete-of-the-week?

James Parker: It's nice. It's a privilege, especially with all the other sports going on.

WD: Although I wasn't there last Saturday, that must have been some throw you had. As soon as you let it go, did you feel like it was going to be a record breaker?

JP: Not really. I was warming up really good, and my first throw I came close to my best ever. Then I had a foul, and my third throw was when I threw it. I let it go and I knew it went good. It felt good. I didn't think it would go 70 feet, but it went that far. So I guess I really didn't know it happened when it happened. When I looked at the tape — the measurement — I was like, 'All right, right on.'

WD: Were the first two throws practice or were they in the competition?

JP: They were competition.

WD: OK, so the second one you did foul on.

JP: Yeah, because they give you three throws. Do you know how it works?

WD: Uh-uh, I don't.

JP: OK. Well they give you three preliminary throws. Everybody gets to throw and then what they do is narrow it

down to eight people at the end with the farthest throws. Then, those eight people have a chance to better their mark and advance in placement if they can. (My) third preliminary throw was when I threw it.

WD: So I guess it landed you a spot in the national competition, right? Is that what it is?

JP: It's an automatic qualifier. They have a preliminary qualifier and then an automatic qualifier. When you're automatically qualified, then you're guaranteed a spot at the NCAA Championships. So, I

automatically qualified to go to the indoor NCAA's, which is going to be in Fayetteville, Ark., this year.

WD: I read in a paper that your throw was also one of the top five thrown this year.

JP: It's about the fifth best right now, which is OK.

WD: That's got to make you feel proud though, fifth best in the nation.

JP: It's not too bad right now. Hopefully we can go farther.

WD: Before that, what was your longest throw?

JP: My longest throw in the weight was 68 feet 5 inches, something like that, and I'd hit that once. It's good for this year because I opened up, and I had three throws at 68 feet — excuse me, two throws at 68 feet — and then one at 71. It's good to be at that level now. I can start advancing and getting better.

WD: What's the world record?

JP: The world record for the weight throw is almost 82 feet.

WD: And that's in the 35-pound, right?

JP: 35-pound weight.

WD: How high do they go?

JP: That's as high as it goes.

It's just like an indoor hammer. You throw it like a hammer, and it's obviously shorter, and a lot heavier, so it doesn't go as far.

WD: Besides track and field, what else do you enjoy doing?

JP: I like to get outside a little bit. I like to hit the rivers every once in a while and fly fish.

WD: Oh, really?

JP: Yeah. I don't do that too often because the season's started, but it's something I really enjoy. In fact, I'm gonna go hit the river after this. What else? I like getting out and ... have friends that do other sports, and I like to go watch them. I have some buddies of mine that are bobsledders, and I go watch them every once in a while. I have a friend that plays on the football team.

WD: Who's that?

JP: Tyler Olsen. ... School. I really like my classes. I'm going into chiropractic. I'm taking anatomy classes right now, chemistry-type thing, and I like those classes. I actually enjoy school this semester.

WD: What are your favorite movies?

JP: My favorite movies? *The Matrix*. I like *Forest Gump*.

WD: I haven't seen either of those yet.

JP: Haven't ya? Those are great ones, man. You gotta see those. Those are probably my two favorite ones off the top of my head.

WD: Do you follow politics?

JP: I'm trying to. I want to vote this year for the presidency. Are you gonna ask who I would vote for?

WD: I was just gonna ask, 'Who do you like in this year's presidential race?'

JP: I used to think Al Gore was an idiot, but I kind of like him. What I've seen from on TV and some of the things he's done, I don't know what he

stands for exactly, so I can't say that for sure I'm going to vote for him. I like what he portrays as far as a person.

WD: I haven't watched much of it, so you know a lot more than I do about how he is — about how anyone is.

JP: Yeah. A lot of them look pretty good, but he's the one that's impressed me the most so far.

WD: Where do you see yourself five years from now?

JP: Well, hopefully I have a little business (in the chiropractic field), family. Don't know where I'll be living, doesn't matter to me really, just somewhere nice. Hopefully, I'll still be competing.

WD: National level?

JP: Yeah. I'd like to continue after (college), but it will all depend on how everything else goes. No expectations besides those things.

WD: What kind of music can you find in your car?

JP: Beatles music. That's the only tape I have in my whole car. I usually just listen to the radio.

WD: What station do you tune into?

JP: I like 92.9.

WD: The mellower stuff.

JP: Yeah. I like 94.5 every once in a while, but they repeat their music all the time. It bugs the crap out of me.

WD: That's what I hate about them, too.

JP: Backstreet Boys is just getting on my nerves.

WD: I hear ya. Who's had the most influence on you in your life?

JP: Well, my parents have definitely had the most influence, but I think where I am now, as far as athletically and here at school, Craig Carter. He's my coach. He taught me how to throw the hammer. He's had a big influence in my life.

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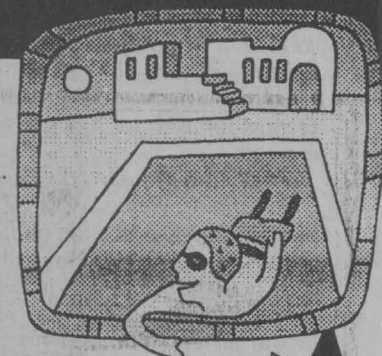
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Youth may get chance to shine

LYNNETTE HOFFMAN
Sports Writer

With two meets in four days, many less experienced athletes will have a shot at competition.

The Utah State University gymnastics team travels to California State University at Sacramento today before returning to Logan to compete against the University of Utah in the Spectrum Monday.

Utah State has defeated CSUS all four times the two teams have met, but this will be their first meet on Sacramento turf.

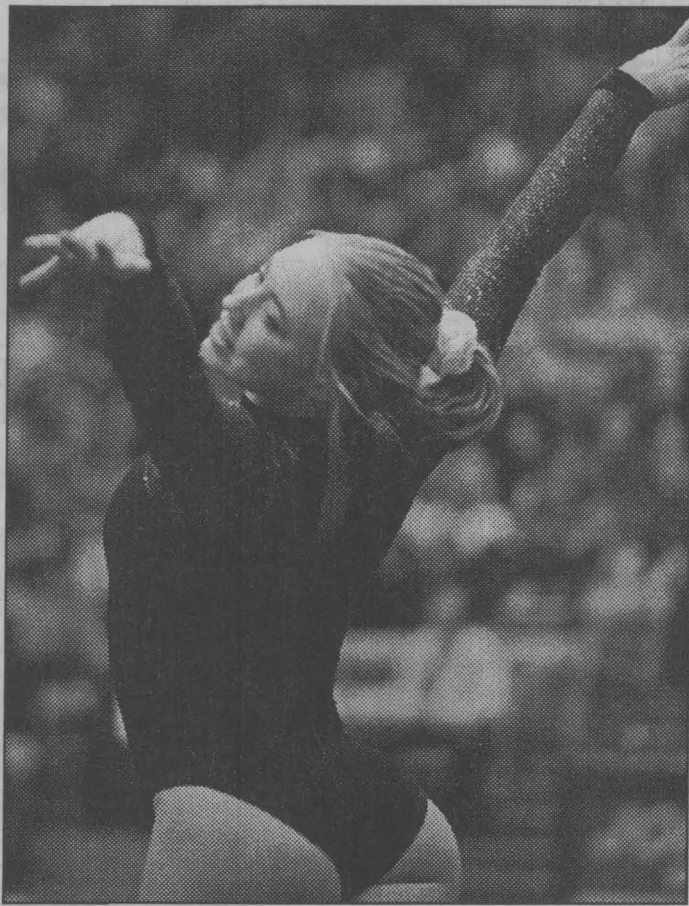
"We have to learn how to win on the road, and that means getting out of our comfort zone and making sure that the team sticks and bonds together," USU head coach Ray Corn said.

Currently the Aggies are 1-1. After losing to Utah on the road they opened their meet against Boise State University with two strong rotations, but struggled on beam and floor. However, their performance was good enough to walk away with the win.

Sacramento State is 0-2.

Freshman Kristen Bloom, who made her collegiate debut against Boise State on Saturday, will be USU's only all-arounder against CSUS. Bloom's 38.725 against BSU placed her second behind teammate Christy Denson.

Corn said he plans to use as many different gymnasts as



USU's Erin Maguire performs during a meet against BSU on Jan. 28.

possible in Sacramento, resting athletes like Denson so the strongest lineups will be prepared to challenge Utah. Denson will compete just on beam and bars against the Hornets.

Several younger gymnasts vying for spots in the six person lineups said they often put more pressure on themselves when they have the opportunity to compete,

because if they do well, they could be rewarded with a more permanent spot. The CSUS meet will provide that chance for a number of competitors.

"Certainly not having Christy on vault and floor could possibly hurt us, but people have got to step it up," Corn said. "We cannot make the same mistakes we did against Boise State."

SIGNEES

Continued from Page 7

coaches Wednesday.

"We're happy to have a local kid on our squad," offensive coordinator Bob Cole said.

Jerome Dennis signed on to a USU contract as a strong safety. He also played tailback in high school, earning more than 1,000 yards his senior year and team MVP all three years.

Defensive lineman Ryan deQuillettes is a 6-foot-2, 281 pounder from Bakersfield, Calif. Defensive line coach and recruiting coordinator Tom McMahon said he liked deQuillettes' aggressiveness.

Hoping to build some future depth at running back, USU signed Roger Fernandez. USU coaches said he may not be very big, 5-foot-10, 170 pounds, but he is fast. He can also return kicks and punts.

Another small player in the backfield, freshman Robert Fockaert is a 6-foot-1 quarterback. But coaches were impressed with his competitiveness and his willingness to attend USU. He will likely compete as a red-shirt freshman or sophomore, Cole said.

Already on campus, junior college transfer free safety Scott Goss played for the University of Idaho his freshman season before transferring to Riverside Community College in California. He made 61 tackles in only eight games for Riverside.

Jason Green is part of that four offensive lineman group

that signed Wednesday. Out of Glasgow High School, Montana, he also lettered in basketball and track.

Another junior college offensive line transfer, Eric Gwilliam will probably make an immediate impact on USU's line. From Ricks College, many large schools including Kansas State University tried to sign him.

Frank Maile was one of three Utah players the Aggies picked up. He is a defensive lineman out of Sandy who recorded 63 tackles his senior year at Alta High School.

Defensive lineman Faafetai Mareko is a native of Kealahou, Hawaii. He split his junior college career between two colleges.

Junior college offensive line transfer Barry McLaughlin signed in December and can play either guard or tackle.

Jason Moore, a defensive lineman, also signed in December. Although listed as 6-foot-3, 290 pounds, coaches said he is much bigger.

A native of nearby Evanston, Wyo., linebacker Kelly Poppinga transferred to USU after red-shirting his first year at the University of Wyoming.

Rounding out the offensive line junior college transfers is Ed Powell out of Bloomington, Calif. Offensive line coach Jeff Hoover calls him "extremely powerful" at 6-foot-3, 300 pounds.

Derrek Shank is the lone USU signee out of Arizona. From Glendale, he will play defensive back.

"His technique was the best

I've seen in high school in a long time," secondary coach Derrick Odum said.

As a wide receiver at Grant High School in Sacramento, Calif., Chris Stallworth caught 40 passes for 896 yards.

J.R. Suguturaga is a 6-foot-3 tight end out of Palomar Junior College. He played quarterback, running back and linebacker in high school.

Jerron Tatum signed on to USU as wide receiver in December. He caught 11 touchdowns in his sophomore year.

USU will have to wait two years for Ronald Tupea to join the team because he will serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He is a defensive lineman out of Hunter High School in West Valley City.

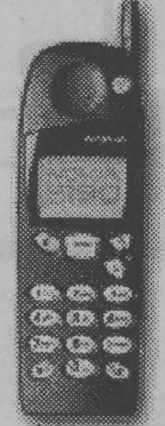
A Paraclete High School teammate of fellow signee Fockaert, Robert Watts will join the team next year as a freshman linebacker. He was honored by the *Los Angeles Times* his senior year.

Despite never having seen snow or mountains, linebacker and Florida native Rodney Wilson quickly signed with the Aggies. He was USU's only signee from east of the Rocky Mountains.

Calvin Wright is a wide receiver out of San Diego, Calif. He gained 1,040 yards on 46 passes during his career at Southwestern Junior College.

Rounding out the list is defensive back Joe Young. He was named MVP of his high school team after picking off 10 passes his senior year.

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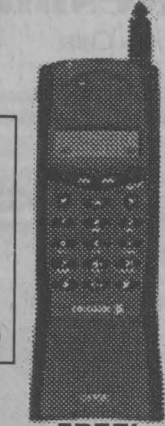
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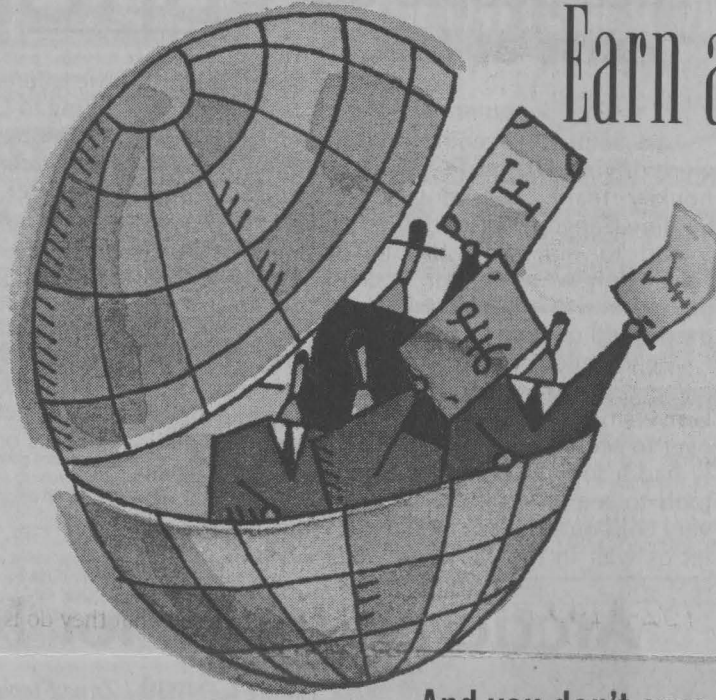


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Length should be limited to 350 words. All letters may be shortened, edited or rejected for reasons of good taste, redundancy or volume of similar letters.

No anonymous letters will be published.

Writers must sign all letters, with phone number (or e-mail address) and student number clearly stated.

Letters representing groups — or more than one individual — must have a singular representative clearly stated, with all necessary ID and information.

Writers must wait 21 days before submitting successive letters — no exceptions.

Letters can be hand delivered or mailed to The Statesman in the TSC 319, or can be e-mailed at editor@statesman.usu.edu

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Established in 1902. The Utah Statesman is published Monday, Wednesday and Friday and is the official student newspaper of Utah State University. The Utah Statesman is printed on recycled newsprint.

To the
EDITORNice people do
exist at USU

Last Saturday evening myself and two friends were driving down to Ogden to support the USU hockey team. As we were traveling through Sardine Canyon, our car broke down and we were forced to pull over to the side of the road. Fortunately we were able to call home on our cell phone, and we contacted one of our parents so they could come and rescue us.

Meanwhile, while we were waiting, an unsuspecting person, Hunter Checketts (a Utah State University student), saw our poor car and pulled over to see if we needed any help. He immediately had a look at our car's engine and got out his tools to see if he could solve the problem. It was very cold outside, but he did not seem to mind. He let us wait in his warm car so we would not get

cold while he tried to solve the problem.

The car was really messed up, and he was unable to fix it. So instead, Hunter was traveling to Logan, but he didn't seem to mind the idea of taking us all the way to Ogden. Because one of our parents was coming, we didn't take him up on the offer. But he was more than willing to take us. Finally, he offered to call a friend of his who had a truck to help tow our car away. As if he hadn't done enough already.

This experience helped renew our faith in the human race. There truly are wonderful, nice people out there, even here at our very own USU. I am sure there are many people like Hunter, and they never get recognized. Therefore we wanted to say thanks one more time to Hunter Checketts.

David Mortensen
Marie Sorenson
Leslie Hadfield

Arctic air index for Northern Utah

WEATHER WATCH (FROM UTAH CLIMATE CENTER) / Zane Stephens



Two types of cold air invade northern Utah during the late fall, winter, and early spring months. The first is cold air from British Columbia, Canada. With the passage of this Canadian air mass, high temperatures generally drop 10 to 20 degrees with a drop of 15 to 30 degrees likely for overnight lows.

The second and colder air mass is the Arctic front. Cold air from the north travels due south or even southwesterly from the Northwest Territories in west-central Canada.

This north or northeasterly flow brings bitter cold conditions to northern Utah. An Arctic front usually drops high temperatures between 15 and 30 degrees with lows dropping 20 to 40 degrees.

Canadian air is warmer and wetter than Arctic air due to a more maritime (moist) influence from the Pacific Ocean. The Arctic air mass is very cold continental air with little or no maritime influence. Moderate or heavy snow can occasionally accompany Canadian fronts. Arctic fronts, however,

rarely drop a lot of snow but many times push very cold canyon winds through northern Utah's canyons.

In the last 30 years we have begun categorizing hurricanes, tornadoes, and even winter snow storms by strength. Here's an index for cold air. The Arctic Index rates the whole winter season giving that season a ranking between zero and six.

A season ranked "zero" has no Canadian or Arctic air. An average winter receives a "category three" rating. A "category six" would be for extreme cold lasting much of the winter associated with a large number of cold blasts reaching northern Utah.

During an average winter northern Utah receives about four Canadian fronts and 1.3 Arctic fronts. The best chance to get Arctic or Canadian air into northern Utah is December or January. February has the third highest probability.

Occasionally, a cold push of air will come as early as November or as late as March.

Following is a table of Arctic Indices for northern Utah during individual winter seasons beginning in 1895. Note the last six years have seen few Arctic or Canadian fronts. No Arctic or

Canadian fronts have entered northern Utah this winter (1999/2000) as of January 31st. Thus, it is likely this season will be the seventh in a row with below average cold air masses.

Stephens' weather column runs twice a month in The Utah Statesman.

Northern Utah Arctic Index

1895/96 = 5	1889/90 = 1
1896/97 = 3	1990/91 = 4
1897/98 = 5	1991/92 = 3
1898/99 = 4	1992/93 = 4
1899/00 = 2	1993/94 = 2
1900/01 = 2	1994/95 = 1
1901/02 = 3	1995/96 = 1
1902/03 = 4	1996/97 = 2
1903/04 = 3	1997/98 = 2
1904/05 = 2	1998/99 = 2

KEY

- 0 = No Arctic or Canadian air masses
- 1 = Few cold air masses
- 2 = Less than average cold air masses
- 3 = Average winter
- 4 = Slightly greater than average cold air masses
- 5 = Greater than average cold air masses
- 6 = Extreme - many cold air masses

'Requiem' as a
prelude to
something better

UNDERGRADUATED / Kevin Peel



A friend gave me a new Brahms "Requiem" CD for Christmas. I had owned that CD

once already, but it was scratched and wouldn't make it through the first half without skipping all the time. I was grateful to get a new one (I'd hinted enough), and I dropped it into my stereo as soon as I had the chance. Unfortunately, my player wouldn't play it.

In fact, it's since given up playing any of my CD's except one (Beck's "Mutations" for some reason). I have another CD player that I've owned since U2 was primarily known as a spy plane, and I tried to play my new disk on that one next. It worked great for about 30 seconds, and then one of the speakers gave out. I've also tried to make two tapes, but one started sounding like a chipmunk oratorio and then was eaten.

Consequently, the other one has to be played in my Walkman, but my earphones crackle so much that it isn't much worth it.

It seems that every one of my "things" I like the most has some problem with it. My favorite books are coming unglued along the spine or have ketchup and chocolate stains smeared on the pages. My favorite T-shirts got stretched around the neck, my favorite shoes are smelly, and my car is running on clothespins, rubber bands and daily prayers for its health and safety.

People are defective in the same ways. We don't have a sense of the sublime but maybe three times in a lifetime. Our real capacities are glazed over by our deliberate denial of our own potential. Most of us spend our lives numb and afraid to take risks. We take in our surroundings through hazy eyesight; we lack concentration when people speak to us and we never are able to say things the way we think them. We either grow bald or heavy or frail just as we gain powers of taste and discernment.

Each rising generation inwardly despises the signs of weakness and decay in the old — the builders of the new architecture looking over their shoulders in disgust at the walls of crumbling antiquity. Some of the old styles are admired, but they are always given one or two twists in the hopes that such innovations will keep the new hybrid from the effects of time. All things made of dust, however, return to dust. And there are already new generations looking on, cringing at all of the obvious defects in every attempt at immortality.

We live in an era that seems to have almost given up on any hope of perfection. Our culture has even created a cult of imperfection. We hail destructive anti-heroes like Al Capone, Sylvia Plath or Curt Cobain. We defy self-abuse as if it were the ultimate sign of a righteous defense against the tyranny of fate. We almost believe in the beauty of defilement and degradation, as if the only honesty were facing up to a great Untruth.

Such conceits are revealed as false only when a new person of genius (described by Samuel Johnson as one endowed with the "energy which collects, combines, amplifies and animates") comes along and tears down the curtain of cynicism for a generation or two, giving people a renewed conviction of something "better." It seems that very few people of genius have lived on the earth, but Einstein, Shakespeare, Beethoven, Van Gogh and others have flashed like meteors across the night sky, leaving those standing in the wake without excuse for judging darkness for light.

When genius is lacking to point the way, money provides the illusion of perfection. A better CD player keeps the sound pristine for longer; maid service removes ever-accumulating dust to give the appearance of perpetual vitality. With money, one can paint the Sahara to look and feel like Eden for perhaps a whole lifetime before the sands once again encroach and crumble the facade.

There must be something in the attempt — the attempt to learn at a university, the attempt to build an orderly life, the attempt to sacrifice our time for the sake of someone else. The obvious question is: "Why do we do it?"

It is because I've heard Brahms on an exceptional stereo system that I now struggle to regain that perfection, that sense of awe that something from the mind of a man could be so beautiful. The frustration I've felt in being unable to replicate a clear moment in my life seems to be inherent in all of us. For some reason we strive for a higher level, to recapture something that has been lost.

Just by living out our lives in the manner that we do, we reveal an instinctive belief that things can be different. But how do we know that, when we have experienced nothing but decay? It's a strange desire that we cling to, even now as we begin a new millennium, but "strange" doesn't always mean "delusional," sometimes it can mean "better."

Kevin Peel is a senior majoring in English. (In memory of V. R. P. You are missed, but not forgotten.) His column appears every Friday in The Utah Statesman.

More and more of us are every race

NATIONAL COMMENTARY / Sacramento Bee



Race is a sociological, not biological, construct. The leading theory of human origin postulates that we are all descended from the same ancestral Eve, a woman born in Africa 100,000 to 200,000 years ago. Thus, we are all related; we are all multiracial. To be biologically precise — we are all one race.

That said, the sociology of race remains a powerful force; throughout history, it has been a mostly negative one. What is different today — reflected in a new study by the Public Policy Institute of California is a welcome shift in attitude toward more racial tolerance. The tolerance is documented by the

growing number of mixed-race births in California: 69,954 in 1997, 14 percent of the total and the third largest category of births in the state behind Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites.

Of course, mixed-race births are hardly new. Anyone who's followed the tale of the "black" descendants of Thomas Jefferson knows that.

But unlike such births in the past, today they are openly, even proudly, acknowledged, the result of more mixed-race and mixed-ethnic marriages, representing the growing acceptance of those unions. More Americans today are willing, indeed eager, to identify themselves as multiracial. Call it the Tiger

Woods effect.

Sacramento leads the way. The PPI study found that Sacramento County has the highest proportion of multiracial births of any major metropolitan area in the state — 19 percent.

More Americans today are willing, indeed eager, to identify themselves as multiracial.

This changing demographic reality poses challenges for government. Under pressure from people of mixed race, the U.S. Census Bureau now allows respondents for the first time to mark more than one race and ethnicity box on the census form. Other government agencies continue to resist.

Standardized school test forms still list performance results using narrow racial categories. Students are either

white, black, Asian or Hispanic — with no recognition that many are also black and white or Asian and Hispanic or another combination of the dizzying array of race and ethnic mixtures so common in Sacramento classrooms today.

Given the PPI study, it would be tempting to rhapsodize about the melting pot and suggests doing away with all those nettlesome race boxes. It's too early for that. The sad truth remains that race and ethnicity still really do matter in America, and that makes solid information about those attributes essential. Things have changed, but not enough, not yet.

This column appeared in the Jan. 27 Sacramento Bee and was distributed by TMS Campus News Service media services.

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To Jim D. if you are looking for a great way to propose to me, have Mike and Rebecca from the Q-92 breakfast bunch do it on Valentines! They'll be in a pink Cadillac- Michelle S.

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Friday, February 4

- International Tea Party, 3:30 p.m., TSC, by Multicultural Center.
- Anthropologist Denise Schmandt-Besserat speaking on "The Invention of Writing", 2:30 p.m., FL Room 206.

- "A Time to Laugh" with John Bytheway, 8 p.m., Kent Concert Hall, \$1.
- ASL Comedy Night, 7:30 p.m., Sunburst Lounge. Free!

Sat

Saturday, February 5

- USU Basketball vs New Mexico State, 7:05 p.m., Spectrum
- Chinese New Year Party, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m., Junction, Tickets TSC Room 212.

M

Monday, February 6

F.Y.I.

- Professor Michael J. Barber will speak on "Functional Domains in Nitrate Reductase" Faculty Presentation, Feb. 4, 4 to 5 p.m., ML Room 109. Meet with graduate & under grads. 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., ML Room 109
- "Develop His Power within You", Lambda Delta Sigma Womens Conference, Feb. 5, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Institute, Freel Workshops and a performance by Michael Ballam.
- Undergraduate Fine Arts Show, Feb. 2 through 10, Opening reception Feb. 4, 7 to 9 p.m., Twain Tippetts Gallery.
- ASL Comedy Night and Winter Workshop, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., Sunburst Lounge. Freel Winter Workshop Feb. 5, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Old Main 121, \$12 (\$10 for ASL Club members)
- Student host meeting for Partners in Business Management Information Systems Seminar, Feb. 4 2:30 p.m., B21G and Feb. 8, 3 p.m. B320.
- Tour Russia on the Volga (May 18- June 5), also Estonia and Finland. University credit. Information and film, "Faces of Russia", Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., Main Room 201.
- Who's line is it anyway? Feb. 5, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. auditions FA Room 224 for an improv ensemble to perform various weekends. 797-3048 ask for Jessie.
- ROTC Cadet for a Day! Free lunch, T-shirt, Loads of fun! sign up TSC 326, Sat. Feb. 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Chapter officer workshop Las Vegas Western Region Feb. 5, 7

a.m. to 7 p.m.

- Hockey Tickets for the Weber State Game on Feb. 18, go on sale Monday, February 7. Only 750 are available.
- It's here Chi Omega informal rush Feb. 7 through 9. Get involved in a great organization. For more info, contact Jamie, 752-8481
- Get involved, informed, noticed and hired become a member of the public relations student society. Feb. 8, 6 p.m., AniSci Room 115. An interesting, fun and useful student organization.
- Two week smoking cessation class, "Fresh Start" American Cancer Society program. Sponsored by USU Student Health Center.
- Applications for membership in USU chapter of PINNACLE, the national reentry honor society are now available. Contact USU reentry Student Center, TSC Room 310, 797-1728, or email reentrycen@admissions.usu.edu.
- 2000/2001 Dupont Scholarship Applications are now available from the Women's Center, TSC Room 310. Criteria: Undergraduate American minority men in civil and environmental engineering or undergraduate American minority men in civil and environmental engineering or undergraduate women in engineering. Deadline March 10. Call 797-1728.
- Wilderness First Responder, May 9 through 18, 2000. Upon successful completion of practical and written exams you will receive a two year SOLO Wilderness First Responder certification and a two year American Heart Assoc. Adult Heart saver CPR certification. Info. 797-0462 or ECC Room 103.
- "A Vow to Cherish" will be shown at the Full Gospel Fellowship Church, Feb. 6, 7 p.m., 180 W. 1000 North, Logan.
- The AVA (Alliance for the Varied Arts) presents a Sibling Art Show, Jan 28 through March 3, AVA Gallery 43 S. Main St., Logan

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